MR. DAVID G. NOBLE, Lead or Heavy Lead. Offers invited. Dec. 3, London. Per. Address, 48, Agate-road, Hammersmith.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY, "The Prodigal Parson" Tour, Letters, 57, Warrington-cres., W.

MR. GUS OXLEY, Disengaged. Disengaged. 12, De Laune-street, Kennington-park, S.E.

MR. F. M. PAGET, Antonio, Polonius, Brabantio, Duke Frederick. Theatre Royal, Belfast, Dec. 10.

MR. and MRS. ROBSON PAIGE (Mabel Syringa). Disengaged now and Pantomime. 10, Ospringe-rd., N.W., or BLACKMORE.

MR. ASHTON PEARSE, Lord Percy Kilgour, in "Public Opinion." Disengaged Dec. 17. Opera House, Torquay.

MR. and MRS. FRED W. PERMAIN (Miss Florence Le Clercq), c/o Messrs Wheeler, 11, Greenmarket-sq., Cape Town, S. Africa.

MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY, (Miss Gertrude Price). W. Greet's "Sign of the Cross." Dis. Dec. 10. Nov. 26, Rotunda. L'p'l.

MR. W. SCOTT PHIPP, General-Manager for "Lady Kinton's Necklace." En route, or Managers' Club.

MR. FELIX PITT, Mr. Andrew Melville's Company. Theatre Royal, Windsor.

MR. DONALD PRICE-EVANS, Title-rôle, "The Private Secretary" Co. Marlborough Theatre.

MR. STANLEY PRINGLE, at Liberty. 6, Brunswick-gardens, W.

MR. ARTHUR LAW RAYNOR, Manager for Mr. Bert Coote. Address, 150, Oxford-street, W.

MR. and MRS. TOM REDMOND (Mary Morison), at Liberty Dec. 3. Nov. 26, Theatre Royal, Nottingham.

MR. PERCY RHODES, with Mr. Forbes Robertson, Rufio, in "Cæsar and Cleopatra." New Amsterdam T., New York.

MR. FRANK RIDLEY, Mr. Forbes Robertson's American Tour. Letters addressed A.A. forwarded.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD, Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche's "What the Butler Saw." A. T., Stoke Newington.

MR. WALTER L. RIGNOLD, Stage-Management, Apollo Theatre, W. Address, 34A, Aldis-street, Tooting, S.W.

MR. WALTER RINGHAM, Mr. Forbes Robertson's company. New Amsterdam Theatre, New York.

MR. WALTER ROBERTS, Dis. Heavy, Character, or Pathetic O.M. Dis. 2, Lancaster-road, Leytonstone, N.E.

MR. LEONARD ROBSON, Playing in own first piece. "Prince Chap" Co., Theatre Royal, Dublin.

MR. BASSETT ROE, At liberty Dec. 3 for a few weeks Grand Opera H., Middlesbrough.

MR. STANLEY ROGERS, Address all communications, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

MR. BAY RUSSELL, Engaged by Robert Courtneidge, Esq., "Dandini," King's, Edinburgh. Rehearsing, open Dec. 8.

MR. FREDERICK SANDY, Geoffrey Waring and General-Manager A. Melville's "Driven from Home" Co. T. R., Windsor.

MR. WILLIE SCOTT, Miss Maud Hildyard's "Great Awakening" Co. Opera House, Norwich. Panto. Vacant.

MR. ARCHIE SELWYN, Hon. Dick Spinnaker and S.M., "The Broken Melody." Nov. 26, Empire, Oldham.

MR. and MRS. JOHN B. SHINTON (Ada M. Ryder), Starring in "The Price of Her Soul." Aquarium, Yarmouth. Dis. Dec. 10.

MR. THOMAS SIDNEY, Address, 15, Long-acre, W.C.

MR. JAMES SKEA, as Bill Sikes. Dis. Dec. 3, Drama, Comedy, Panto., or Sketch. Prince's T., Poplar.

MR. GERALD SPENCER, at Liberty for Lead, Havies, Stock or Tour. Business or S. M. Tours Booked. 47, Mill-st., Frizington, Cumbs.

MR. A. GIFFORD STACEY, Manager for Mr. Robert Courtneidge, Apollo Theatre, W.

MR. FRANK STANLEY, Acting-Manager, Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

MR. E. STANTON-SHARP, John Storm, in "The Christian" (Howard's). Nov. 26, Altrincham; 29th, Goole.

MR. W. R. STAVELEY, Disengaged. 239, King's-road, Chelsea, S.W.

MR. CHARLES STIRLING, Lead, Heavies. Immediate offers invited. 60, Wouldhave-street, South Shields.

MR. GEORGE STONE, Resident-Manager (Thirteenth Year), Royalty T. and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. STORY-GOFTON, At Liberty, productions, parts, or Management. Address, care of "The Era."

MR. WALLACE STRANACK, Manager, "Mr. Popple," Principal Co. Theatre Royal, Birmingham.

MR. EDWARD SWINTON, Thanks Mr. Chattell for third engagement. Dis. 19, Bloomfield-st., Bury St. Edmunds.

MR. AUGUSTIN SYMONDS and Miss KATE PARRY, Disengaged. Coms. only, 88, Rectory-road, Fulham, S.W.

MR. ALGERNON SYMS, Disengaged Lead, &c. Disengaged. Perm. add., 3, Springdale-road, Clissold Park, N.

MR. TAPPING, Address, 28, Leyland-road, Lee, S.E.

MR. and MRS. J. MILNE TAYLOR, Mr. A. Melville's Co., Heavies and Comedy. Dis. Xmas. Opera House, Bury, Lancs.

MR. FOWLER THATCHER, Disengaged, Char., Com., and Eccentric, &c., or Management. 35, Mall-rd., Hammersmith.

MR. and MRS. E. W. THOMAS (Agnes Knights), Mr. Edward Terry's Co., Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool. At Lib. Dec. 10.

MR. WYLIE A. THOMPSON, Lewis Waller's "Brigadier Gerard" Co. Nov. 26, King's, Hammersmith. Dis. Dec. 18.

MR. ALEC F. THOMPSON, Stage-Manager, Messrs. Lely and McNilson's Productions. Coatbridge (3), Motherwell (3).

MR. CHARLES THORBURN, "Prince of Pilsen" and "Belle of New York" Tours. P. O. W. Theatre, Birmingham.

MR. and MRS. WALTER THORNTON (Miss Florence Hamilton). Disengaged Shortly. Nov. 26, T. R., Jarrow.

MR. ALFRED C. TOONE, Musical Director, Gatti and Frohman's "Belle of Mayfair." Tyne, Newcastle.

MR. TRUEMAN TOWERS, Stage-Manager for Messrs. Gatti and Frohman's "Belle of Mayfair" Co. T. T., Newcastle.

MR. GEORGE TRAILL, "The Breed of the Treshams" Tour. Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD VAN BIENE (Kate Hallam), Gen. Mgt. and Star Lead. "The Drama of Life" Co. Q. T., Gateshead.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. B. VAUGHAN (Miss M. Lewes). Mr. Vaughan supporting Mr. Forbes Robertson, Amsterdam T., New York.

MR. PERCY H. VERNON, Regretfully concluding Tour with Mr. W. W. Kelly. Arrangements complete. O. H., St. Helens.

MR. FREDERICK VICTOR, Napoleon, "A Royal Divorce." Opera House, St. Helens.

MR. and MRS. DOUGLAS VIGORS (Miss L. Beaumont). D.V., "Peter Pan," D. of Y. T., L. B., Dis. Dec. 17. 36, Bridge-av., H'smith.

MR. ARTHUR WALCOTT, Disengaged. Address, 10, Brunswick-square, W.C.

MR. EDWIN WALTON, Address, Playgoers' Club, 6, Clements Inn, London, W.C.

MR. PERCY CARNE WARAM, Mr. Ben Greet's Co. C/o Low's Exchange, 1123, Broadway, New York.

MR. ALBERT WARD, Starring, Lead with John M. East, Esq., Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E.

MR. HYLTON WARDE, Messrs. B. & F. Wheeler's Comedy Co., South African Tour. Perm., 17, Doris-rd., Norwich, or A.A

MR. W. LEMMON WARDE, William Trembletl, "The Perfect Lover." H. M. Theatre, Dundee. Dis. Dec. 10.

MR. and MRS. HENRY WATSON, Disengaged Dec. 3. Termination of "Two Little Vagabonds" Tour. H. M. T., Carlisle.

MR. FRANK WEATHERSBY, Theatrical Agency, 3, Bedford-street, Strand. 'Phone, 3781 Cen. Tel., "Frivolous, London."

MR. WYN WEAVER, Nov. 26, O. H., Harrogate.

MR. CHARLES WEIR, Disengaged Dec. 3. "Shulamite" Co., Cardiff.

MR. EUGENE WELLESLEY, With Mr. Martin Harvey, on Tour. Nov. 26, Opera House, Cork.

MR. C. A. WHITE, At Liberty Dec. 15, 3 or 4 weeks. "Beauty and the Barge" Co. T. R., Hull.

MR. HERBERT WILLIAMS, Six Brothers Luck Co. Palace, Walthamstow.

MR. LEONARD WILLIAMS, Juv. Lead. Dis. To-day. Term. of "Four Just Men" Tour. The Blorenge, Taunton, or A.A.

MR. & MRS. JAMES WILLOUGHBY, Disengaged; refs., A. Wilkie (one tour), J. H. Clyndes (two), &c. 26, Anhalt-rd., Battersea Park.

MR. BREMBER WILLS, N. V. N. Co. Friends send address Newport. =25th, Southampton.

MR. H. LOUIS WILSON, Paul and A.S.M., "Christian" (Howard's). 26th, Altrincham; 29th, Goole, or A.A.

MR. F. WILSON-LOWTHER, Dis., Resps. Com., Char., Military parts, &c., tall. 14, Wellmeadow-gdns., Hither Green-rd., S.E.

MR. A. WOOD, Address, 59, St. Mary's-road, Peckham, S.E.

MR. FRANK MOTLEY WOOD, Disengaged Dec. 8. Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool ("Sign of the Cross.").

MR. GRAHAM WOODS, De Beaumont, in "A Royal Divorce"; MISS MARIE ROBSON, L. Carson's Co., T. R., St. Helens.

MR. NORMAN WRIGHTON, Shakespearean Character and Heavy Lead. The Actors' Association. Agent, BLACKMORE.

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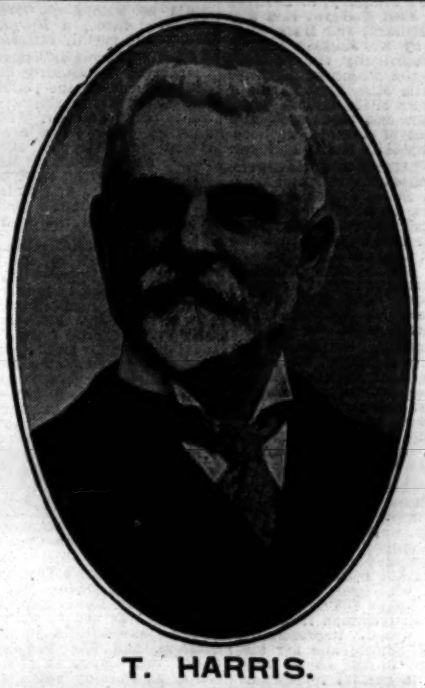

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New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane. Nov. 12, 1906.

Dear Mr. Harris,—Thank you so much for the quantity of costumes cleaned last week. Everything was beautifully clean, and most valuable pearls on dresses quite perfect. I had not a moment's anxiety as to their arrival at the theatre, and I must again thank you.—Yours very truly, C. NICOLL.

108, Hartington-street, Barrow-in-Furness, Nov. 13, 1906.

Dear Sir,—Thanks for brown jacket, received safely. It is most satisfactory, and am pleased with it.—Yours, &c., MRS. HARRY KILBURN.

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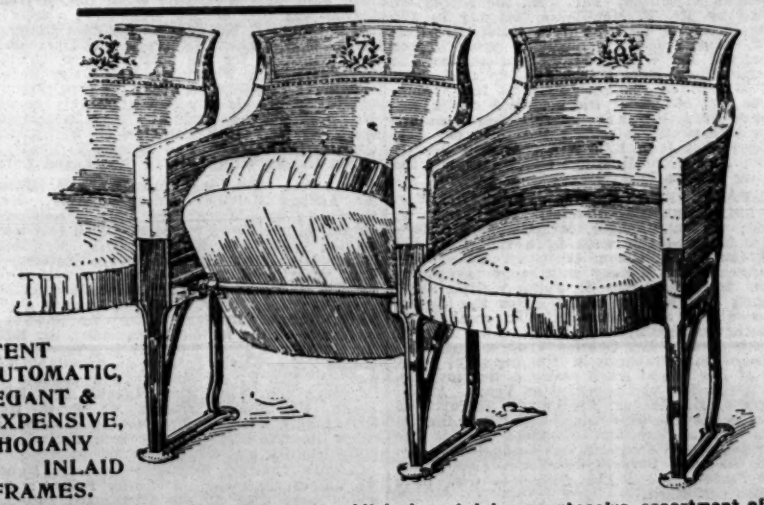

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EXCERPT FROM THE "MANCHESTER EVENING CHRONICLE," *Tuesday, November 20th, 1906.*

ORGANISED OPPOSITION ALLEGED AT SALFORD.

THE MANAGER'S VIEWS.

The disgraceful scene which was witnessed at the Regent Theatre, Salford, last night, and which caused Miss Ada Reeve to prematurely conclude her "turn" at the first house, was a theme of conversation in theatrical circles this morning.

On every hand the greatest sympathy is felt with the talented comedienne, who, in her own words, "never had such an experience in the whole course of my life." But the painfulness of the totally uncalled-for proceeding is softened by the belief that the whole thing was organised. Said the manager to an *Evening Chronicle* representative this morning: "It was an organised opposition, and I know who was at the bottom of it all and the clique by whom it was carried out. But as the lights were down at the time I should have great difficulty in proving it."

The clique to whom he referred occupied seats in the gallery, the price for which, in view of the exceptional expense incurred in bringing an artist of such ability as Miss Reeve, had been increased from 2d. to 3d. "And," added the manager, "I shall keep it at 3d., for I would rather play to an empty gallery than have a recurrence of such an unpleasant scene."

Miss Reeve, who, it may be mentioned, is making her first appearance in Salford as a music-hall artist, and who is receiving £300 for the week, sang her first song—her "Penny" song—with success. But immediately she commenced her second contribution the clique in the gallery derisively applauded, and made themselves so objectionable that Miss Reeve left the stage.

In the hope of bringing her back, the larger portion of the audience displayed their appreciation, but Miss Reeve only reappeared to tell them she could not go on while people in the gallery were laughing and jeering. At the conclusion of the performance many of the people in the better-priced seats waited upon the manager, and were given tickets for the second house, when Miss Reeve, though apparently nervous, sang four songs, and was vociferously applauded for each, encores being demanded for three of her efforts.

She was very much pained by the incident which occurred earlier in the evening, and, like the manager of the theatre, she is confident the whole thing was organised, for the opposition came from so few.

It is estimated that the interruption meant a considerable financial loss to the management, but such an incident is not likely to occur again. Any attempts in a similar direction in the future will be followed with a prosecution.

The preceding excerpt from the *Manchester Evening Chronicle* of Nov. 20 conveys a fairly accurate idea of the occurrence under notice, and the object of this advertisement is to trace the instigator, organiser, and financier of the outrage.

I am in possession of a certain amount of information which has enabled me to trace several of the actual perpetrators, who are in very humble circumstances, but which, unfortunately, is not sufficiently precise to warrant the institution of proceedings against the individual who organised the disgraceful incident, and who is legally responsible.

I hereby offer a substantial reward to anyone who will supply sufficient proof against the individual in question to warrant the institution of legal proceedings.

The circumstances are so curious that it is obviously impossible to state a precise amount of cash as reward for the information required, but terms will be made with persons supplying the required information which shall be more than ample to recompense them for all loss of time, trouble, and financial loss which may be occasioned through their connection with the matter.

All communications will be treated with the strictest confidence until such time as arrangements have been made with correspondents for the use of information supplied.

It has come to my notice that on two previous occasions similar unscrupulous tactics were adopted against two other eminent artists appearing at Manchester music-halls.

Should this advertisement come under their notice I shall be infinitely obliged if they will communicate with me.

WILFRED COTTON.

Chideock, Dorset.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1907.

ADVERTISEMENTS should be forwarded at once to the Office, 5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, W.C. For Scale of Charges see another Page.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906. The thirty-ninth issue of "The Era" Annual has just appeared, and once more it supplies a useful record of the theatrical year. An editorial note reminds us that among the contributors to the first number, that of 1868, were E. L. Blanchard (its editor), Charles Mathews, T. W. Robertson, Andrew Halliday, H. J. Byron, Watts Phillips, and Dion Boucicault—a brilliant band indeed. The contributors to the present issue are almost exclusively actors rather than literary men, but upon the whole they make a very fair show; while the lists of plays produced in London and the provinces, and in Paris and Berlin during the twelve months under review are distinctly useful. There are a number of photographs, including an exceedingly fine one of the late Sir Henry Irving.—Pall Mall Gazette, Jan. 22.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906. "The Era" Annual is published from the offices of the old-established organ of the theatrical profession, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. As usual, it is a carefully-compiled record of notable events of the year 1905. A pleasing feature is the selection of short stories, after recounting strange experiences, by "stars" of the dramatic and music-hall professions, these being in every case accompanied by photographs of the writers.—Newcastle Daily Journal, Jan. 27 1906.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—*The Perfect Lover* is drawing large audiences here this week. Mr. Harold V. Neilson acts with strength and incision as Joseph Trembett; and Mr. W. Lemmon Warde gives a natural and finished portraiture of William Trembett. Miss Beatrice Forbes-Robertson plays with much charm as the heroine; Miss Elizabeth Watson is successful as the brusque, mannish aunt and godmother; and Mr. Lewis Willoughby throws the requisite degree of fervour into the part of the lover. Excellent work is also done in the smaller parts by Miss Dorothy Milne, Miss Rene de Lestrade, Mr. John Detliv, and others.

PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The star turn of the evening this week is that of the Lukushima troupe of Japanese gymnasts, which is wonderfully clever; next in order come the Bouncing Dillons, with a remarkable performance; and among the other successful artists may be noted Cavius and Lynch, very smart dancers; Spry and Austin, the well-known vaudeville performers; Walker and Lake, whose drollery is exceedingly diverting; the American Comedy Company, in an exceedingly amusing piece; Mr. Harry Thurston, a resourceful comedian; Bernardo, the comedy juggler; and Almon, "the upside-down marvel."

ABERTILLERY. — THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom; Stage-Manager, Mr. Fred Thomas.—Mr. Robert Perris and Company in *A Fight for Millions* are delighting large houses here this week. Miss Alwynne Ermon makes a charming heroine; Miss Elma Turner is a sympathetic Helen Dudley; Miss Mabel Howe is a dainty Little Madge; Miss Rosie Kearns and Miss Nora Kingsley are both good in their respective parts; Mr. John Carlyle makes an admirable Tom Manley; Mr. Gus Harding an effective Solomon Moses; Mr J. Schofield a satisfactory Hudson Rivers; and Mr. Hugh Mewburn a successful Richard Dudley.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday the evergreen *Grip of Iron* opened here under the direction of Messrs. Knight and Denham, with Mr. Fred Powell in his old part of Jagon, a remarkable performance; Mr. W. Curnock gives an excellent portrayal of Paul Blanchford; Lorentz de Rabas is a clever character sketch by Mr. A. G. Polson Turner; Mr. J. Brittian is very funny as Dodot; Alphonso de Concon is a good portrayal by Mr. T. R. Lockwood; Mr. George Denham must be complimented on his embodiment of Smiler; Miss Rosabel Dodd gives a praiseworthy reading of Cora Simmonet; Sophie Blanchford is well played by Miss M. Inglis; Misses Violet Ingram, Cissie Hayes, and Miss Pope Royal score in their respective parts.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parsons.—A good bill here this week include the Athos Troupe, who give a smart performance; Mayvilles, the Liliputian novelties; the Allisons; Patti Bella, a charming comedienne; Tom E. Hughes, a versatile comedian; the Elgars; Stephens and Rennior, clever comedians and dancers; and the Bio Pictures.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Williams.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company is here with *The Silver King*. Mr. Herbert Ford gives a talented portrayal of Denyer. In Miss Victoria Addison is found a successful impersonator of Nellie; and faithful Jaikes is ably played by Mr. Tom Paulton. Mr. Chas. Baird is a cool and resourceful Spider, and his clever acting as the scoundrel is ably backed up by Messrs Claude Vernon, Henry Osman, Chas. Fenton as Corket, Combe, and Cripps respectively.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here for the week with *Under Two Flags*, and a very effective performance is given of this dramatic version of the story. Miss Mary Thorne as Cigarette, the vivandière, is full of life and vigour in the lighter scenes of the play, and in the more dramatic passages she commands admiration and sympathy for her depiction of bravery and self-sacrifice. Mr. Wellesley Draper is the Bertie Royellieu, and he attains a high level of excellence as the hero. Barklie Royellieu is played by Mr. Lionel West with undoubted ability and discretion; Mr. Chas. Brooke as Lord Royellieu; Mr. Fred Pawl as Lord Rockingham and Mr. Harry Benson as Rake are capable interpreters of their respective rôles. Colonel Chanteroy, the black hawk, finds in Mr. Arthur Elwyn a very intelligent exponent; nor does Capt. Claude de Chaurellon suffer in the hands of Mr. Joseph Cowell. Mr. Fred Beck extracts fun out of the character of Ezra Baroni, the moneylender; and other minor parts are well filled. Miss Mabel Ormonde is a graceful Princess Venetia; and Lady Beatrice has charming interpretation to her many feminine points of interest by Miss Madge Stevens. Miss Amy Maitland is a bright and engaging Lavinia, and sings and dances well; and Joan Stern is good as the Countess Olga.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Mr. Robt. Peel and his orchestra give an opening selection from *The Mikado;* Ray Royal, a contralto vocalist, with a voice of much charm, sings some tuneful songs with acceptance; Sylvia Martin proves herself a clever horse-trainer; then in succession the varied talents are exhibited of Harry Taft, whistling expert and comedian; Flo Hilton, poses as a male impersonator and sings and dances after the approved style; Fred Casburn sings some comic ditties in approved fashion; the Sisters Bartholomew warble duets and do some graceful dancing; the Howards (Ralph and Nellie) give a pleasing act of comedy and melody combined; and Davis and Davis amuse mightily with a golf scene. The Bonnettis are clever speciality artists. The feature of the bill, however, is a musical mixture in one scene, entitled, *Office Hours*, in which some artists of note appear.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—So popular have the picture entertainments proved at this house that they are still being continued.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. H. Laycock.—An excellent programme is submitted here this week, the premier position being taken by Mr. F. V. St. Clair, the prolific song-writer and vocalist, who is heartily applauded, especially in the satirical song "In Chicago," and in the recital of his own poem, "A Shoeblack Hero." Miss Millie Howell is heard to advantage as a descriptive vocalist; Mr. George Davis and company present a mirth-provoking sketch, entitled, *Jack's Uncle;* a group of clever and well-trained dogs and pony are introduced by Miss Fredrica; Mr. H. O. Wills is a quaint comedian; Mr. E. C. Clayton shows Attergraph pictures; and the Calcotts, banjoists, vocalists, and dancers; and Ingram and Irving, in a laughable monologue, entitled *The New Office Boy*, are also in the bill.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—On the first three nights of the present week, Mr. Charles Windermere and his clever company appeared in *Facing the Music*. The Rev. John Smith is made the most of by Mr. C. Casson Freer; the other Mr. Smith is in the capable hands of Mr. Windermere; Dick is well played by Mr. Gordon Phillott; while his uncle, the Colonel, is portrayed to the life by Mr. W. H. G. Wynn. Mr. Henry Nelson has a part which fits him well in Sergeant Duffell; the Rev. Smith's wife and the other Smith's wife are played appreciatively by Miss K. Willoughby and Miss Clare Manifield respectively; while Miss Mary Buckstone is delightful as Miss Fotheringay; and Miss Evelyn Shelley as Mrs. Pointing, the housekeeper, is decidedly good. The piece was preceded by a domestic episode, by Mr. Windermere himself, entitled *The Bookworm*, in which he appeared along with Mr. Gordon Phillott and Miss Clare Manifield.

BACUP. — NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—Mr. John Gerant's company is appearing here this week in the military drama, *At Duty's Call*. Mr. John Gerant as the rascally Harold Allison is evidently an actor of experience and power; George is played by Mr. Harry Scott in a convincing manner; and Mr. Ernest St. John, excellently made up as the hero of Khartoum, is well received. Mr. Harry Ugar makes an amusing Terry, and Mr. Walter P. Carr is well placed as Jack Spencer; the drummer boy, Joe Trot, is brightly portrayed by Mr. Ivan Mavis; and Miss Beatrice Western acquits herself well as Salema.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—The attraction here this week is *Claudian*, well played by Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren and company. The title-rôle is powerfully acted by Mr. Maclaren, and Lily C. Bandmann scores as Almida, and other characters are well placed.

PUBLIC HALL.—Manager, Mr. G. E. Hoey.—Mr. Jasper Redfern opened here again on Monday with a strong variety company. Messrs. Ethel Arden and George Abel, in a sketch, top the bill; Klio is well received. Other turns are Columbia Comedy Trio, in an original humorous absurdity; Ouda and Leon, in a triple bar act; Myra Love, comedienne; Miss Lottie D'Abbey, vocalist; the Lascars, in a hand-balancing act. Some new animated pictures conclude.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company, in *Between Two Women*, is here. Mr. Fred Goddard is a dignified and telling Earl of Millard, and Harry Millard is ably impersonated by Mr. Jackson Wilcox. James Durward is made sufficiently villainous by Mr. Walter Thornton, as is also Major Strangeways by Mr. Ronald Yorke; while Miss Lulu Bowes is good as the Blind Boy. Miss Molly Malone plays Violet Thornton with pathos and tenderness, and the subtleties and intrigues of Carmen de Severeaux are ably portrayed by Miss Nellie Fletcher.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's company, in *Babes in the Wood*, is here. Miss Gerty McQueen is a dashing Robin Hood, and Miss Kitty Lester a charming Dolly Dimple; Miss Kitty Chester and Baby Blyth make typical babes, while Messrs. Traynor and O'Connor prove very bold, bad men; Mr. Ernest Thirlwell is a characteristic Baron Wheresmecash; Ally Benson is an amusing Dame Flossie; and Miss Fanny Adamson an engaging Maid Marian. The Four Emeralds are good acrobatic dancers.

TIVOLI THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—Miss Hetty King does well, as also do Mountford and Walsh, the speciality artists, in their saying and songs; Mr. Arthur Aldridge is a fine singer; Dora Martine is a daring and graceful gymnast; Vospar, the facial portrait expert, Violet Morgan, speciality mimic, and George Barron, eccentric comedian, are also well received.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Lovers of the old comedies are being well catered for this week by Mr. Cyril Keightley and Miss Haidee Gunn, who are supported by an excellent company. For the opening performance *The Rivals* was chosen, and this fine comedy with its local colouring was received with great cordiality. Mr. Keightley was the Sir Lucius O'Trigger, and a finer portrayal of the jovial Irishman it is difficult to conceive. Miss Gunn impersonated Lydia Languish with girlish charm, and her histrionic abilities were evident in the scenes with Captain Absolute, who had a capital representative in Mr. Baliol Holloway. Mr. Henry Crocker as Sir Anthony Absolute simply revelled in the part; Mr. B. A. Pittar (like Mr. Keightley, an old Bensonian) did well as Faulkland; Mr. Iden Payne gave a humorous study of Acres; the Fag of Mr. Ivan Leslie was in every way commendable; and David was safe in the hands of Mr. Charles Medwin, Mr. Arthur Fayne, as the coachman, being also good. Miss Alice Arden gave the speeches of Mrs. Malaprop with capital effect; Miss Theresa Gregory was a subdued Julia; and Miss Ethel Dane made a pretty and mischievous Lucy. On Tuesday *She Stoops to Conquer* was billed; and *The School for Scandal* and the new Irish comedy *Miles Carew—Highwayman* are also promised.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—The opening turn this week is supplied by Elsie and Rubie Redfern, in banjo, song, and dance; Capt. Slingsby follows with his new ventriloquial act; Lillie Langtry livens matters up with her goey songs and smart dancing; Valazza holds the stage with a wonderful juggling equilibristic and athletic performance; Blanche and Powell's vocal and instrumental music is sandwiched with amusing comedy; the Almas include a gentleman responsible for daring deeds upon chairs; and the best laugh of the evening is heard when Gus Garrick gives his "Tit-Bits" of well-known stars, his final skit on La Mattichiche being extremely comical. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux conclude an excellent entertainment.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. F. Mouillott's company in the comedy-drama, *A Message from Mars*. Mr. Herbert J. Bentley is an exceedingly good Horace Parker, and Mr. William H. Brougham as the Messenger from Mars leaves nothing to be desired. Mr. Bruce Findley scores as the Tramp, and the part of Arthur Dicey finds a capital exponent in Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson. Miss Constance Groves successfully interprets the rôle of Mrs. Clarence; Miss Joan Ellis is a charming Minnie Temple; Miss Flora Hastings cleverly depicts the character of Miss Parker.

BELFAST.—PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—We are favoured this week by a visit from the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company. *Tannhäuser* was presented on Monday with every element of success. In the title-rôle Mr. Julius Walther acted and sang in a manner that deserves the highest commendation; Miss Grace Nicoll's vocalism as Elizabeth was superb, and her acting was marked by much charm; Mr. Charles Victor's fine voice was heard to advantage in the beautiful song, "Star of Eve"; and much praise is due to Mme. Marie Alexander, who appeared as Venus. As the Landgrave, Mr. Arthur Winckworth displayed to advantage his fine bass voice; and Miss Lilia De Berna was an excellent Shepherd Boy. The largely-augmented orchestra was conducted by Mr. Eugene Goossens. *Carmen, Lohengrin, Faust, Fidelio, Il Trovatore*, and *The Bohemian Girl* have also been performed.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—For three weeks only "variety" forms the attraction here—so it is announced—and for the first week a fine bill has been provided, headed by that clever magician, Mr. Carl Hertz. It must have been gratifying to the management to see such a capital house on Monday, and the success achieved by Mr. Hertz was certainly a notable one, his various feats being quite extraordinary. Assisted by Miss Emmeline D'Alton and Co., he introduces his datest sensation, "The Bridal Chamber," with great effect. Dezmonte and Mora appear in their marvellous triple-bar performance; and a hit has been made by Mr. Charles Bignell with his catchy chorus songs. The evergreen comedian, Mr. Sam Redfern, takes well, his stump speech being very humorous; and Shawlene exhibits much talent as a siffleur and mimic; Miss Maidie Scott is a delightful comedienne; and Miss Sylvia Du Barry gains much approval for her vocal efforts. Also appearing are the Brothers Lavelle, acrobatic comedians; Miss Gertie Gitana, an exceedingly smart comedienne; and the attractive Royal Pictures.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Walker.—The chief attraction here this week is provided by the Midget Minstrels, about thirty in number, who provide a very entertaining and successful performance under the title of *Casey's Court*. Miss Nellie Farrell sings Irish songs in characteristic style; and the feats of equilibrism by the Henry Taylor Trio are little short of marvellous. Maxwell and Francis appear to advantage in their comedy act, which is quite refreshing; and Miss May Henderson, "the dusky comedy queen," sings and dances excellently. Also here are Messrs. Walter King and Walter Curtis, comedians; and the Two Tees, musical grotesques.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company stage this week the evergreen Irish drama, *The Shaughraun*. In the rôle of Conn Mr. T. H. Solly was simply inimitable, his success being in every sense complete; Moya was delightfully played by Miss Effie Mackintosh; Harvey Duff, the informer, was well realised by Mr. Cyril Grier; and Corry Kinchela was capitally sustained by Mr. H. Hesselgrave. Miss Nina Blake-Adams, a charming actress, filled the rôle of Arte O'Neill with much grace; Mr. H. Arnold Frith furnished a skilful impersonation of Father Doolan; and a word of praise is due to Mr. H. Arnold Allen for his interpretation of Robert Ffolliott. Mr. Horace Denton, a fine actor, had in Captain Molineux a part that fitted him like the proverbial glove; and Miss Mattie Crawford was seen to much advantage as Claire Ffolliott. Miss Alice Clarke was a capital Mrs. O'Kelly.

BILSTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. H. Battersby; Manageress, Miss G. Battersby.—Under the personal direction of Mr. Percy Shaw Miss Evelyn Moore's company is presenting *The Crimson Club*. Prominent in the heavy part of Julia we have Miss Florence Delmar, whose portrayal is beyond reproach; and Miss Sydney Barrasford makes an interesting heroine.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell. — Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, in *A Country Mouse*, is creating an excellent impression here. The Hon. Archibald Vyse is admirably impersonated by Mr. Tempier Powell; Mr. Charles Bedells is a capital John Bowlby, M.P.; and Mr. Thomas Sidney is well suited as the Duke of St. Kitts. Lord Robert Wykeham is efficiently sustained by Mr. Ernest H. G. Cox, and Jephcot, the butler, is in the experienced hands of Mr. Frank Hill. Lady Sylvia Bowlby is irreproachably played by Miss Lilias Earle, and Miss Margaret Marshall is all that could be wished as Violet Aynsley. The time-honoured farce, *A Rough Diamond*, serves as an interesting curtain-raiser.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—A particularly fine company includes Mr. Mark Sheridan, the popular comedian; Bella and Bijou, vaudeville artists; Miss Florrie Gallimore, comedienne; and Mr. W. J. Churchill, in his funniosities—all of whom are fulfilling very successful return engagements. In addition there are Orpheus, instrumentalist, Miss Jose Delaine, vocalist and dancer, Cyclo, trick bicyclist, Mr. Tom Yorke, coster comedian, and Brown's Royal Bioscope. On Thursday Mr. Clarke generously gave his annual benefit in aid of the town's charities.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Girl Behind the Counter*, with the actual London company, made its first apearance in Birmingham here on Monday, and scored instantly. Mr. Hayden Coffin as Charles Chetwynd at once proved himself the very beau-ideal of operatic lovers, and gained a most demonstrative welcome. Miss Isabel Jay was applauded oft and long for her beautiful singing and acting as Winnie; Mr. J. F. McArdle's clever drollery was again recognised in the part of General Willoughby; Mr. George Barrett gave a study of the waiter which was much enjoyed; and Mr. Fred Allandale as M. Duval, Mr. G. Dave Burnaby as Gushington, Mr. Lionel Victor as the office boy, and Mr. Ernest Laceby as the commissionaire were undoubted successes. Miss Violet Englefield plays an important part as Millie Mostyn with much distinction; and Mesdames Violet Crossley, Helene Rose, and Kathleen Courtney diffused brightness and charm.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal have returned to delight their admirers here in *The Ironmaster, A Tight Corner, The Elder Miss Blossom*, and *The Housekeeper*. The first-mentioned was played on Monday, when the popular twain, as Derbiay and Claire de Beaupré respectively, were received with every token of affection. Mr. Bassett Roe played the Duc de Beaupré in his well-known finished style; Mr. Edward Vaughan made a graceful and handsome Octave; Mr. Metcalfe Wood presented the Baron de Préfont in a decidedly clever fashion; Mr. Ernest Hendrie left nothing wanting in the character of Moulinet; and Mr. W. M. Rutherford imparted a characteristic touch to the rôle of Béchelin. Mrs. A. B. Tapping's work as the Marquise de Beaupré was much admired; Miss Dora Fellowes made a noteworthy Baroness; Miss Moore-Lane a charming Suzanne; Miss Violet Lewis a dramatic Athenaïs; and Miss Kate Bishop a successful Brigitte.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*The Manxman* is repeating its success here with Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company. Mr. Sydney Kearns, in the absence of Mr. Cross, indisposed, made a sympathetic and delightful Pete; Miss Minnie Watersford, in the difficult rôle of Kate, acted with much emotional feeling; Miss Mona Spearing invested the rôle of Miss Christian with the utmost grace and dignity; Miss Dorothy Duncan was responsible for animated acting as Nancy; Miss Kitty Livesey was an agreeable Belle Kelly; and Messrs. James Dillon, Tom Bowron, Dudley Stuart, Richard Hutton, and Edward Cartell did extremely well.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—Mr. Frank Lindo is once more in our midst with the successful drama *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. Lindo's fine, manly acting as Stephen Armitage evokes the utmost enthusiasm; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle acts as the old sailor-fisherman with rugged pathos; Capt. Gerald Gambier invests the rôle of the Duke of Ancaster with natural dignity; Mr. F. Miles Hodgson dissimulates as the villain, Lucas Lyle, with great plausibility; and sympathy for the heroine, Joan, is secured by Miss Marion Wakeford. Miss Daisy Rochefort is a great favourite as Dora; the Hon. Percy and Sybil Fay are cleverly and amusingly drawn by Mr. Jack Patrick and Miss Ray Rochefort respectively; and other characters are well portrayed by Miss Cecil Warde and Messrs. T. Lewis, Geo. Overs, Helsby Wright, E. C. Owens, and Danvers.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Mr. Andrew Melville continues to attract with his own company, which this week is playing here *In a Woman's Grip*. Mr. Melville humorously enacts the rôle of Joe Butters; Miss Rose Ralph appears in a triple rôle with success; Mr. Percy Dawson displays estimable qualities as Frank Haydon; Mr. J. Milne Taylor gives a telling performance of Maurice Stanton; Mr. Edward Finlay scores as the British Ambassador, Sir Edward Merton; Mr. William Summers is a successful Mr. Fairley; Miss Jessie Yatman an acceptable Lilian Fairley; Mr. F. A. Mackenzie a capable Dick Langley; and Miss Amy Corelli, Mr. Edward Worth, Mr. Arnold Winters, Mr. P. C. Henry, Mr. Francis Everard, Mr. Montague Lane (in a clever impersonation of the mad doctor), little Polly Hughes, and others do well.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY. — General-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*A Traitor Prince* is represented here with all its accustomed success by Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company. Mr. George M. Montanini is a sinister Prince; Mr. T. P. McBride as Lieutenant Frank Derrick is pleasantly frank and vigorous; Mr. James Sherwin as Cara is interesting; Mr. Austin H. Longford is successful both as Richard and Colonel Vane; Miss Nesta Sandford makes a fascinating Vashti; Miss Rose Routledge as the heroine, Lola Vane, acts with charm and sympathy; Mr. Edmund O'Grady entertains the audience well as Billy Bright; Mr. Lex Philip lends strong support as the Hon. Bobby; and Miss Kitty Thomas and Miss Clara O'Grady are smart and humorous as Pansy and Martha Blossom respectively.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The Beast and the Beauty*, with Fredk. Melville's company, is playing to large audiences here. Mr. W. S. Hartford is a successful Jack Barrymore; Mr. Wm. E. Passmore a creditable Earl of Loman; Mr. Bernard Mervyn a convincing Lord X.; Mr. Harry Talbot a diverting Tom Chicken; Mr. Eric Campbell a satisfactory Ned Sampson; and Mr. Harry Wimpenny a realistic Dick Soames. Miss Alice Bowes does all that is possible with the rôle of Violet (Beauty); Miss Daisy Gwynne displays power and intensity as Delilah Vane; Miss Mamie Rendle renders useful help as Mimi; and Messrs. Alfred Wood, Stanley Vivian, Harry Seton, and Will H. Gainsford lend valuable aid.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Arthur Roberts and company, in *The Importance of Being Another Man's Wife* is proving a great attraction here. As Fitz Awful-Smith, Mr. Roberts keeps the house in hearty laughter. The motor-car and duel of the Griffiths Bros. is exceedingly amusing; the eccentricities of Russell Brandon are smart; Tripells has a musical turn with the saxophone and tubes; Marguerite Broadfoote is applauded for her songs; Hillman and Russell, in their duologue, *The Somnambulist*, are good; Phil Herman is a pleasing comedian; Dolly Denton and Lady Mansell's Juveniles are in the bill.

GAIETY THEATRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Ethel Arden and George Abel, in their humorous sketch, *Three of a Kind*, are accorded well-merited cheers; Rappo's marvellous equilibristic performance is excellent; Bert Woodward is an entertaining cycling coon; Athas and Collins, in their sketch, *The Italian and the Monkey*, are good; Ike Scott and Son, the Findons, Laurance Barclay, and Charles Santon complete an excellent programme.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—In *The Dandy Thieves* Fred Karno's company of comedians are attracting crowded houses, while Lottie Lennox has some capital songs, which are loudly applauded; an interesting musical turn is provided by Barton and Franklin; Charlie Ulrich is an expert barrel manipulator, and the Bros. Curran provide amusement in their unique boxing act; Johnston and De Cure are accomplished trick cyclists; as a ventriloquist Bert Williams is most entertaining; Morimura as an illusionist is exceedingly smart; and Helen Martin renders her Irish ballads with effect.

BORDESLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The principal position of the bill is this week occupied by Frank Danby and company who have an amusing musical comedy sketch in *The Chauffeur*. Leo Tell has extraordinary powers of mimicry; Professor Dunning is a ventriloquist of merit; Amy Marsden, a dainty and original comedienne, is very well received; and Kahn and Kahn have some very good conjuring tricks; the Wedburns and Lillian Warren also contribute to an excellent programme.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—EDEN THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—*For Life and After* is being presented here by Hardie and Von Leer's company. Mr. Vernon Sansbury efficiently fills the rôle of Richard Grey; the despicable characters of Rube Hexham and Jack Huggett are capably undertaken by Messrs. Charles Osborne and Henry Hare; Mr. Chris Mason as Joe Grimper merits praise; and Mr. Harry G. Wright is successful as Zeke. Miss Grace Heywood gains much sympathy in her portrayal of Marion Grey; Miss Muriel Dean plays Dora Grey in a pleasing manner; Jenny Huggett is ably sustained by Miss Marion Fawcett; and Miss Rosslyn Vane is an excellent Loo Hexham.

BLACKBURN. — THEATRE ROYAL.— Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—*Florodora* is an old favourite with Blackburn theatre-goers, and the visit of Mr. Bannister Howard's principal company this week is attracting large audiences. Presented by an excellent cast of artists, the musical comedy has lost none of its freshness. Mr. Daley Cooper as Tweedlepunch is as irresistibly funny as ever, and Mr. V. R. Tate as Cyrus Gilfain is also excellent. Mr. R. Courtier Dutton sings well in the part of Frank Abercoed, and Mr. Harold Perry is good as Arthur Donegal. The Dolores of Miss Gwladys Elvey, who has a fine stage presence and a tuneful voice. Miss Nellie Bowman is a sweet Angela, and Miss Edith Housley wins approval as Lady Holyrood.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. Fred Granville's company, in the drama *For Better or Worse*, is a strong attraction here.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—There is another capital variety company here, good turns being given by Fanny Wentworth, in musical sketches at the piano; the Brothers Ethairien, comedians; Rebla, comic juggler; Charles Colby and Lily May, in the ventriloquial sketch, *The Dancing Doll;* Susie and Pvotti, Continental dancers; and others.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone. — Mr. H. R. Roberts and company are here this week with *The Prince Chap*, which is proving very popular. Mr. Roberts as William Peyton scores a great success; and Mr. Victor Widdicumbe gives every satisfaction as Marcus Runion. Miss Ethel Hollingshead supplies the comedy element in the part of Alice Travers; and Messrs. Lorna Lawrence, Betty Green, and Geraldine Wilson each in turn presents a pleasing picture of Claudia. The other parts are also in capable hands.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*The Span of Life*, as enacted by Mr. Arthur Carlton's company, is the fare provided here this week. The Almo trio of acrobats provide the human bridge, and also give a clever triple bar act; whilst other specialities are introduced by Miss Kitty Russell and Mr. Walter Dale.

PALACE. — General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The Five Vernons top a good bill here this week, and prove themselves to be expert xylophone players; Celest does sensational feats on the wire; Maud and Sydney Wood sing and dance well; Oakdene is an entertaining ventriloquist; Les Marsumas contribute a sketch; Barrington plays the piano in all positions; Bishop and Hanlon are good comedians; the Charles Troupe give an extraordinary juggling act; and Robert Gilmore is a popular comedian.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. C. Moody.—Messrs. Frank J. Pitt and Charles Halling's company is here in the well-known drama, *£1000 Reward*. Of the character of Dick Springthorpe Mr. Charles Rogers, jun., gives a vivid and highly-interesting reading; Mr. J. Newton Cowling as Fred Ingleford is commendable; the junior Ingleford of Mr. Frank J. Pitt is a clever piece of acting; Mr. Charles Halling is agreeably prominent as Vincent Rainsworth; and Mr. Frank Dallas as Inspector Gilbert is much applauded. Gilbert Lisle, alias Darrell Grey, finds an able exponent in Mr. Charles V. Sandford, and Mr. Arthur Merton is much in evidence as Fighting Jepps. Miss Lynn Darlington is a charming Meg, and Miss Daisy Halling a clever Madame Sanson. Mr. Moody, the energetic lessee, has provided an extra attraction in an interesting series of pictures.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. John Grantham; Manager, Mr. Arthur James.—Appearing at the above hall are the under-mentioned artists: Jack Hastings, in illustrated song; Alf. E. Rick, comedian; J. H. Malva, in a ventriloquial act; and Carley and Place, burlesque artists.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Tudor.—The chief attraction at the above amusement resort has been supplied by the Four M.P.s, otherwise the Musical Palmers, who have met with a hearty reception. Mr. Tudor still runs a most attractive pictorial show, interspersed with variety turns of a meritorious description

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—Mr. George Alexander's company is this week appearing here in A. W. Pineros's comedy, *His House in Order*. The characters of Hilary Jesson and Nina are finely rendered by Mr. Stephen T. Ewart and Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay; Mr. J. Edward Pearce's interpretation of the part of Filmer Jesson, M.P., is everything that could be wished; Miss Moyna Hill contributes a pretty and intelligent rendering of Derek Jesson; the haughty Ridgeley family are in the capable hands of Messrs. Geo. Fitzgerald (Sir Daniel Ridgeley), Ernest R. Hollway (Pryce Ridgeley), Miss Augusta Haviland (Lady Ridgeley), and Miss Elaine Steddall (Geraldine Ridgeley), the four parts being admirably filled. The Major Maurewarde of Mr. Lloyd Lowndes is another excellent assumption; and Mr. Luke Forster and Mlle. Eve Grand are responsible for the parts of Dr. Dilnott and Mlle. Thome.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The Maningos do an exceptionally smart act as acrobats and equilibrists, obtaining much applause for their clever turn. Other items in the bill are: The Two Celloe, in a refined musical entertainment; Miss Patty Yole, comedienne and elegant dancer; Frank Dunlop, comedian and patterer; Francis and Alfred, sensational and comedy jugglers; Miss Katie Butler, character comedienne; Regan and Ryan, in their high-class comedy act; Miss Elsie Clair, soprano vocalist; Fred Lincoln, comedian; Fred Horsfall, vocalist and mimic; Frank Cumminger, sand dancer; the Columbia Trio, in their original comedy operatic and humorous absurdity; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE. — HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—Mr. J. G. Grahame, jun., and Miss Zerlina Harrington, in a cleverly-enacted dramatic episode, entitled *A Daughter of Pleasure*, form the star turn this week. Rich and Rich are great favourites, their brisk singing and patter causing much laughter; Larola, the funny man with the funny ways, is distinctly clever and amusing; Elsie Roby, the comedienne pianist, elicits much laughter; the Brothers Bright, gymnasts du Salon, submit a clever turn; Mark Tapley, comedian, deserves hearty mention; Rose Cabani, comedienne and dancer, is very good; and the Hippodrome Pictures conclude a fine bill.

BOSTON.—PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. Saphrini.—A crowded house witnessed an excellent programme here on Monday. The chief attraction was the Three Sisters Giovini, acrobats; Phinas and Aida are good hand-balancers and equilibrists; the Morgans are a clever couple; and the Sisters Hly, *chic* duettists; George Bliss, comedian; Noel, gymnast; Little George, sketch artist and mimic; and Hardy and Willis, eccentric comedians, complete a good entertainment.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—The Bournemouth Dramatic Club occupy the theatre this week with *My Friend the Prince*.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Large audiences here this week bear testimony to the popularity of *The Geisha*, which is on a return visit, and

Walls of Jericho, the staging being admirable. Mr. Herbert Brinston displays much power in his impersonation of Jack Frobisher; Mr. George A. Brandram is excellent as Hankey Bannister; Mr. Cyril Baleine makes a good character study of the Marquess of Steventon; Mr. Alexander Cassy is satisfactory as Lord Drayton; and Mr. Sydney Hamilton is highly effective as Harry Dallas. Miss Florence Jackson is in every way charming as Lady Alethea Frobisher, her varied moods being cleverly portrayed; Miss Molly Carton is pleasing as Lady Lucy Derenham; and Miss Lydia Busch acts well in the sympathetic part of Lady Westerby. The smaller parts are capitally taken by the Misses Edith Cuthbert, Rita Milman, Evelyn Maxwell, Doris Lytton, Millie Emden, Messrs. E. F. Meads. Harry Pemberton, Joseph Herbert, Frank Gibbon, Charles Walters, W. F. Fletcher, and Herbert Norris.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—*The Girl Who Lost Her Character* is on a return visit here, the drama being staged in a very complete manner and cleverly played by Mr. Douglas Bruce's company. Miss Ethel Bracewell presnts a clever exposition of Molly Vernon; Mr. Frank Adair is exceptionally good in the unpopular part of Captain Caversham; Mr. C. W. Standing is manly and effective as Jack England; Mr. Harold Macartney does well as the Rev. Robert Everton; Mr. George Mitchell makes the part of James Sutton an excellent one; Miss Bertha Northam is interesting and pleasing as Rose Seymour; and Miss Lydia Mannington acts with considerable power as Marian Franklyn. The comic parts of Dick Punch and Isabella Jones are capitally taken by Mr. George H. Asquin and Miss Daisy Meynard.

PALACE THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. V. Welchman.—Rollo Balmain and Sara Mignon, supported by a good company, are successfully appearing here in a dramatic sketch, *Oliver Twist;* the Four Delevines have an amusing comedy act, *Flipp and Flopp*, in which some smart dancing and knockabout business is introduced; W. J. Ashcroft, assisted by J. W. Morton amuse immensely with an Irish and American comedy duologue; and other successful artists are Maude Esmond, burlesque actress; the Three Ramoniers, in an exceptionally clever double balancing act; the Haverleys, American song illustrators; Fred Fyne and Johnny Hurley in their speciality, *The Coster and the Dude;* and Will English, in coon songs and dances. The performance concludes with a good display of Vernon's animated pictures.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Edwin Boyde, comedian, heads the bill and obtains appreciation; Melot presents a clever turn as a conjurer, &c.; Stratton Mills, Bobby Nairn, and Minnie Blanchard score in an amusing sketch, *A Lovely Liar;* Lady Fauntleroy displays considerable skill as a ventriloquist; Stacey and Williams are versatile comedians and dancers; Daisy Martell, comedienne and dancer, is highly successful; Will Johnson, comedian, obtains applause; and May Lilian Levy, comedienne and burlesque artist, does a pleasing turn. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—On Monday evening Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's clever combination presented a version of *Sapho*, which evidently gave much enjoyment. Miss Ada Abbott, in the title-rôle, did excellent work. Mr. Abbott's Jean Gaussin was a fine performance. Mr. Douglas C. Phelps was a very amusing Uncle Césaire. Mr. W. H. Davis-Brown as Hettema and Miss Louis Gilmour as Aunt Devonne also caused roars of laughter. Mr. Weedon Ross was a comical old Legrand. Mr. W. H. Garbois was successful as Henri Dechelette. Flamant and Croudel were in the safe hands respectively of Mr. Edward Tring and Mr. John Lester. Miss Doris Dew was a charming Lucy, and Miss Marjorie Tennant did well as Madame Hettema. Mr. Edwin Keene (D'Arac) gave some amusing musical specialities. *Sapho* was repeated on Tuesday and Wednesday, and for the remainder of the week *A Wife's Triumph* was announced.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—*The Prince of Pilsen* is presented for the first time here this week by Baron H. Harris's excellent company, and is very cordially received. Mr. Harry Kilburn as Hans Wagner, the brewer, is the life and soul of the piece; Miss Sophie Harriss is a fine actress, and quite at home in the rôle of Mrs. Maddison Croker; Mr. Frank Crimp as the Prince is to be complimented on his singing of "A Passing Cloud." Other artists of merit are Mr. Roy Sydney, Mr. Bernard Russell, Mr. Ernest Gifford, Miss Florence Beach, Miss Connie Leon, and Miss Molly Wynne. Miss de Loriere (the Gibson Girl) is most pleasing. The dresses and scenery are splendid.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Well filled houses are the rule here this week. Mlle. Marvelli's cockatoos and macaws give a clever and pleasing performance; Henry Abdy's canine hippodrome is another excellent turn, the revolving table which is introduced causes much laughter; the Toreadors are very funny in a burlesque bull-fight, and Renson and Waite are rewelcomed for their smart patter; Shangai, Chinese magician, presents a mysterious performance, and the Violas, the white Mahatmas, give a clever séance of mental telegraphy; the Harleys, in a gymnastic and cycling turn, are highly appreciated, and the New Empire Theatroscope presents interesting pictures.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Manager, Mr. John Waller.—This week's variety programme includes Miss Beatrice Bonnie, who renders her songs in good style; the St. Johns, who score in their selections on various instruments; and Mr. Harry Bent, impersonator of the "Stars of the Halls." Stylo is received with unstinted applause in his marvellous hoop jugglery; Carlotta Lunn, the possessor of a strong and tuneful voice, is heard to advantage; a versatile comedian is Mr. Ernest Heathcote; a sensational feat is achieved by Mr. Tom Grave, who is whirled round the revolving wheel on a bicycle. The Raymond Bio-Tableaux winds up a good show.

BURY (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Edmund Tearle and company are playing here this week. On Monday *Hamlet* was presented. In the title-rôle Mr. Tearle gave a clever study; Mr. J. Cooke Hinton was good as the King; Mr. Samuel Seldet submitted a capital study of Polonius; Miss Esther Tearle deserved the highest-praise for her Ophelia; the part of the Queen was well acted by Miss Mary Campbell; Mr. Ernest Lodge gave a dreamy presentment of the Ghost; and Mr. B. Turner as Laertes, Mr. C. Marle as Horatio, and Mr. R. H. Lace as Rosencrantz were all good. During the week, *Othello*, *Julius Cæsar*, *Jeanie Deans*, and *The Three Musketeers* were to be played.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—A high-class programme here includes Mendel, the blind pianist; the Rio Brothers, American gymnasts; May Glenn, vocalist; Marie Reeve, comedienne; Thorpe and Coe, in a sketch, entitled *My Burglar;* the Three Sisters Chester, vocalists and dancers; H. Downes, coloured vocalist; and Sammy Shields, Scottish comedian.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Sons; General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—A number of good turns here this week include Von Etta, a clever lady illusionist and quick-change artist; Edwin Garth, comedian; the Spanish Goldinis, acrobats; the Sisters Marion, clever duettists; Evelyn Taylor, comedienne; Oliver Conroy, comedian; Frances and Francis, acrobatic comedians; and Vera Mayne, a Canadian singer.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—D'Oyly Carte's principal repertoire company is here this week, and on Monday night a charming performance was given of *The Gondoliers*, in which Mr. C. H. Workman as the Duke of Plaza-Toro was as good as ever; Mr. Fred Billington as Don Alhambra del Bolero was admirable; Mr. Pain Ripple, another favourite here, was also excellent as Marco; Miss Theresa Rassam was delightful as the Duchess; other parts being taken by Messrs. Albert Kavanagh, Fred Drawater, Strafford Mop, and J. Lewis Campion, Miss Mabel Graham, Miss Hope Hastings, and Miss Lulu Evans all being vocalists of great ability. On Tuesday *The Mikado* was presented; *Iolanthe* on Wednesday; *H.M.S. Pinafore* on Thursday; and *Patience* on Friday.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—Mr. Charles Harrington's No. 1 American combination occupied the rooms for two evenings this week in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The company is composed of real negroes, and Mr. J. Carr in the rôle of Uncle Tom left nothing to be desired. Mr. J. H. Renney as Phineas Fletcher was really good; Mr. Leslie Beaufort as George Harris interpreted the part with realistic power, as did also Miss Hettie Johnson that of Eliza Harris. Mr. Stanley Howard was a success as Mr. St. Clair; and the same may be said of Miss May Turner as Mrs. St. Clair. Little Minnie acted the part of Little Eva with such feeling and pathos as to visibly touch the large audience. Mrs. Carr was good in the part of Aunt Chloe; Mr. J. Henry Rogers was a success as Legree, the villainous slave-owner; Mr. Walter Langford was responsible for much laughter as Marks, the lawyer; Miss Jennie Malcolm as Aunt Ophelia, a model of order, enacted the part admirably; while Miss Carrie Ellis as Emmeline, and Miss Mabel Bowman as Dina, proved worthy exponents. The character of Topsy was in the capable hands of Miss Annie Watson, and that of Cassy in those of Miss Ethel Middmay. In the plantation scene a capital variety entertainment was given.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—The successful comedy, *The Catch of the Season*, has been presented here by Mr. Geo. Dance's company. Mr. Frank Lincoln as the Duke of St. Jermyns gives a capital rendition, his breezy manner making his portrayal very popular; as Angela Miss Moya Mannering quite charms the audience by her pretty and graceful impersonation; Miss Belle Napier makes a capital Lady Caterham; Miss Ida Mann does well as Lady Crystal, and, as her Ladyship's two daughters, Miss M. Savell and Miss Jane Eyre are well placed; as Lord Dundreary Mr. E. H. Kelly causes much fun, while Buckett is amusingly portrayed by Master Grata; Mr. Julian Cross (Sir John Crystal), Mr. Alfred Lloyd (Mr. Gibson), Miss Gwynneth Galton (Duchess of St. Jermyns), are deserving of praise; and the talented chorus of Gibson Girls has been carefully trained.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Mr. Samuel James's own company occupies the boards this week with the exciting drama, *Why Woman Sins*. Mr. Harry Cullenford is a manly and gallant Lieut. Harry Maxwell; Mr. Jackson Hayes acts with much ability as Capt. Herbert Carlton; Mr George Ellis excellently interprets Cecil Spencer; and Mr. George Claremont gives an excellent portrayal of Jim Rainbird. A charming and winsome Nell Desmond is found in Miss Hilda Baynton; and quite a delightful Lily de Vere in Miss Nellie Sheffield. The difficult part of Ida Valette is quite safe in the reliable hands of Miss Gertrude Netterville.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—La Milo, the living Venus, has packed the Empire this week, and her charming performance has aroused genuine admiration; the clever lightning caricaturist, Cruikshanks, has also been an additional attraction; the popular Welsh comedians, Ted and May Hopkins, have naturally a rousing reception; Cliff Ryland is a dry humorist who causes continual laughter; Barton and Ashley give their unconventional comedy act with their well-known smartness; a marvellous acrobatic troupe is the Stein-Eretto; Arthur Reece, the bright vocal comedian; Mezzetti and Mora in a comedy triple bar performance; Amy Sullivan, a captivating comedian; and the popular Bioscope, with laughable pictures, complete a varied programme.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Trustees of R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Stanley.—Messrs. Melford and Polini's company, in *The Silver King*, opened here to a good house on Monday night. Mr. Fred D. Daviss as Wilfred Denver gives a polished performance, and is ably assisted by Miss Daisy Scudamore, a sympathetic Nellie Denver. The veteran Mr. Edward J. George appears as Jaikes, and is as firm a favourite as ever; Mr. L. St. George Lowther portrays the villainies of the Spider to perfection; Henry Corkett loses nothing in the capable hands of Mr. A. Hornby Warburton; Mr. Arthur Wright is capital as Elijah Coombe; Mr. Warriss Lindon is successful as Cripps; and Mr. Byrom Pedley makes the most of the part of Baxter. Miss Dorothy Radford plays Olive Skinner aritstically. Special mention should be made of Miss Flossie Hall Daviss, who plays Cissy with exceeding charm and sweetness. Other parts are well placed, and the whole production is crowned with success.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—The premier position is occupied by Mme. Lydia Yeamans-Titus, who charms her audience with her beautiful singing and clever imitations; the Philippe Brothers cause much uproarious fun with their absurdity, *Shunting;* Miss Dolly Harmer, with her "Suffragette" song meets with an ovation at each performance; Bishop and Vale are exceedingly clever knockabout comedians; Osmonde Penstone submits a pleasing and smart magical act; Jack Charman sings a couple of capital songs in taking style; Miss Onro on the silver wire is appreciated; capital pictures on the bioscope complete an excellent programme.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—This week Miss Hilda Hatton and Mr. Victor Gardom's company presented on two nights *Not Peace, but a Sword*, a stirring drama illustrating a tale of the Chinese mission fields. Mr. C. Milley Doyle was most successful as General Wilford; Mr. Rupert Carlton interpreted the part of Tien Sing, the scheming and bloodthirsty Chinese mandarin and opium merchant, with realistic power; Miss Letitia Rushforth was an unqualified success in the character of Dorothy Danecourt, and her rendering of "Down the Vale" proved that she possessed a well-trained voice of good compass and power; Miss Eileen Leoville acted the character of Helen, the widow of John Danecourt, with the requisite power and pathos; Mr. Leon Ainscliffe as Captain Anstruther delineated the part with dramatic power; while Mr. Wallace Childs ably sustained that of Sergt. Murphy O'Dowd, and was responsible for much laughter. Mr. Bernard Beere as the ghost of the murdered missionary was good; and the same may be said of Mr. Alec Finlayson as Li-Hung and Mr. Oswald Bertram as Danecourt. Mr. Luigi Cavallo as Chin-li Chinaman was a decided hit; as was also Miss Gertrude Vickers as Anna Maria. Miss Bella Richardson was successful as Lika Yoka (a dancer); Mr. Victor Gardom gave a powerful interpretation to the rôle of Sir Philip Darcy, the villain of the piece; and to Miss Hilda Hatton must be accredited high praise for the power, pathos, and realism which she introduced into her portrayal of Carlotta, the half-caste.

CHATHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—This week marks a return visit of Mr. Arnold Bell's company in *Ben-My-Chree*. Mr. Bell sustains in powerful style the arduous rôle of Dan Mylrea; Miss Frances Campbell does well as Mona; Mr. H. M. Clifford is seen to advantage as Cilchrist Mylrea; and Davy Fayle and Hommy-Beg, as portrayed by Messrs. F. Carlile and John Henley respectively, are popular characters.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—This week's sketch is *The Maniac*, with Mr. Melville Bickford scoring in the name part; Clive and Clark prove smart dancers; the Boston Twins are new to Barnard's audiences, the mimicry of one of them being most amusing; Gicardo is a juvenile juggler whose dexterity surprises; and Harry Cooke, comedian, Newco and Cullo, comedians and dancers, and Rene Ring, comedienne, also appear. Mr. Lacey has a capital film, entitled "Where there's a will there's a way."

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank E. Donne.—Happy Fanny Fields is back again, delighting all; Conway and Leland prove a merry pair of monopedes, and the remaining turns are: Little Don, the mirthful mite; Dolly Golden, speciality dancer; Wright and Elton, with comedy; Kathleen Radford, the Gravesend flower seller; Walter Clyde, vocalist; and pictures projected by the Edisonograph.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. George Dance's principal company is paying a welcome return visit with the *Orchid*. Mr. Stenson Liddard plays neatly the part of the Minister of Commerce; Mr. Bertie Wright's zeal as Meakin is unflagging, his great song "I do all the dirty work" proving a remarkable hit; Mr. Sinclair Holden is smart as the Hon. J. Scrymgeour; Miss Dorothy Firmin prettily fills the rôle of Lady Violet; Mr. John R. Val (Zaccary) is an exceedingly clever and nimble speciality dancer; and Mr. Edward Nainby is notably good as the Comte. The chorus is strong and attractive; and the augmented orchestra is well led by M. Jean Desormes.

CHORLEY.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Hemingway.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company is here presenting the excellent drama, *In Holy (?) Russia*. The play is exceptionally well mounted and staged. As Renée Rubinoff, Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy displays talent of the highest order; Miss Mavis Lee Anderson as Catska Layotski submits a clever delineation; Mr. J. Rice Cassidy undertakes Micky Nolan, and, as usual, is particularly smart and versatile; Laurice Steragoff is effectively depicted by Mr. Carl Rovinelli; Mr. Frank Copeland doing capital service as Sir Harry Berresford. Colonel Richard Forrest is successfully presented by Mr. Arthur Stratton; Mr. J. Cuthbertson as Baron Von Pleve, and Mr. Fredk. Loyd (Count Gregori Petrolski) play with marked success.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Company; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—Mr. C. Watson Mill and company are drawing crowded houses here this week with *A Warning to Women*. Mr. Watson Mill, who appears in the rôle of Dr. Marcus Dread, gives a powerful representation of the character; Mr. George Harvey successfully portrays Shaun; Mr. Norman B. Cannon provides an excellent rendering of Fergus McNaughton; and Lord Eversleigh is admirably represented by Mrs. N. Carter Slaughter; Miss Rosalind Tate renders the difficult part of Moira Kennion in a masterly manner; Miss Ellen Beverley does well as Molly O'More; and Hellena is cleverly undertaken by Miss Sadie Hilton.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—A good house assembled on Monday to witness *The Great Awakening*, as played by Miss Maud Hildyard and company, and the play, which was capitally staged and most admirably enacted, was well received. Miss Hildyard herself played the rôle of Lola Selby, upon which character the piece rests, and did so in quite her best style, her changes from comedy to tragedy and vice versâ stamping her as a versatile actress. Mr. A. C. Hardie was most powerful as James Selby; Mr. Bernard Copping doubled the parts of Sir Henry and Jack Merton in clever fashion; Mr. Charles Linney and Mr. George Child made a capable pair of subsidiary villains; and the lighter rôles of Billy Brass and Selina Worts were humorously depicted by Mr. Willie Scott and Miss Isa Bellington respectively. Mr. Herbert Evelyn was painstaking as the harassed Capt. Lambert, being ably assisted by Miss Doris Digby as Molly.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Ben de Frece.—The premier position is this week held by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, depicting the now much-talked-of fight between Gunner Moir and Jack Palmer at the National Sporting Club. The Whitworth Cycling Girls and Campkin the tramp cyclist contribute an interesting turn to which is added the excitement of nightly competitions. Harry Mack is applauded to the echo for his really novel entertainment; Onda and Artell are expert aerial gymnasts; Rose D'Alberg and Blanche Price shine as comediennes and dancers; and Dick Kendall excels in eccentric dancing.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. F. B. Woulfe and his répertoire company are here this week. On Monday *Lady Godiva* was produced. In the title-rôle, Miss Ethel Griffies acquitted herself with commendable ability; and as Lady Aldyth, Miss Katherine Brook was very good. Mr. F. B. Woulfe as Tom of Coventry still maintains his reputation; whilst as Leofric, Mr. R. Seath Innes was entirely satisfactory. Mr. Wm. McCready gave an excellent representation of the part of Algar; and as Unwolf, Mr. Ernest Hamilton was all that could be desired. *Jane Shore* was billed for Tuesday night, *Nell Gwynne* for Wednesday, *Hamlet* for Thursday and *Richelieu* for Friday.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Lionel Glenister and Mr. Wood Ingram's company opened here on Monday in *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*. As Peggy Miss Decima Moore gave a charming reading of her part, and evoked hearty appreciation; Miss Annie Brophy as Mrs. O'Mara was humorous, her Irish brogue being capital; Mr. Frank G. Bayly, in the rôle of the naturalist, supplied a delightful study; Miss Kate Wingfield, as Lady Crackenthorpe, was excellent; Mr. Henderson Bland, as Major Archie Phipps was capital; Miss Violet Barton Astor as the Hon. Millicent Keppel and Miss Estelle Despa as the Hon. Mrs. Colquhoun adequately portrayed their parts.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The Zouaves go through a series of drill exercises very difficult with great skill and marvellous precision; Frank Coyle, comedian, contributes three songs, which he renders in capital style; the Sisters Bronson are clever duettists and dancers; V. L. Granville, character impersonator, gives striking impersonations from *The Sign of the Cross*, *Silver King*, and *Trilby;* Leonard and Larry as the "Unique Komedy Kouple" give humorous dialogues and sing good songs; Theodore Jones and company do a vocal scena which is well received; the Cranks provide a sensational bicycle turn, and prove themselves very clever; and Carte and Mirtziana are gymnasts whose feats are excellent.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr Wm. Bennett.—A large house gathered on Monday night to give a hearty reception to Mr. Wm. Greet's company in *The Earl and the Girl*. Miss Florence Wix is again seen as Liza Shoddam, who gives a fine study of the part; Mr. William Cromwell gives a good account of the heavy responsibilities as Jem Cheese; Mr. Robert Hyett is well suited to the part of Dick Walgrave; Mr. A. E. Coleby gives a forcible rendering of A. Bunker Bliss; Miss Gertrude Simpson is a dainty and charming heroine as Elphin Haye; and Miss Eva Bevington shows the possession of a good voice as Daisy Fallowfield; Miss Nellie Grant makes a most imposing Mrs. Shimmering Black; and Miss Helen Langton is responsible for Miss Virginia Bliss.

THE HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—A capital audience attended on Monday night to witness a good programme, one of the chief attractions being by Ethel Arden and Geo. Abel's (Ltd.) company in *The Little Stowaway*, which was much appreciated; the Aquamarinoff Troupe of Russian singers and dancers are most successful, giving some marvellous exhibitions of Russian dances; Sweet, Dale, and Sweet provide an amusing knockabout turn; John Falaway, the comedian cat on the wire, makes a realistic pussy and a very clever wire performer; Boyd and Gilfain are popular as speciality artists; Miss Molly Lawson is a skilful speciality dancer; and Fred. Keallam is well received as a comedian. The Cinematograph Pictures are excellent.

THE EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—Plenty of amusement is provided at this popular house of amusement this week. Alexandre and Hughes give a highly entertaining turn in mirth and melody, and are also clever concertina players; McDonald's melody-makers give an extraordinary display in acting, singing, and dancing, and are deservedly appreciated; Miss Ray Wallace gives some bright impersonations of leading artists; Lilian shows with marked success how she has mastered the safety bicycle in trick-riding; Ernest Ball is well received as an actor-vocalist; the Brothers Vetter give their original production entitled *The Page's Recreation*, in a capable manner; Halma, the society juggler, does a clever juggling entertainment; and Geo. C. Doughty and company present a comedy scene, *Captain Cupid*, with success.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company is treating us to a welcome week of *The Indian Mutiny*. Miss F. Melrose Millett gives a very powerful rendering of her part as Ghuznah, a Brahmin priestess; and Mr. George Steel as Lieutenant Manley submits a very careful study. Mr. Cyril Harrison as Captain Manley is well chosen; and Mr. Jno. Davidson makes a dignified Major Ingleby. The heavy part of Nebu Singh is in the capable hands of Mr. Villiers Stanley; and the rôle of Ra Goonga is wisely entrusted to Mr. Charles Boult. Mr. G. Birch gives an able presentment of Ensign Blake; and Mr. Cecil Morand is funny as Terry O'Brien. Mr. F. Anderson deserves praise for his Sergeant Thompson; and Miss Lillie Grey makes a stately Mrs. Major Ingleby; whilst Miss Agnes Kingston is very winsome as Kate Ingleby. Mr. J. S. Shedden must not be forgotten for his Abul Khan; nor Mr. D. Matthews for his capital Asinga. Mr. Arrack Saumy shows ability in his portrayal of Ghaute; and Mr. J. Peters deserves mention for his neat rendering of Sved Rao.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *The Power of the Cross* is the attraction here. Mr. Geo. A. De Gray gives a weird and clever impersonation of Baron Woulfe Curzola; and Mr. Harry C. Rutland is an excellent Gerald Fairfax. Mr. Royce Carleton distinguishes himself as Dr. Leslie Fairfax; and Mr. Richard E. Nugent is both humorous and entertaining as Timothy O'Dowd. Mr. L. Fred Tenaur is good as Benjamin Hawke, and Mr. A. J. Murray acts the part of David Kingsley with care. Miss Cissie St. Elmo shows considerable talent as the designing Rita Lascelles; and Miss Stanley Burt gives an emotional rendering of Margaret Seaton. Miss May Grayce is conspicuous as Blanche Kingsley; and Miss Etta Turner is an interesting Dolly Grey.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Mr. Lambert is giving Croydon playgoers a rich dramatic treat with a visit of Mr. George Alexander's company in *His House in Order*. Miss Auriol Lee is seen at her best in the rôle of Nina, the performance having many good points; Mrs. Kemm's is admirably fitted to the part of Lady Ridgeley; Miss Audrey Campbell deserves all praise for her rendering of Geraldine Ridgeley; Mlle. Juliette Milo enacts Mlle. Thome in the best possible manner; and Miss Doris Champion is well placed as Derek Jesson. Mr. Frank Fenton submits a scholarly portrayal of Hilary Jesson; Mr. Cyril Harcourt's Filmer Jesson is played with studied accuracy; Mr. Adam Alexander gives a sound performance as Sir Daniel Ridgeley; Mr. George Silver is amusing as Pryce Ridgeley; Mr. Charles Tyrel acts creditably as Major Maurewarde; Mr. James Annand deserves a word as Dr. Dilnott; Mr. Langford Browne is persevering as Harding; and Mr. Cyril Cattley makes the most of his opportunities as Forsham.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Mr. Chas. Watson Mills' company in *A Wrecker of Men*, is here this week. Mr. Frederick Byron is excellent as Jim Murley; Mr. Milner Noble as Pharosaphus acts with intensity; Mr. Millar Anderson as Railton displays talent; Mr. Stanley Champion is good as Guise Strange; Mr. Chas. Earle as Ezekiel Isaacs does well; Mr. Harry Dunning is capital as the Hon. Reggie Verincourt; and Mr. Thos. Carruthers as Eric Melville is very convincing. Miss Gwendoline Talbot as Marion Isaacs is commendable; Miss Beatrice Reynolds is well received as Varasole Slopper; Miss Cissie Podmore, as Dora Melville, performs a difficult part with sincerity; and Miss Lucy Sibley ably sustains the rôle of Risca Mallinson.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—A capital all-round programme is here this week. Joe Elvin and company cause incessant amusement in the ever-popular sketch, *Over the Sticks;* Fred Holland is a capital comic vocalist; the Cape Girls, singers and dancers, give an enjoyable turn; Claire Romaine, musical comedy artist, makes a big hit; Hallam and Stanton are appreciated in the sketch, *A Broken Journey;* the Kalos, human marionettes, are clever; the Four Aces, comedy acrobats, win applause; and Doody and Wright, Australian comedians, are first-rate.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—*Are You a Mason?* is here for the first time, under the direction of Mr. Charles Macdona. The piece is preceded each night by a one-act play, *The Ruby Heart*. Mr. Ernest Cassart as George Fisher is extremely funny; Mr. E. H. Paterson as Amos Bloodgood is admirable; Mr. Howard L. Tracy makes a good Frank Perry; Mr. Edwin Millins as John Halton is clever and smart; Mr. F. Jacques as the eccentric actor, Hamilton Travers, plays to perfection; Mr. Dare Austin as Ernest Morrison, makes a decided hit; Miss Adelaide Grace's portrayal of Mrs. Bloodgood is excellent; Miss Gwen Clifford as Lottie is well worth seeing; Miss Mabel Durrant is an excellent Mrs. Perry; and Miss Stuart and Miss Merrique as Mrs. Bloodgood's two daughters are delightful.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's Juvenile company is appearing here this week, in *Beauty and the Beast*. Miss Dolly Dodds makes a sprightly Principal Girl, and sings excellently; Miss Kitty Trewhitt as Prince Charming is a decided success; Miss Daisy Fielder as Will Scarlet, Miss Isa Gibson as Maid Marion, and Miss Eadie Cannon as Marjorie Daw, all act cleverly; Miss May Gibson sings well as Silver Star; as does Miss Beattie Townshend as the Witch. The humorous side is kept rolling by Mr. Jack Harrison, the Baron; the Bros. Armstrong, the Baron's daughters, and Messrs. Doyle and Gibson as Flip and Flop.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—Mr. William Greet's principal company is here with *The Earl and the Girl*. Mr. Wm. Stephens, who again enacts Jim Cheese, scores a big success; Mr. Arthur Harrold is successful as Dick Wargrave, his singing being one of the features of the production; Miss Frances Earle appears to distinct advantage as Elphin Haye; Mr. Percy Wright is capital as the Hon. Crewe Boodle; Mr. H. Courtin cleverly sketches the American; and Mr. W. Norman as the hustling American lawyer is also typical, affording a sharp contrast to Mr. Talk, the English solicitor, well represented by Mr. Greene Taylor. Miss Jennie Richards is to be congratulated on her 'Liza Shoddam; Miss Beatrice Anderson is thoroughly effective as Mrs. Shimmering Black; Miss Gertrude Melville is graceful and vivacious as Daisy Fallowfield; and Miss Mary Morison makes a dignified Virginia Bliss.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Charles Morritt, described as the "world-renowned wizard," is this week's attraction. He is accompanied by a blind man, endowed with a prodigious memory. Wyndham and Waters, clever comedy artists, give a capital sketch, entitled *The Professor and the Pupil*. Other turns which are well received include Wheeler and Wilson, comedy acrobats; Grace Langley, a pleasing dancer; the Two Errolls; George Prince, the crazy comedian; and the Sisters Neilson, duettists and dancers. The Palace Bioscope provides a new series of pictures.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—Mr. Bulner's celebrated company are producing the well-known drama, entitled *Sentenced for Life*, in creditable fashion. Mr. Edward E. Louis plays Lieutenant Roy Stillwell, the hero, most effectively; Mr. Ernest Vaughan, as Captain Paul Derrick, the villain, receives a full measure of the applause generally bestowed on a good stage villian; Mr. Morris Maud is a kindly Rev. Martin Orris; Mr. James F. Firth is an exceptionally humorous Percy McGentle; and Miss May Neilson, in addition to being a clever actress, is an accomplished vocalist.

DONCASTER.—NEW THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*Sergeant Brue of the C Division* proved mirth-provoking on Monday evening. In the title-rôle, Mr. J. Harold Carson was inimitable; Mr. Robert Selby as his son, Michael, capably supporting; and Miss Florence Spurgeon, as Aurora, combining to make a brilliant trio. Miss Dora Taylor's Daisy was meritoriously interpreted; and Mr. Cecil Strickland had the astute and alert mien of a shrewd solicitor (Matthew Habisham); Mr. Harold Godwin's reading of Inspector Corringe showed marked ability; and Mr. Maitland Dicker as Crookie Scrubbs was incisive and capable; Miss Reydon Dallas was delightful in the rôle of Lady Bickenhall.

DOVER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—A powerful dramatic company is this week presenting *The Village Blacksmith*. During the absence of Mr. Livesey the early part of the week, the rôle of John Strong was taken by Mr. Joseph Carter, who fully deserved the enthusiastic plaudits accorded him. Owing to the change of cast Mr. Edwin Maydew was given the part of Captain Leo, and submitted a really excellent and highly effective portrayal. Mr. George Wilton's skilful handling of Lucas Marlow is worthy of high praise, and this gentleman also gave a clever little sketch of St. John Harman. A fine character study of a travelling tinker is contributed by Mr. Thomas E. Marshall as Jeremiah Parkins, whose wife, Sal, is played with considerable humour by Mrs. T. C. Livesey. The excellent dialect and amusing mannerisms of Mr. George V. Campbell combine to make his performance as Billy Twigg one of the most successful in the play, and Mr. A. Walker as Humpy Tarn also does good work. A charming impersonation of Harry Strong is given by Miss Bertha Hanbury, whose captivating ways and pretty voice made her conquest of the audience complete. Miss Maggie Edwards shows much histrionic talent in her rendering of the rôle of Kate Strong, and Miss Cassie Le Grande's pathetic and at times powerful enactment of Ruth Parkins is well received. The drama is adequately dressed and staged.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Vaudeville Syndicate Co.; Manager, Mr. B. H. Harland; Secretary, Mr. Chas. R. Standfield.—A really clever turn is this week contributed by Stanley's Urchins, who meet with a good reception; Tony Iveson proves himself both a skilful and talented comedian at the piano; Mlle. Du Roche, the possessor of a voice of great charm, sings with good taste and expression; Alice Coates, a clever comedienne, and the Brothers Tarrant, patter comedians, are most successful; and the Four Louberts appear in their comedy act, entitled *Uninvited*.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Directress, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. Edward Terry and company are paying a return visit here this week, and on Monday night a large audience was present to witness the production of *Liberty Hall*. Mr. Terry has ample scope for the display of his artistic talent as William Todman, and the famous comedian was seen to the utmost advantage. Particularly successful

received. As a comedian, Harry Herbert scores successfully; as do also the Sisters Lavender, duettists and dancers. Gus Dallon wins favour as a versatile comedian; and Marie Nelson imparts much spirit to her song and dance. The Empire pictures are, as usual, interesting.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy. — Duncan's collie dogs, who go through a number of remarkable feats, are here this week, and prove an attractive item; the Cattaneo Troupe of comedy acrobats make a decided hit; and Hinton and Wooton are seen in a novel act, *Football on Bicycles*, which is very smart. The Brothers Ashley's sketch, *Next, Please*, is highly amusing; and Molly Woolstenthume is an accomplished operatic vocalist. The McGregors, in a refined musical act, merit applause; and Mollie Doon, comedienne, is popular. Earl and Melville, in humorous songs and patter, are nightly encored; and as a magician, Carl Roxine excels. Some exceptionally good pictures are shown on the bioscope.

DUMFRIES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. B. Potts; Manager, Mr. Payne Sedden.—The first three nights of this week, Mr. Edward Marris's No. 1 Company, under the direction of Mr. W. H. Kirby appeared here in the musical comedy, entitled *Somebody's Sweetheart*. Mr. E. H. Betram was a capital Stanton Ashleigh; Miss Millie Gorden was well placed as Freddie Ashleigh; Mr. W. H. Kirby as Martin Blabe was most amusing; Mr. Douglas B. Watson as Stephen Leverton was very good; Miss Molly Hackett as Lulu was charming and natural; Miss Cordelia Knight played the part of Zora, the gipsy, in an efficient manner, her singing being above the average; Miss Nora Melton as Mrs. Ainslie was quite at home in the part.

DUNDEE. — HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—*An Actor's Romance* is produced here this week by Miss Lilian Beisant's company. Mr. Eardley Howard makes a fine appearance in the part of Harold Davenport. Miss Beatrice Hone is excellent in the character of Louise Davenport, and the remaining parts are portrayed by thoroughly competent artists.

PEOPLE'S PALACE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—Harry Lauder, the great Scotch comedian, is here, and meets with an extraordinary reception, the packed house being roused to enthusiasm by his clever character creations. He is supported by a company which includes Arthur Goodman, the Three Clarions, Les Valdos, the Zelovas, Acland, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Payte, and Vernon's Bioscope.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—Miss Ina Lorimer, a really smart Scotch comedienne, tops the bill, and gets a splendid reception for her clever songs and dances. Mr. George Melvin, a new Scotch comedian, creates great hilarity with his quaint songs; Fox and Melville score with illustrated ballads, and the remainder of the company is quite up to high-class standard.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—A French drama, entitled, *The Throne of Terror*, is located here. Mr. Wm. J. Miller is a capital Maximilian Robespierre; Miss Ethel Lanyan Maude, as his accomplice, is good; and Mr. E. Roy Milton, as Captain De Lisle, gives a capital rendering. The other parts are very well played.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is appearing here in *Mr. Hopkinson*. Mr. Frank Stanmore as Hoppy is again notably successful; Mr. Arnold Lucy is an easy and polished Duke; Mr. Shirley Lea is quite a success as Addleton; and the parts of Cawthorpe and Dursingham are admirably filled by Mr. Reginald Dane and Mr. Charles M. Heslop. Mr. G. C. Murray is an able Mr. Smethurst; and artistic help is given by Messrs. V. Galley and J. G. Lowther. A delightful performance is that of Miss Marie Hassell as the Duchess; Miss Gladys Jesson is an attractive Lady Tyra; and Miss Katherine M. Romsey an animated Eliza Dibbs.

THE PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Edward Marris's company is appearing here in *The Dandy Doctor*. A very large part of the work falls on Miss Florence Smithers, who as Jane keeps the house in roars; Miss Rosie Chandler is an attractive Ivy; Mr. James Salter a merry and smart Melchisedeck; Mr. Herbert Pearce an able Colonel; Mr. Walter Nugent a good Vandyke; Mr. Leslie Martin a funny Bertie; and Mr. Dalton Dane an eccentric Drycoff.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—At the top of the bill are the original Luigo's Sextette, who sing and dance capitally in a pretty and effective scena; Mr. Charles Chard causes much laughter; the Sisters Hall cleverly hold the audience; Miss Gladys Williams is a favourite comedienne; Phen and Phen have an original and popular musical act; Miss Annie Casey pleases as a comedienne; and new pictures are added.

ECCLES.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Manager, Mr. Ernest Hales.—Mr. Edward Marris's company is here in the sensational drama, *As Midnight Chimes*. Mr. Witty Wattie Walton as Tat Spavvin, and Miss Madge Beresford as Suzette evoke continuous laughter; the Luke Dezzard of Mr. Percy Maitland is very creditable; Mr. Leonard Dalrymple as Nat Wilson is decidedly good; Mr. Lewis Leslie as Dave Stannard is commendable; Mr. Herbert Belmore is highly successful as Ezra Gamble; Miss Carlotta Anson and Miss Ethel Denville as Stannard's wife and son respectively play their parts well.

EDINBURGH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Mr. Charles Frohmann's company began on Monday a week's engagement at this house in the exciting play, *Raffles*. Mr. Leonard Boyne made a distinct hit as the "Amateur Cracksman"; Mr. Boyne's acting, both on its lighter and more serious side, reached a high level of excellence, and he was repeatedly recalled; Mr. Clifford Brooke as the shrewd American detective, Curtis Bedford, played with incisive force; and the Earl of Amersteth found an admirable representative in Mr. Arthur Willoughby. Mr. Lewis Edgard gave an excellent performance as Harry Manders; and a clever piece of character-acting was seen in Mr. Dalziel Heron's Crawshay. Miss Hilda Stewart was a graceful, dramatic Mrs. Vidal; Miss Hazel Thomson was a sweet pathetic figure as Gwendoline Conran; Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald made the most of the small part of Marie, the French maid; and capital support was rendered by Mr. Edmund Breon as Viscount Crowley, and Miss Madge Murray as Lady Ethel. The play was preceded by a pleasant comedietta, entitled *A Lesson in Shakespeare*, well acted by Mr. Dalziel Heron, Mr. Edmund Breon, and Miss Hilda Wright.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard Wyndham, Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshall.—There was no doubt as to the warmth of the reception accorded to *The Belle of Mayfair*, which was presented for the first time in Edinburgh on Monday evening. Miss Alice Russon, in the rôle of Julia Chaldicott, won great favour with the house; Miss Tilley Cunningham as Corrie Fay easily danced herself into popularity; and the parts of Princess Karl, the Countess of Highgate, and Lady Chaldicott, were agreeably filled by Miss Joan Keddie, Miss Rosa Snell, and Miss Barbara Huntley; while pleasing impersonations of Lady Rocksley and Lady Gussop were given by Miss Blanche Massey and Miss Dorothy Hanbury. Many charming ladies, handsomely dressed, made up an imposing crowd of débutantes, Gibson and Chippy girls, who supplied an efficient chorus. Mr. Charles McNaughton was a droll Sir John Chaldicott, and found a good foil in Mr. Percy Yorke's Earl of Highgate; with Mr. Vernon Davidson a promising Raymond Finchley, Mr. Wensley Russel a lively Hugh Meredith, and Mr. Robert Whyte, jun., quite at home as Comte de Perrier. The Bishop of Brighton was characteristically portrayed by Mr. Trueman Towers.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Miss Louie Freear is this week's star at the Empire, where she appears with her company in the farcical sketch, *Snooks*, taking the slavey part of Jemima with her accustomed vivacity. Edward Lauri is associated with Miss May Beatty, the Australian singer, in the musical mélange, entitled *In Her Boudoir*, which affords plenty of amusement. George Newburn supplies a clever turn as an imitator of music-hall celebrities; Carlton introduces a number of exceedingly curious and comic card tricks; Les Voces render a selection of operatic duets in artistic style; and the Stavordale Quintette of performers on the harp and banjo give a most enjoyable entertainment. The programme includes interesting gymnastic turns, contributed by the Paxton Trio of head and hand balancers, and by Frank Maura, the Mexican foot equilibrist; and favourable mention must also be made of Jessie Burnett, comedienne, and of the animated pictures shown by the American Bioscope.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—A good bill is provided by the management of this popular place of amusement for the current week. The equestrian items, in which Mr. James Humel, Miss Florrie Humel, and Miss Iona Ginnett greatly distinguish themselves, are pleasing and important features. Horton and Linder, Chinese comedy experts, contribute a clever performance on the triple bars; Du'Callon shows great skill as a lighting ladder climber; Verne gives a smart display of Continental novelty skating; and Gilbert's Bioscope presents some excellent pictures. There is capital clowning by Neddy Vokes and Pete Simple; while the eccentricities of Frank Anderson, in addition to the mirth-provoking sketch, *His Lordship's Household in an Uproar*, by members of the company, supply genuine fun.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—A capital programme is given here this week. The Royal Quintette of dancers and vocalists are clever, alike in their terpsichorean and vocal turns; Stuart and Worth are comedians of genuine ability, with fresh business; and the Prinellas furnish a sketch in which a farmyard and live stock figure, greatly to the taste of the audience. There are many other interesting turns, and the Alhambrascope shows several excellent films.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company is here this week, and is presenting the naval play, *The Sailors of the King*, before large and appreciative audiences. Mr. Charles Harrington himself ably takes the part of the retired Admiral, and ably sustains the rôle; Mr. Frank Stephens, as Dick Drake, makes a capital hero; whilst Mr. R. F. Stacey as Orrel Drake, the villain, does well; Miss Madge North, as Felicia Phrynne, the heroine, is all that could be desired, and Miss Sylvia Stella, as Rebecca Crosby, makes a good adventuress; Miss Lily Prescott, as Daisy Dent, gains the sympathies of the audience.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. W. Ebbutt.—*East Lynne*, the ever-popular domestic drama, engaged the attention of theatre-goers during the first three nights of the week. The company was Mr. H. Armitage and Mr. Arthur Leigh's, and they did the piece every justice. In the chief rôles of Lady Isobel and Mme. Vene Miss Julie Kennard gave an artistic delineation of the characters. Mr. Alfred Beaumont's presentation of Archibald Carlyle was very becoming; his antithesis, Sir Francis Levison, found a fitting exponent in Mr. Monckton Hope; Mr. C. C. Grattan was very clever as the irascible old magistrate; Mr. Cyril Hayward made an acceptable Lawyer Dill; and as P.C. Bullock Mr. Alfred Tate kept the audience in the best of good humour. Miss Ethel Hardacre, in the character of the punctilious Aunt Corny was very interesting. Miss Jessie Bayes made a pretty Little Willie. The other parts were all very well filled. The piece was nicely dressed.

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, T. Morton Powell.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is this week presenting *The Drama of Life*. Miss Kate Hallam as Sylvia Beech gives a good all round performance; Robert Beech has a capable representative in Miss Marie Pardy; Miss Florence French as Lady Jane Wilde proves herself equal to the part; Mr. E. M. Hamilton plays Harry Beech in a convincing manner; as Sir Dobson Wilde Mr. H. Roberts gives an amusing performance; Mr. J. J. Hooker as Walter Beech is all that can be desired; and Mr. H. M. Payne gives a capital representation of Jack Lawton.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry J. Snelson.—Mr. Whitmore Ledger this week presents Miss Hettie Jeffries and company in *A Nobleman of Nature*. Mr. W. Ledger is impressive as Prince Ivan, and Mr. G. Broughton as Barrie Forsyth, an English renegade, represents villainy in excellent style. Good humour is supplied by Mr. C. Spencer as Bill Drinkwater; Mr. Tom Handley is capital as Philip Hampton, as also is Mr. J. B. Harvey as Michael; Miss Agnese D'Aragon takes the parts of Mother Jorges and Mrs. Bouncer, to both of which she adapts herself very well; the twin sisters Edith Nehldoff and Katusha Vodski are ably represented by Miss E. Elwes; Miss E. Terry is good as Olga, and Miss H. Jeffries makes a dainty and charming Vera, and earns well-merited applause. For Friday *The Bells*, by the same company, was announced.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and company are here this week with a répertoire which includes, *Othello, The Lady of Lyons, David Garrick, The Bells, Hamlet, The Corsican Brothers*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. In the first-named piece Mr. Allan Wilkie gave a capital embodiment of the title-rôle; Mr. G. Alexander Marsh was a capable Iago; Mr. C. N. Dockwray as the Duke of Venice was all that could be desired; Miss Gertrude Gilbert as Bianca deserves high praise; Miss Ine Cameron's portrayal of Emilia was exceedingly clever; and Miss Carrie Baillie as Desdemona acted in a natural and charming manner.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stead.—*Dare-Devil Dorothy* company paid us a return visit for three nights last week. The company was under the management of Mr. J. W. Cordiner, and played this well-known comedy in a capable manner. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, Mr. H. F. Maltby's company appeared here in *The Youngest of Three*. Mr. Maltby gave a capital rendering of George Wendover; Mr. Wyn Weaver was an excellent Gerald; and Phillip Rodford was well played by Mr. R. Favell; Miss Janet Hodson proved herself a talented actress in the part of the Eldest Sister; and was well supported by Miss Mora Maltby as Florence; the title-rôle was played in a charming manner by Miss Beatrice Marsden.

GATESHEAD.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—The attraction here this week is Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company in *The Prodigal Parson*. Chief honours go to Mr. Garrod, whose depiction of the parson is very powerful; Mr. Hugh Carmichael makes the most of the canting hypocrite Enoch Juggins; Mr. Wm. Hayward is seen to advantage as Ben Juggins; Mr. H. Newton is amusing as Phil Drive, and capital support is furnished by Miss Lydia Hart as Gretchen; Miss Vera Fordyce is successful as Fern Godley; and Miss Gladys Conover does well in the rôle of Myrtle Godley; the dancing of Miss Dot Russell in the second act is appreciated.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee, Mr. Edward Johnson; General-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—*Muggins, V.C.* is the title of what is described as "a mirthful musical melange" (presented by Mr. Lew Lake's company), which forms the principal attraction at this house. Mr. Lake's company includes Miss Marie Brian, Mr. Fred Lawrence, and the Black and White Girls, a troupe of clever dancers. The Tally-Ho Trio of vocalists make a hit; success is also achieved by Clive Watts, a wooden-shod ragtime dancer; Mr. Ronald Bayne and Miss Evelyn Hope submit an historical duologue bearing the title *An Emperor's Divorce*, which finds a host of admirers; the Du Gros Trio present a funny gymnastic act; Tom Fancourt and Jennie Rubie are seen to advantage in a musical comedy act entitled *Nursery Pets*; Angeline, the dancing juggler, has a novel "turn"; she features the cannonball business *à la Cinquevalli*. Pictures by Vernon's Bioscope complete the "show."

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Mr. Dickie Clare's company in *Lucky 'Liza* is delighting large audiences here this week. Mr. Clare as Silas Slim gets through an enormous amount of work with considerable success; and Mr. Leonard Maitland as Paul Pettitoe gives an excellent character sketch of a sapient young man; Mr. H. A. Griffiths as Biffins is another large factor in the success achieved; and capital support is forthcoming from Messrs. T. W. Benson (Paul Pettitoe), A. W. Thompson (Barnaby Blatherwick), George Minto (the Judge), James Guinn (the Usher), and Bert Collins (P.C. M'Gurk). In the name part Miss Madge Brownie is the life and soul of the farce, her singing and dancing gaining for her loud applause; Miss Vesta Brownie is a dainty Virginia Pettitoe; and Miss Bella Russell fills the rôle of Marie Pettitoe creditably. The Esmond Trio of lady vocalists and acrobatic dancers claim a large share of the abundant praise.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—HIPPODROME.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. F. R. Griffiths.—The pictures continue to form the principal attraction here, and are well received by the large audiences. Well appreciated items are also given by Wragg and Wragg, who excel as military athletes and expert swordsmen, and Charles Compton, in dramatic character sketches.

GLASGOW.—KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—A good play, well acted, was the verdict of large audiences, which witnessed the Hall Caine play, *The Prodigal Son*, as produced here this week. The strongly dramatic story, and the originality of the Icelandic setting, were important factors, added to which is the fact that the company is a particularly good one. Miss Lily Hall Caine as Thora, in the two earlier acts, gives a specially fine performance, dramatic and pathetic; while in the later scenes, as the daughter Eilin, she contributes a well-contrasted study. Miss Alma Murray as Anna finds scope for her experience and ability in the more stirring scenes. Mr. Norman Partriege as Oscar acts with power throughout, his performance being admirable in every detail. Another part of special merit is that of Magnus, as played by Mr. Herbert Hewetson. Miss Cecil Cromwell acts with much abandon as Helga; Mr. Howard Russell as the stern old Governor; Mr. Fred Epitaux as the Factor; and Mr. David Mills as the Sheriff, ably sustain their respective rôles. Miss Mima Renouf imparts the necessary humour to the part of Aunt Margaret; and Mr. Charles Douglas Cox as Dr. Olsen, Mr. Gordon Macintosh as the Director of the Casino, and Mr. Charles A. Maynard as Neils Finsen lent effective support.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Messrs. Lockwood and Croesman's company present that clever musical comedy, *Sergeant Brue*, with conspicuous success. Mr. Arthur Reynolds makes a capable Sergeant Brue; another laughable character is Crookie Scrubbs, as played by Mr. Chas. M'Lagan, a clever comedian; Miss Hebe Bliss, as Lady Bickenhall, is very successful; Miss Mary Hay makes a pretty Aurora; and conspicuous amongst remaining characters are the Michael Brue of Mr. E. Percy Rogers and the Daisy of Miss Marion Hargrave.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Duncan Macfarlane.—Bright and attractive is the representation of *The White Chrysanthemum*, presented by Mr. Charles Macdona's company. Much of the fun is provided by Mr. Charles Schmidt, who, as Admiral Sir Horatio Armitage, causes continual laughter; Mr. H. E. Garden is also responsible for hilarity as Lieut. Belmont; Mr. Richard Telford wins hearty applause for his clever impersonation of Sin Chong; Mr. Langdon Bruce makes a capital Lieut. Reginald Armitage; Mr. Jamie Dallas is well suited as Private Perks; Miss Muriel George is a graceful and vivacious Sybil; and Miss Emily Taylor is sufficiently dashing as the Widow, the Cornelia of Miss Nellie Groves being a pleasing feature of the performance.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Murdoch.—This popular place of amusement was well filled in every part to welcome the visit of Mr. Walter Melville's famous drama, *The Worst Woman in London*, presented by Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company. Miss Florence Dalton plays Frances Vere with power, and is ably assisted by Mr. Paul Barry Lewers as Vincent Lyle. A word of praise is also due to Mr. George Gaisford as Jack Felton and Miss Elizabeth Watkins as Ruth Milford. Miss Emily Kelsey as Matilda and Mr. Willie Garvey as Bob Goldfinch are responsible for some droll scenes.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company opened on Monday to a large house in *Her Fatal Past*. Mr. T. E. Ward as Jonathan kept everyone in good spirits; as did Mr. Sydney Bryant in the rôle of Dicky Bird. Mr. Stuart Lomath makes the hero interesting; Mr. Victor Rowland is first-rate as Leonard Fernside; the part of Gilbert is effectively handled by Mr. Wilson Coleman.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—*Two Little Vagabonds* forms the attraction here this week, being played by Hardie and Von Leer's company, the same as appeared at the Royal Princess's last week.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Mussett.—Marie Loftus, "Glesca's ain comedienne," is again drawing big houses, and her new song, "A' Scotch," takes well, while her burlesque of music-hall types is extremely clever. Selma Braatz, the smart young juggler, displays her ability in a host of neat and difficult feats; Syd May's imitations are life-like; Madge Morley and company contribute an amusing sketch, *After the Races*; the Glenroy Troupe of Dancers come in for a large share of popular favour; Stelling and his dog provide a pleasing turn; R. T. Meikle displays a good voice in his illustrated songs; Lillian Doreen, at the piano, and Lauri Clare and Ned Graydon, comedians, complete a well-diversified programme.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—A lively sketch, with much enjoyable singing and clever dancing, entitled *A Trip to Coontown*, is the principal turn here, and is given by members of the *In Dahomey* company. G. H. Elliott, in his negro business, is always a great favourite, this visit being no exception; the Sauterons give a clever jumping act, with some wonderful feats introduced; the Three Lloyds, in their tight-rope business, ably uphold the traditions of their name; Time and Money are an amusing pair of knockabouts; Ray Maskell dances neatly; and Effie Stuart is smart as a Scotch school-girl. The Sisters Lotus sing pleasingly; and Fred Clements scores as a topical comedian. The Urban pictures of the Moir-Palmer fight are wonderfully clear and steady.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The bill is headed this week by Jack Mackenzie and company, in *The Belle of Barcelona*. Mr. Mackenzie sustains the character of Marmaduke Miggles, supported by excellent choristers and dancers; the Maisanos give an amusing musical performance; the Firmans, a droll pair, keep the fun going; Flo Challis, assisted by Will Lynn, gives an effective operatic scene; the Morton Trio successfully present a blend of mirth and melody; the Laure Brothers as acrobats cause much laughter; and Kate Lynd, comedienne; Johnson and Bert, eccentrics; Rosie Reval, comedy artist; and Charlie Dixon, comedian, complete an excellent company.

COLISEUM.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—John F. Preston and company score heavily here in the racing sketch, *Rogues of the Turf*, the five scenes composing it being carried through with great spirit. Lee Rubens sing the "Excelsior" duet capitally; the songs and dances of Beatty and Blanche are well received; Gracie Moore wins applause for her illustrated songs; the Adeler and Sutton pierrot troupe combine humour with vocal skill in a very pleasing turn; a strong attraction is found in clever Nellie Wallace, whose facial comedy is unique; Tom and Marie Motramo convulse everyone in musical comedy; the Selbinis are truly described as "really sensational cyclists"; and Beatty and Bentley, the merry Hottentots, are a capable pair.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Harry M'Kelvie.—A capital company is billed here this week. Harold Montague's Vagabonds, who occupy the place of honour, are accorded a hearty reception. George French, comedian, is applauded; and little Rose Pink, comedienne and dancer; Willie Gardner, American roller-skate dancer; the Three Panamas, acrobats; Alice Maydue, the popular character comedienne; Peter Bermingham, the new Scotch comedian; the Saletos, hand-balancers; Dennison and Clingan, comedians and dancers; and the Bioscope are other attractions.

HARMONIC CONCERTS.—Musical Secretary, Mr. Wm. Biggam.—Baroni and Kemp, in a quick-change turn, top the bill here. The St. Johns, in their musical and dancing turn, are popular; A. J. Gamble, as an eccentric Scotch comedian, is amusing; Jim Harte and company appear in the lively sketch *The Mummy*; J. H. Harris gives his latest ditties; and pleasant contributions to the programme are made by Messrs. Archie Cameron, Albert Hildon, and J. M. Louie, and Misses Clara A. Butler and Jessie Star.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Hardie and Von Leer's company, in *Two Little Vagabonds*, made a welcome appearance on Monday. Mr. Arthur E. Melborne was a powerful and impressive George Thornton; Mr. Edward McLean was seen to advantage as Capt. Darville; and Mr. Richard Hicks made a praiseworthy John Scarth. Mr. Lionel Ellis (The Gaffer), Mr. Frank Gordon (Dido Bounce), and Mr. Gerald Valentine (The Cough-drop), were responsible for good character sketches. Mr. Maurice Holmes, as a footman, did well; and Mr. Frank G. Kent made the part of Leeson interesting. Miss Valerie Crespin played with dramatic effect as Marion Thornton; Miss Lilian Steuart gave a good reading of Barbara Scarth.

GLOUCESTER.—PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. Rea.—The Novello family, with their animal act, are a distinct novelty, and obtain a good reception, as do the Athlones for their classical poses and gymnastic feats. *Cyclumina* is the title of an act introduced by a gentleman who does some astonishing feats on an electrically lighted bicycle; Mr. Barry Wright, the evergreen comedian, still scores with impromptu verses; Miss Nellie Gannon holds her audiences with descriptive songs; Miss Peggy Fame, the talented daughter of talented parents, is well received; Mr. T. W. Barrett contributes an amusing turn; Pueblo and Cropp are capital exponents of sand dancing; and Miss Jenny Sydney also proves a nimble dancer. The bioscope this week shows a capital film, "The Life of a Cowboy."

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John B. Tomlinson.—Mr A. Campbell-Kelly's company opened on Monday in *The Trail of the Serpent*. Mr. Bradford Crosby as Gerald Kingston gives a capital representation. Mr. Henry P. Kenn is successful as Sir Gerald Kingston; Mr. A. Campbell-Kelly acts with force the villainous rôle of Ralph Hammond; Miss Nana Cameron gives an excellent portrayal of Rachael the Gipsy; Mr. Robert Cromwell as William Higgings and Miss Gladys Newcombe as Rose Wilson keep the house amused; Miss Mabel Aspinall wins the sympathies of the audience in the trying rôle of Ethel Maynard; and Mr. Vincent Kelway is well placed as Gipsy Jake. The latter part of the week the same company played *The Colleen Bawn*.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Herbert Hollister's dramatic company is this week presenting *The Lights o' London*. Mr. C. F. Collings plays with force and fervour as the persecuted Harold Armytage, and is ably supported by Miss Jennie Burgoyne with an effective realisation of Bess; as the villainous Clifford Armitage Mr. Raymond Thomas acts cleverly and incisively; Mr. Sydney N. Hallows is excellent as Squire Armytage; Mr. Herbert Lewis is exceedingly amusing as Jarvis; Miss Violet Temple gives a capital character study as Mrs. Jarvis; and Miss Renée Douglas is humorous as Shakespeare Jarvis. Hetty Preene is well played by Miss Constance Davey; and Mr. F. H. Waters causes plenty of laughter as Percy de Vere

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert.—One of the finest programmes of the season is being presented this week. Miss Ella makes her troupe of forest-bred lions perform many tricks in the large iron cage into which the ring is turned, and hearty applause greets her daring exhibition. The Kyasgas give an astonishing show as dental and hirsute athletes; and Tom Lloyd, eccentric comedian, amuses with his songs and oddities. Other artists appearing are Les Frere Babusio in a staircase performance; the Sisters Brenton, duettists and dancers; Tom Carney, vocalist; Jolding, equestrian; and the Boy Doodies and Little Aidini, clowns. A series of new pictures is shown on the bioscope.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Miss Ida Millais and company (under the direction of Mr. Henry Herne) are presenting *No Man's Land* here this week. Mr. Henry Herne delineates with masterly skill the character of Harry Oaklands; Mat Marsden has an admirable exponent in Mr. A. G. Lytton; in the dual rôles of Gilbert and Captain Norman Bathurst, Mr. H. W. Warburton displays ability; Mr. Frank Denis is well suited as Silas Moore; Mr. Alfred Byron makes the character of Thompson Poodle an amusing one; Miss Ida Millais is deservedly popular as Mary Bathurst; and Mrs. Mallalieu as Mrs. Poodle and Miss Nancy Mitchell as Bessie, are seen to advantage in their respective parts.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—The big attraction here is a laugh-provoking sketch entitled *Golfing*, presented by Harry Tate's No. 1 company; *Those Troublesome Slaveys* is the title of another sketch by the Elvio Comedy Trio, which is well received; the Four Avocas make a great hit with their new operatic scena entitled *The Reckless Miner*; J. P. Ling, society entertainer, sings well, and gives some clever imitations; Grey and Benson are a pair of smart acrobats; and Millie Denham is a pleasing vocalist. The Empire pictures are also interesting.

PAVILION THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—A strong bill is headed here by Messrs. Harry Lowther, Hulo Hodgson and Co. They appear in a laughable comedy entitled *Barmaids*, which proves very amusing. Vernando gives an original and novel ventriloquist performance; the Olive Trio are pleasing comediennes and dancers; plenty of good comedy emanates from Wake and Dean in *A Dispute in the Lane*; Fred Dunstone sings his songs in capital style; and George Fairburn (impersonator) is also successful; *Indian Pastimes* is effectively presented by Ara, Zebra, and Vora.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—The romantic play, *The Breed of the Treshams*, has again been seen here, and is presented with appropriate colour by Mr. Frank Bertram's company. In Mr. H. Tripp Edgar is seen a new exponent of Reresby, and he gives an excellent portrayal of the reckless swashbuckler. Mr. Richard A. Green accomplishes good work as the conspirator, Col. Hungerford; whilst the spiteful Capt. Stanhope is suitably played by Mr. Gifford Reynolds. The strongly contrasting character of Francis Tresham, the Rat's half-brother, is adequately emphasised by Mr. Cecil C. Klein. Miss Celestine Bertram is a popular figure as the boy Batty, and Miss Nellie Clyde a winsome Margaret Hungerford.

CURRY'S TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—That capital drama in miniature, *The Fighting Parson*, has achieved instantaneous popularity on its first appearance in Grimsby. Mr. George Gray won admiration for his manly representation of the clerical sportsman; the Cumberlands gave a skilful display of acrobatic cycling; the Brothers Dean proved expert dancers and whistlers; Silent Tait presented some entertaining burlesque; Frank Lynne gave new songs; and others appearing were the Alskarno Trio, comedy acrobats; the Cress Woollett trio, comedians; and Master May, a juvenile vocalist.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—Dinah Morris's troupe, in the musical burlesque, *The Lost Coon*, have scored a big hit. Miss Morris herself is a charming artist, and her company is talented without exception. Daisy Jerome's pleasing voice and quaint impersonations immediately rendered her a favourite. The Three Behans gave a smart quick-change act, coupled with dances; Rezene and Robini combined comedy with gymnastic exercises; Yorkshire Tom proved an entertaining mimic; Stanley and Vandyke contributed amusing songs and patter; Ruby Bijou performed a pretty barefoot dance; and Frank Caffrey was successful as a comedian.

THE HIPPODROME. — Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. T. Haydn Reano.—There has been an innovation this week, drama being introduced in place of the usual variety entertainment. The attraction was *A Heart's Desire*, presented by Messrs. Elliman's company. Mr. Cecil Gray as Beautiful Jim, and Miss Dora E. Eastlake as Oiya, were prominent, and the remaining members of a numerous company did justice to their parts.

GUILDFORD.—BOROUGH HALL.—On Monday and Tuesday evenings Dr. Seaton's Grand National Animated Photographs and Concert company were here. The pictures, which are very good, include scenes from all countries. A capital variety entertainment includes the Four Watsons, instrumental quartette; Mr. Charles Kingsley, Royal handbell soloist; Miss Enid Fane, a dainty dancer; and Dr. Seaton, the handcuff expert, hypnotist, and plate manipulator.

HALIFAX.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Messrs. Lockwood and Crossman's company is paying a welcome return visit with *Sergeant Brue* here this week. Mr. T. A. Shale retains his quaint character of Crookie Scrubbs with gratifying success; the title-rôle is in the safe keeping of Mr. E. Russell; a dashing Michael Brue is found in Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy, who sings well; and Mr. Henry Chichester proves to be an energetic magistrate. Miss Lily Lingard is as chic as ever in the volatile character of Lady Bickenhall; Aurora has an amiable representative in Miss Kitty Dale; and Miss Aileen Macdonald does creditable work as Daisy. The chorus, under the vigilant eye of Mr. Yorke, submit clever work

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—One of the brightest entertainments seen in Halifax is being presented here this week to delighted audiences. The Four Indian Fakirs hold the premier position in a weird and mystifying performance, which is vociferously applauded; Tray and Rich are a pair of diverting comedians; while a huge success is attained by Edwin Lambert and Emmie Hands in vocal scenes; Martinengo, musician, owing to cross booking, does not appear; he is, however, ably deputised for by Russell Wallett, the female impersonator; Arthur Pearl, in a new item, *The Schoolboy*; the Four Hearnes; Forest and King, in *Pieces of Elastic*; Correze and Keith, in a gladiatorial performance, together with the Rinaldo Trio, equilibrists, complete a programme of remarkable merit.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edward Harrison.—Rousby's scenic display, *Around Paris*, makes its initial appearance here successfully; Rose and Calvert are refreshing in a burlesque; Will Priscall keeps the house in a merry mood; for her rendition of "The Old Brigade," Frances Haskoll has been cordially received; the Jansons (gymnasts), and Prince Kokin, Japanese juggler, are both smart and entertaining; and some excellent pictures are again submitted.

HANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Lewis.—Mr. Lewis provided his patrons with a rare treat on Monday and Tuesday, when Mr. Chas. Macdona's company presented *A Country Girl*. Miss Violet Leslie in the title-rôle, Miss Madge Campbell as Sophie, Miss Hettie Peel as Nan, and Miss Adelaide Clifton as the Princess immediately caught on, and received unstinted applause. Mr. Frank Weir as Barry created roars of laughter; Mr. Bernard Vaughan as the Rajah, Mr. Martin D. Pitts as Geoffrey, Mr. W. O. Billington as Sir Joseph Verity, Mr. W. Besley Beltram as Douglas, and Mr. Geo. Stone as Granfer Mummery kept the ball rolling. Miss Grace Warner's company in *The Little Widow* and *My Artful Valet* are billed for the rest of the week.

HOYLAND.—METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. R. Baker; Stage-Manager, J. Dyer.—On Monday Mr. H. F. Housden presented *A Woman's Past* to a good house. Mr. Clifton Earle is a crafty Uriah Craven; Mr. H. F. Housden a good Clement Harper; Miss Irene Carrington a powerful Clara Darrell; and Miss Dorothy Wallace a capable Bessie.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—The house this week is occupied by Mr. J. F. Elliston's variety combination, which includes Tarro Myaki, the champion Ju-Jitsu wrestler of the world; Carson Hicks, comedian and dancer; Charles March, protean artist; Harry Leander, Dutch delineator; Ellis Barrieton, vocalist; Maston, mimic; Miss Jeanette Hall, a fine contralto singer; and two sketches, *Kiss Your Father* and *True to His Trust*.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—There is not a bad turn in this week's bill, which is headed by De Dio in her beautifully artistic dancing speciality. The others are Miss Mary Anderson and company in a bustling interlude entitled *The Banana Queen*; Howard and Collinson, in their cleverly played duologue *The Porter and the Parcel*; The Brooklands, two neat comediennes and dancers; the Bodina trio of good class vocalists; Picitt and Lizette, in a smartly-worked illusionist entertainment entitled *The Crazy Cook*; Kioto, the agile and powerful young Japanese equilibrist; J. W. Hall, comedian, whose funniosities keep the house in a roar and are vigorously encored; and a change of pictures on the biograph.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Mrs. Russ-Whytal has found a play thoroughly suited to her powers in *Alice Sit-by-the-Fire*, in which on Monday evening she proved her ability to run over the whole gamut of human emotions with the touch of a true artist. As the husband Mr. R. Bartlett succeeded admirably; whilst Mr. A. W. Baskombe caught the audience's favour rapidly by his breezy picture of the son who hates slobbering. Mr. A. Mallalieu plays with sympathy and restraint the part of Rollo. Miss Beatrice Bramah makes Amy a living entity; and Miss Lilian Locke's Richardson is a portrait cleverly Dickensian. Barrie's play is received with the utmost enthusiasm. A clever little comedy, entitled *The Royal Flower*, in which Mrs. Whytal plays the Marquis with the same artistic skill, precedes.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—*The Private Secretary* is the attraction this week, and proves that nearly a quarter of century's life has not robbed it of its drawing powers. Mr. Donald Price Evans as the Rev. Robert Spalding "brings the house down"; the sham tutor in the hands of Mr. J. P. E. Hussey is well enacted; the girls Edith and Eva have capable and clever representatives in Miss Dora Grey and Miss Bett Elliott. As Cattermole Mr. Hargreaves fully maintains his widespread reputation.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*The Love that Women Desire* is a play which is fully to the taste of the patrons of this popular playhouse. The hero, Philip Carnaby, entrusted to Mr. Fred Lloyd, is a good piece of character acting. Sybil Thorburn is sympathetically represented by Miss Lalla Stanhope. The comic relief is in the capable hands of Miss Nita Imeson and Mr. John Hignet and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, their united efforts being of a nature to give general satisfaction.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Dolly Elsworthy and company are appearing with much success in *The Orange Girl*. The remainder of the company is quite up to the average.

HULL EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Appearing here with success are Fontain's Mannikins, Marie Leonard, Tom Hulme, Jardine, Geo. Bernard, Flo Chevalier. The Laudiers, Elsie Edwardes, and the Levines.

THE PALACE.—*Moses and Son*, a laughable sketch of Fred Karno's, in which Fred Kitchen makes a big hit, is the premier attraction; and an excellent variety company includes Harry Carsdale, the Bros. Horne, Hall and Earle, Arthur Lloyd Trio, Techow's Cats, Chas. Pastor, and Dave O'Malley.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Large and fashionable audiences have been attracted here this week by *Mr. Smith*, presented by Mr. Walter Reynolds's company. Mr. Cecil du Gue, in the title-rôle, gives a forcible and convincing portrayal; Mr. Sydney Price acts skilfully as the Earl of Oxted; Mr. Wm. Dunlop submits a finished performance of the Duke; Mr. Austin Spencer makes the most of his lines as the Hon. Dudley Dysart; and Mr. Russell Norrie is well placed as Jack Berkley. Roars of laughter are raised by Mr. George Ross in the character of Herr Diedrich; Miss Mildred Cottell looks and acts the part of the haughty Duchess to perfection; a charming and graceful Lady Mary Hildergate is found in Miss Elsina Gaunt; Miss Daisy Mayne Young makes Ruth a delightful personage; and Miss Daisy England's interpretation of Mrs. Smith is capital.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. George Testo Sante and company are in the drama *The Life of a Showman*, in which he himself makes a hit in the rôle of Brian Leader; Miss May Warden as Linette and Master Harry Warden as Dickie are successful juveniles; Mr. Evan Roland ably fills the part of Sir Noel Hartland, afterwards known as Stickers; and Mr. Edward Warden is an acquisition as the Rev. Cyril Arliss; Mr. Frank Sante as Tommy Allthere; Miss Sybil Haughton as Angelina; and Mr. Will Lindsey as Ben Tick Tack, prove capable exponents; whilst Mr. Fred Vaughan is seen to advantage as Ned Chuckers; Mr. Lambat de Lambert is excellent as Hendrick Marais, and has a suitable assistant in Miss Amy McNeill as Agatha. The Bros. Testo, musical comedians, are a great success; and Comical Walker also provides much amusement.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Knightall.—This hall re-opened on Monday evening with a well-selected company of artists, the Delemers topping the bill and presenting a clever act as comedians and dancers; the Sidneys keep the audience in a good humour with their juggling show; Leo Loveday exhibits smartness; Chas. Ellis is a meritorious character comedian; Amor and Seta are well up to the mark as magicians and illusionists; Marie Laurence is successful as a serio and dancer; and Steve Buckingham scores as a descriptive vocalist.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's company has occupied the boards here this week with the melodrama entitled *When London Sleeps*. The villain of the play, Col. Rodney Hayes, was in the hands of Mr. C. P. Wentworth, who made him a scoundrel of the worst type; the part of Queenie was played by Miss Mabel Scudamore, an actress of experience, who did full justice to the character; as the suffering heroine, Miss Josephine Melbourne gave a pathetic rendering, and elicited the warm applause of the audience; Mr. Sam Arthur was quite at home as David Engleheart; while Miss Maude Yorke played effectively as the wife of the villain; Mr. Harry Barham added to the success of the piece in the part of Mark Blackwood; and the same may be said of Mr. D'Arcy Kelway and Miss Bessie Frank.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. B. H. Bostock.—The two chief attractions here are Griff, the clever juggler; and the Sutcliffe troupe, in their Scotch performances; the Scottish troupe give a lively display of music and dancing, and their acrobatic feats are received with much applause. Other items of the programme include Jack Hylton, a clever comedian; Maude Mortimer, who renders some old songs in pleasing style; Princess Pauline, who sings and dances with much spirit; Harrigan and Holt, knockabout artists; a sketch called the *Belle of Arizona*, and the Biontes, in a laughable interlude called *Saucy Maud*.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Reed.—This week Mr. Louis Calvert presents his company in *Sunday*. Mr. Leonard Pagden gives a first-class rendering of Colonel Brinthorpe; Mr. G. Wallace Johnston does full justice to Arthur Brinthorpe; Mr. Ernest A. Douglas is quite at home as Tom Oxley; Mr. Will Lockhart makes a capital Towzer; and Mr. Sidney Rennef is satisfactory as Davy. Miss Emelie Polini is engaging and lovable in the title-rôle; and Miss M'Aimee Murray makes the most of the part of Mrs. Naresby.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. C. Rbt. Perkins.—This week's bill of fare consists of S. Buchanan Robertson's play, *When It Was Dark*, which is drawing good houses. The piece is staged by Mrs. Morton Powell, who appears as Helena Byars. Mr. George H. Pitt represents Constantine Schwabe, and Miss Eva Moss is admirable as Gertrude Hunt. Another character excellently portrayed is the Rev. Basil Gortre, a rôle entrusted to Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee. Mr. Riddell Robinson is good as Sir Robert Llewellyn, and Mr. Henry Heller acts with credit as the Rev. Mr. Byars. In lighter vein Mr. Millar Wilson scores as the Honourable Charlie Gayfly, and is well supported by Miss Bessie Ellis as Gracie Goldeye, and by the sisters E. and G. Allen, who appear as Flossie Lovegay and Minnie Golightly respectively, and who favour with a clever tambourine dance in Act 4. Mr. Robert Hall is entrusted with the part of Harold Spence, and the minor rôles are well sustained.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Mr. Arthur Carlton's company is here with *In Sight of St. Paul's*. Mr. Ernest Allen is a decided success as Tom Chichester; Mr. Edward Valentine is an admirable Fretley Burside; and Mr. George Daiper portrays John Gridston in a powerful manner; Miss Lallah Davis contributes some excellent acting as Cynthia Dell; and Miss Cissie Bellamy is deserving of praise as Aileen Miller. The comedy parts of Jim Palfrey and Becky Veich are admirably sustained by Miss Amy Randolph and Mr. Herbert Colley.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—This week Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer, the well-known tragedienne, is here, supported by her well-balanced company. The plays for the week include *From Washerwoman to Duchess, Mary, Queen of Scots, Sapho, East Lynne, Nell Gwynne*, and *Jane Shore*. On Tuesday, Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer, in the title-rôle of Mary, Queen of Scots, gave a powerful display of action, and was ably supported by Mr. F. Skein as Earl of Leicester; Mr. A. Wilson Wynne as Earl of Shrewsbury; Mr. Leonard Cheetham as Lord Burleigh; and Miss Katherine Herbert, who acts admirably the part of Elizabeth, Queen of England.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Burton.—Messrs. Durward Lely and William Mollison's company are appearing here this week in *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush*. Several of the artists who took part in the production of the play in London are still to be found in the cast; Mr. Mollison repeats his powerful impersonation of Lachlan Campbell, and the many recalls are evidence of his success; the part of the Rev. John Carmichael is in the capable hands of Mr. Eric Mayne; Mr. W. A. MacKersey makes a very good old doctor; while Mr. D. Lyall, as the earl, makes the most of his opportunities; Mr. Archie W. Chappell is commendable as Lord Hay; and Mr. Alex. F. Thomson as the Postie proves himself a comedian of undoubted abilities; he is ably assisted in the comic element by Mr. Kendal Chalmers as Tammas Mitchell, the make-up of the latter being particularly clever; Miss Evelyn McNay is pleasing and artistic in the rôle of Flora; and Miss Edith Blair Staples is delightful as Annie. Others who took part successfully are Misses Alice Francis, Josephine Woodyard, Martha Stewart, and Jeannie Fitzgerald.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hook.—*Sapho* is once more with us. This time Miss Annie Bell has supplied the attraction, and was greeted with a crowded house on Monday. Miss Bell was successful in giving vivid realism and sustained interest to her impersonation of Fanny Legrand. Very successful support was given by Mr. Otto Minster as Jean Gaussin and by Mr. George Antley as Uncle Césaire. The Dechelette of Mr. Laurence Kingsley and the Caoudal of Mr. H. Langford were also especially good. Miss Clara Greenhalgh was successful as La Sombreuse, and Miss Grace Chester was delightful as Zazave. The dresses and staging were all that could be desired.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—The programme arranged this week is one of all-round excellence, each turn being received with the utmost appreciation. At the head of affairs are the Sisters Macarte, who are undoubtedly clever. Messrs. Cullen, Carthy, and Cluley are smart comedians, and their patter is good; Miss Mabel Mavis is a very pleasing glassophone soloist, and Mr. L. B. Athol, actor-vocalist, sings well; Mr. J. A. Wilson, comedian, supported by his dog, Private "Towser," wins favour; whilst Miss Billie Burford, comedienne, Lorne and Rene, in a Lancashire singing sketch, *Capital and Labour*, and Walter Payne's animated pictures all add to the enjoyment of the entertainment.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. and C. Fell; Manager, Mr. John Fell.—Arthur Lennard, comedian, is the star this week, and right well has he been received. The Musical Keiths supply a capital turn, and the same may be said of Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, boxmakers and vocalists; Miss Lizzie Fletcher is petite, and Joe K. Ramsden, baritone, sings in good voice; Harry Barber, comedian, Massona, boy juggler, and the Edison Swan animated pictures all prove attractive.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Joseph's company is appearing here this week in Victor Stevens' musical success *Bonny Boy Blue*. Miss Lena Stanton, in the title-rôle, is most successful. The character of Dolly Dickory is presented by Miss Nora Neville in a charming and vivacious style; and Little Keeno's quaint drolleries are a decided success. Mr. Bruce Green as Dame Dickory does all that is expected of him as the "old woman of the piece," and Squire Longacre finds an excellent exponent in Miss Adrian Romer. As Lawyer Copall Mr. Will Terry is worthy of praise. The Orient troupe introduce some clever and graceful dances

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—There was a good attendance of enthusiastic Dickensonians on Monday to welcome Mr. Tree's production of *Oliver Twist*. The play is staged and costumed in a very elaborate manner. Mr. William Mackintosh gives an exceedingly fine and virile portrayal of Fagin; the Bill Sikes of Mr. Cecil A. Collins is also a conception of considerable power; Miss Marie Polini submits a convincing study of Nancy; the villainous Monks receives a fine interpretation at the hands of Mr. C. H. Croker-King; Rose Maylie and Harry Maylie are well and carefully played by Miss Savile and Mr. Harvey Braban; Brownlow and Grimwig are presented by Mr. E. C. Buffum and Mr. T. P. Haynes with rare fidelity; Miss Maudie Ray enacts the title-rôle with every grace; and the Artful Dodger and his associates are cleverly limned by Mr. Tom Macfarlane, Mr. Christmas Grose, and Mr. Max Montesole.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*The Girl I Love* is being played here this week by a capable company. Miss Lois Du Cane, who appears as the heroine, gives a really charming and sympathetic portrayal; a fine and manly personation of Max Donovan goes to the credit of Mr. Fred Maxwell; the rôle of Captain Adair has a capable exponent in Mr. Charles Levey; and the Colonel's part is well looked after by Mr. Sam Harcourt. Miss Louise Biddulph merits high praise as Bessie Donovan, and much good work is also put in by Miss Helen Greke and Miss Kate Mansell.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Bush.—At the popular Queen's we are this week introduced to a musical piece entitled *The Sweet Girl*, which in the hands of Miss Claudia Lasell's company makes a delightful entertainment. Miss Lasell herself takes the part of the heroine in attractive style, displaying vocal and histrionic powers of high quality. Another prime favourite is Miss Alice Lethbridge, whose clever dancing is quite a feature. Mr. Fred Eastman is irresistibly funny as the eccentric Count Alexis, whose secretary is capitally played by Mr. George De Lara; Mr. Algernon Newark earns general approbation for his clever dancing in a prominent part; the fine vocal abilities of Mr. Leonard Russell find plenty of scope in the character of Arnold Renfrew; and Mr. Lister Morrah, Mr. W. H. Page, and Miss Muriel Harding deserve praise in other parts.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—An interesting feature of the week's bill is the appearance of the Three Olympiers, the statuesque trio; Fisher's Operatic Trio, who combine fine vocal work with comedy, provide an enjoyable turn; the De Wynne Bros., past-masters of head and hand balancing, are again in the bill; the Lyons Trio of pantomimists provide an uproariously funny episode; the comedians Frank Darwin and Bugler Carr are smart and satisfactory; Minnie Cunningham is again pleasing hosts of admirers; Gertrude Bradshaw presents her illustrated song scena with success; and the contributions of Rosie Archer, mimic, are much enjoyed. Pat Rafferty is also in the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Claude Shayler and Mr. Chas. Weldon.—A series of artistic pictures by the beautifully-proportioned Irma Lorraine is a leading feature of this week's bill here. George Leyton, in another patriotic song-scena, arouses enthusiasm; a novel cycle-racing device is exploited by the Davies-Geldhill Trio; Diamond and Beatrice earn unstinted applause for their musical turn; Zeta Grey and company have a clever specialty; the Four Emilions, with wonderful acrobatic feats, arouse interest; a novel dancing turn is contributed by Woodward and Walton; and the programme also includes Great Scott, a clever juggler, Lily Lena, comedienne, and Arthur Elvey, in eccentric comedy.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Fred W Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sam Jones.—An entertaining comedy extravaganza *The Battle of the Belles*, by Messrs. Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls' company is a big feature of the week's bill here. The McConnell Trio prove vastly popular in one of their vocal comedy concoctions; Herbert La Martine, bâton manipulator and specialty dancer; Walter Stanley, comedian; Eily Adair, comedienne; Andy Fagan, character portrayer; and Ethel Loftus, in song and comedy, are also in the bill.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—The attraction this week is provided by a visit of Mr. Walter Maxwell's company in *The Lion and the Mouse*. Mr. Leslie Carter displays his histrionic talents to the greatest advantage as John Burkett Ryder; and Miss Christine Silver as Shirley Roesmore is to be highly complimented on a performance of all-round excellence. Mr. Stephen Wentworth is very successful as Jefferson Ryder; Mr. J. W. Mackie enacts the part of the Hon. Fitzroy Bagley in a humorous manner; Mr. John Wheatman is good as J. Whitmore Roberts, M.P.; Mr. Arthur B. Murray is capital as Jorkins; Miss Elspeth Dudgeon scores as Mrs. John Burkett Ryder; and Miss Dorrie Roberts does well as Kate Roberts.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The boards here are occupied this week by Mr. Andrew Melville's company, in *Driven from Home*. Miss Florence Creagh, in the dual rôle of Laura Raybrook and Walter the younger, is conspicuous by her clever acting; Mr. Felix Pitt plays exceedingly well as Anthony Raybrook; Mr. Percy Dawsone, as Willie the outcast, is very good; Mr. Frederick Sandy is all that can be desired as Geoffrey Waring; and Miss Evelyn Marrable, as Margaret Bailey, also does justice to her part.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—A grand ovation from a crowded house awaited Vesta Tilley here on Monday evening when she made her appearance; indeed, the popularity of the clever little lady is remarkable, every section of the audience vieing with each other in giving her a hearty welcome. She has to contribute four songs before she is allowed to depart. All her songs are rendered in the usual smart and dainty style for which she is so renowned, and her introduction of "The king of the house is baby" is a rare treat. The Albert and Edmunds' comedy troupe are creating much merriment with their sketch *Neighbours*, which is new to Leicester. The New Macs are good comedians; Brett and Orford, as usual, are most entertaining; the Imperial Russian Troupe of singers and dancers are seen and heard to advantage; George Brooks, an excellent comedian, contributes two songs that meet with great popularity; the Sisters Dorrell are smart dancers; Lizzie Daniels is also an entertaining turn, and the American Bioscope is a popular feature.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr Walter Lapworth.—Fred Southern and company met with an exceedingly warm welcome from a full house on Monday in an elaborate spectacular sketch, *Black-Eyed Susan*. Miss May Emery (Mrs. Southern) as Susan, Gipsy Alexander as Dolly Mayflower, Percy Emery as William, Fred Southern as Jacob Twig, and Chas. Ashwell as Captain Crosstree are to be singled out for praise. The Delornes, duettists and dancers, are scoring a well-deserved success, Wallace Whitney is popular, Florrie Brady (vocalist) gets a good reception, Olivetta is an entertaining juggler, Beattie Foster is successful, and Carter and Gale (character and comedy duettists) also entertain. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is still retained.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Mr. Horace Stanley and company occupy the boards here this week with the sensational drama, entitled *The 10.30 Down Express*. Mr. George Beverley gives a masterly impersonation of the hero Jack O'Malley. Miss Elsie Capell is charming and convincing as the heroine, Bessie Leigh; the rôle of James Inderwick is well represented by Mr. Chas. Burdon; Mr. Tom Roydon gives an admirable portrayal of Seth Coombes; Mr. Alaric Burton acquits himself admirably as Gilbert Leigh; Mr. Horace Stanley presents an original and breezy interpretation of the sailor, Sam Wagstaffe; Miss Evelyn M. Walton is amusing as the maiden lady, Letitia Leigh; Miss Kate Kilpack is well placed as Peggy Potts; while Mr. Edwin Clarke shows ability in the rôle of Huntley Mason.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Professor Wood is this week paying his sixth annual visit with his well-known musical pictorial organisation. Professor Maccann, concertina player, is loudly applauded; Miss Elsie May is a smart Indian club manipulator; Miss Nellie Hewitt proves herself a talented instrumentalist; Mr. Nat Keeown, comedian, causes roars of laughter; Mr. Norman Russell is also appreciated; and the pictures are up to date and interesting.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Good houses have once more marked Leith playgoers' appreciation of Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's excellent production of Mr. Joseph Arthur's drama, *The Still Alarm*. The piece is staged with thorough completeness in every detail, and some wonderfully realistic effects are presented, while the members of a good all-round company give sound interpretations of their various rôles. Mr. Matthew H. Glenville takes the lead as Jack Manley; and good work is done by Mr. G. Fordham as John Bird; by Mr. Fred Osmond as Doc Wilber; by Mr. Lewis Gordon as Franklin Fordham; and the parts of Willie Manley and Joe Jones are well played by Mr. Tom Beasley and Mr. J. Sutton Pateman. Miss Mabel Veriton's impersonation of Mrs. Manley is a sterling performance; Miss Maud Warburton is quite a charming Elinor Fordham; and Miss Hettie Zillwood a sprightly Carrie Wilber. Two specially-trained horses and a quartette of singers, besides many minor characters, add to the interest and attractiveness of an enjoyable play.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—*The White Chrysanthemum* made its first appearance here on Monday, and at once became popular. Mr. Frank Curzon's company comprises artists of the first water. The efforts of Mr. W. H. Rawlins as Admiral Armitage, Mr. F. Pope Stamper as his son, Mr. Horace Mills as Lieut. Belmont, Mr. O. B. Lennon as Sin Chong, and Mr. Harry Paulton, jun., as Private Perks keep the audience in incessant laughter, the bright, witty dialogue being richly enjoyed. To Miss Ruth Lincoln, who undertakes the name-part every praise is due for the manner in which she both acts and sings, the reception accorded to her being most flattering. Miss Katie Vesey makes a lively and vivacious Cornelia and dances gracefully, and Miss Daisy Le Hay assumes the rôle of Betty with credit. The music and singing are alike excellent, and the costumes and scenery very pretty.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—Shakespeare has been crowded into the week here, no less than three matinées being given in addition to the evening performances by the brilliant Benson company. On Monday evening *Much Ado About Nothing* was selected, the comedy being enhanced by the introduction of several charming old-time stately dances. The fine portraits of Benedick and Beatrice (Mr. and Mrs. Benson) were richly enjoyed; Mr. G. Buchanan as Claudio and Miss Helen Haye in the rôle of Hero were particularly interesting; and Mr. Geo. R. Weir made a most amusing Chief Constable. Miss Leah Hanman's vocal items were received with every favour. The other works presented were *Richard II.*, *As You Like It*, *Henry V.*, *Twelfth Night*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Coriolanus*, and *Macbeth*.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Having had a successful week with his *Revenge*, Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson commenced another six nights on Monday with *Death or Glory Boys*. The author plays his original part of Captain Glyn Ferrers with much effect; Mr. Jerrold Ord is eminently suited to the rôle of Colonel Fergeson; Mr. Bonhote Wilson makes a capital Jack Malden; the rascally part of Carn is well presented by Mr. Francis Serle; Miss Violet Carlyle acts gracefully as Nena Fergeson; Miss Amy Ellam is a pathetic Edith; and some capital comedy comes from Mr. J. Russell Bogue as Nat Wilks and Miss Marion Armitage as Jane. The mounting of the piece is in Mr. Mitchelson's customary elaborate style.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—Highly interesting variety is drawing crowded houses here. Joe Reichen's dogs top the bill with a clever and novel exhibiton; Marie Kendal, always a great favourite here, sings songs that are loudly applauded; H. Flocton-Foster's sketch company in *Freddie's Ma-in-Law* creates roars of laughter; Boy Glen is a clever young comedian; Dusty Rhodes evokes applause; Clarke's Nippers are entertaining; Leah Arden's numbers are loudly applauded; Steve McCarthy is successful; and for laughter making Ryder Slone would be hard to beat.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Crowded audiences have this week witnessed *A Girl's Cross Roads*, given here by Mr. Walter Melville's company. Miss Beaumont Collins plays with sympathetic touch the rôle of the unfortunate Barbara Wade; Mr. Wilson Gunning proves eminently satisfactory as Jack Livingstone; a well-drawn type of farmer is presented by Mr. Charles Franmore as John Meadows; Miss Jessica Black makes a sweet Constance Cornell; as Nellie Meadows Miss Nannie Meade acts with discretion; Mr. Frank Brunell is well placed as Dr. Weston; and the other characters are efficiently filled.

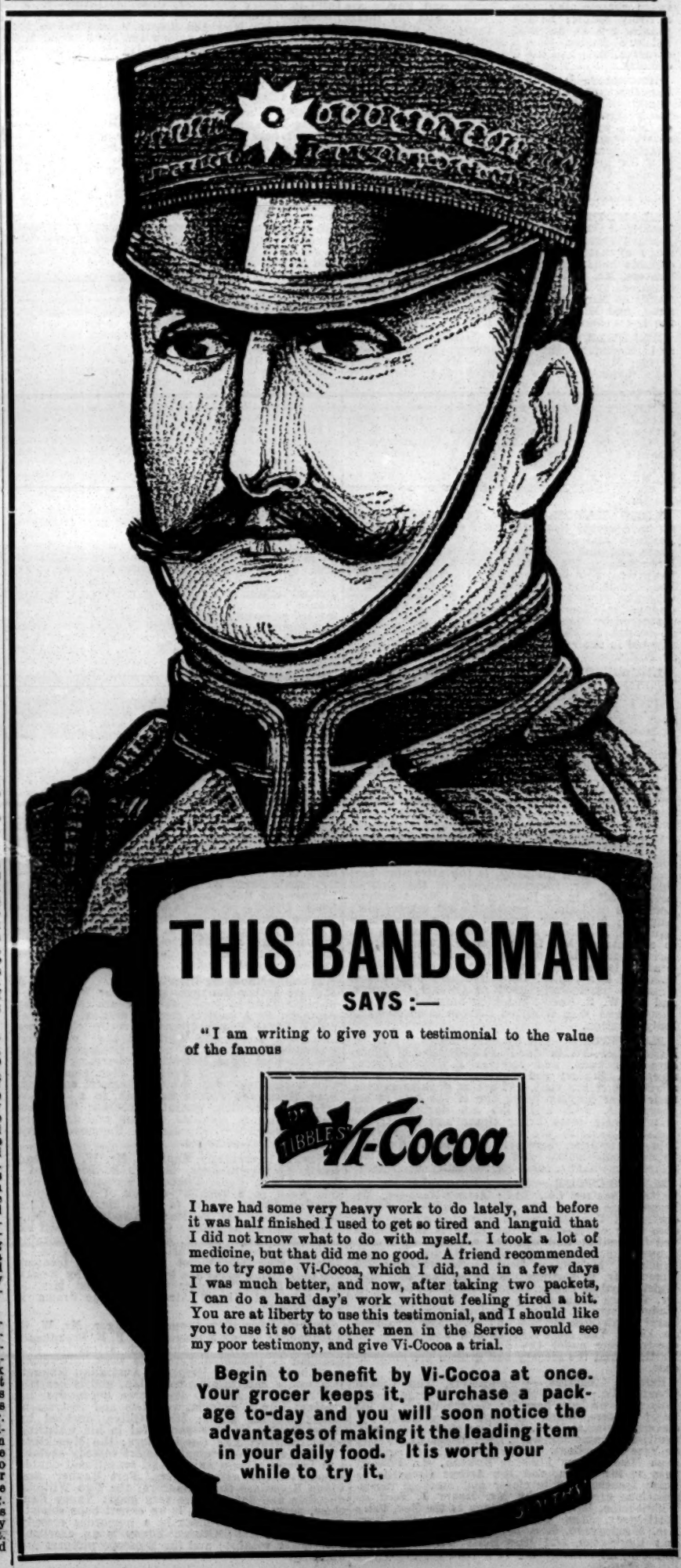
QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—*The Blind Foundling* is here this week, and is received with much favour. The character of Gerald Dalton is played in capital style by Mr. Charles H. Phelps, his acting being powerful and effective; Miss Belle Tilbury ably impersonates Isabel; Mr. Alfred G. Fry brings out all the telling points in regard to the rascally Mark Redman; Miss Mabel Hall, in the title-rôle displays much ability; Mr. Bernard Webb makes the most of Jasper Waterford; and capital fun is provided by Mr. Harry Tilbury as Dick Dobbins, and Miss Milly Doris as his wife, the humorous singing of both being much enjoyed.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—As usual an enjoyable all-round programme is presented here this week, top place being occupied by Mlle. Eugénie Fougere, whose songs and imitations have been received with delight; that particularly funny artist, Frank Cary, is in great form, his song "Kissing" arousing much laughter; Fred Cullene's comedy quartet has a mirthful musical item, *Pipple from Pippleton*; the favourite Martin Conway contributes some of his taking songs; smart comedy work on the bars is performed by the Three Pirmans; an interesting allegorical comedy scena, *The Man in the Moon*, is given by the Two Bees; the Wilfords prove themselves to be strong acrobats; a clever show of singing and dancing is provided by John Tiller's Manchester Mites; and others in the bill are W. B. Raby, comedian; and C. Woodward, comedian.

NEW PARTHENON.—Proprietor, Mr Edwin W. Smith.—This hall is occupied by the British Imperial Life-Motion Picture Company, under the direction of Mr. Anthony Brown.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—A dramatic sketch, entitled *The Guiding Star*, is being given here this week by the Royal stock company. Mr. Percy Boucher makes a humorous Bob Bowser; as the villainous Harold Hagar Mr. Sydney Grant acts with power; Mr. Harry Tresham is an excellent Jack Hilton; Mr. Cecil Ravenswood plays Farmer Dean in a lifelike manner; and Mr. Robert Wilton handles the rôle of Joe Slater with credit. Of the ladies Miss Florence Palmer acts sweetly in the dual rôle of Madge and Gladys Goodwin; Miss Beryl Ravenswood is the Mother Hagar, and Miss Sara Blumenthal makes a finished Mrs. Slater.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The dramatic sketch here this week is George Dibden Pitt's *Love's Cross Roads*, which is capitally given by the Royal stock company. Mr.



Albert Sember, an able actor, gives a fine picture of Farmer Brightwell; Mr. Frank S. Strickland makes a sufficiently villainous Edgar Granley; Mr. Walter Foster affords the utmost satisfaction with his Dick Darkley; Mr. Vincent A. Briscoe handles the rôle of Humphrey Bacon with credit; and exceedingly amusing is Mr. H. G. Brandon as Jimmy Links. Miss Line Nazeby affords satisfaction as Mrs. Brightwell; Miss Lilian Burns is most creditable as Jane Brightwell; and Miss Florence Barnes is a humorous Polly Maul.

Park Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmott.—The Theatrescope is showing a number of especially fine pictures here this week; Charlton causes surprise with his magic kettle; a laughable sketch, *You're Still a Friend of Mine*, is given by O'Malley and Brown; some smart hand balancing is gone through by the Gladenbecks; Clifton and Gibson are a pair of eccentric comedians; and Frank Cass scores with his popular amusing songs.

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Top of the bill here this week is Harry Edson, with his well-trained dogs; Selby and Myers give a capital show of singing, dancing, and smart dialogue; J. H. Wakefield renders several coon songs and dances in good style; a neat turn comes from the Sisters Russell, low comedy artists; the Brothers Hannaway are very diverting as cross talkers, comedians, and dancers; and others in the bill are Joe Hoctor, boy comedian; and Mephisto, society contortionist. On Thursday next Mr. G. Montgomery takes his benefit.

Empire. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—The popular Eugene Stratton is foremost here, delighting everyone with his popular songs, his revival of "The Coon Drum Major" being accepted with much pleasure. Another big item is Dutch Daly, to whom is accorded a big reception; the lightning drill by Captain Bevan's Gordon Highlanders is watched with the closest attention; George Formby tickles his audience immensely with his Lancashire patter and songs; the Knick-Knacks submit a clever comedy dancing and singing speciality; the Haytors show themselves to be accomplished comedy artists; and others who appear are Frank Sylvo, quaint comedy juggler; Hanid Alexander, juvenile musical entertainer; and Alfred Hurley, vocalist.

Olympia, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—Although there were fourteen performances of the aquatic spectacle, *The Flood*, given here last week, each house was crowded in every part, and hundreds of people had to be turned away nightly. The production is in the programme again this week, and will be given for some time yet. In the variety portion of the evening's entertainment is Charles Whittle, whose funny song, "I'm Billy Muggins," arouses great laughter; Little Ganty proves as merry as ever; Boswell's stage circus is an entertaining item; Burley and Burley are a lively couple; Bonnie Goodwin and her piccaninnies are an acceptable turn; and also in the list are Madge May, comedienne; Eugen Joly, cornet soloist; and the Maples, comedy artists and dancers.

Roscommon.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Heading the bill here this week are the Collinson Combination of comedians, with their screamingly funny sketch, *Cook's Guest*, including a burlesque on *Nero* by Harry Pleon; Charles Valvo gives a smart ventriloquial show with his doll, "Tommy Atkins, jun."; the Gallery Boy has a good reception for his singing and mimicry; Cross has an intelligent dog; George Croker acquits himself well as a comedian and whistler; and Flo Warner, vocal comedienne, also appears.

LLANDUDNO.—Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Proprietor, Mr. C. R. Chaplin.—This week Mr. Howard Cochran's company is here in *The Marriage of Kitty*. Sir Reginald Belsize is in the capable hands of Mr. Howard Cochran; as John Travers, Mr. Cecil Wilford is good; Rosalie is well sustained by Miss Helen Kay Robinson; Miss Betty Castle as Mme. De Semiano is all that can be desired; and Miss Margaret Damer as Kitty Silverton is excellent.

LLANELLY.—Royalty Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Mr. Stanley Carlton's company is here this week in *A Marriage of Vengeance* and *A Life's Story*. In the former play Mr. Stanley Carlton makes a convincing Paul Earnscliff; Mr. Edward Fryer is a good Geoffrey Varnoc; as Max Reinhardt Mr. J. W. Henson does exceedingly well; Mr. Geo. Porteous and Mr. Arthur St. Clair are capable as Glyn Earnscliff and Ralph Dean; and as Bob Shorter Mr. V. T. Raynor merits praise. The part of Guy Vendom is well portrayed by Mr. Percy Darrell; Miss Rubie Maude as Stella is clever; and Miss Susie Beaven is a capable Amelia.

LONG EATON.—Lyceum Theatre.—This week we have here *A Beautiful Fiend* company. Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company was here four years ago, and the impression made by Miss V. St. Lawrence in the Russian drama has not been forgotten. Her fine elocution is conspicuous. Mr. Beaudyn is Ivan, the head of the secret police, a very fine performance; Mr. Tom Robertson is the Count; Mr. Albert Wray is Sergius; and Nadine is portrayed by Miss Irene Munro. Mr. Harry Oates is capital as Christopher Crackles, and is ably assisted in the humorous line by Miss Annie Clunn as Patty.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is appearing here this week with *The Silver King*. Mr. Horace E. Herbert is to be complimented upon an excellent performance of the title-rôle; Mr. Oswald Cray makes an excellent Spider; Miss B. Doyle capitally portrays Nellie Denver; and Miss Dorothea Black as Olive Skinner is also good. Mr. Percy Foster as the faithful Jaikes is successful; and the Coombes of Mr. Wm. Dempsey is exceedingly clever. Mr. S. Bernard is good as Cripps; and Miss Madge Gillard makes a winsome Cissy.

MACCLESFIELD. — The Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—The successful comedy, *The New Barmaid*, presented by Mr. Alexander Loftus and company, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Charles Adeson in the part of Bertie White, in conjunction with Mr. Alexander Loftus as William, is responsible for much hearty laughter; Miss Amy Preston in the title-rôle is vivacious, and she has a good voice which she uses to advantage; Mr. Leslie Austin gives a characteristic rendering of Captain Lorebury; Miss Grafton is excellent as Brenda, and Miss Violet Osmound is a capital Dora Heather; Miss James Grant is particularly good as Colonel Claymore, and Mr. W. E. Chewd is highly amusing as Mons. Bousor, and Miss Winifred Preston is excellent as Lady Moulton.

MAIDSTONE.—Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. S Baskerville.—Austin Rudd is at the head of affairs here this week, and receives a very flattering reception. Stanley and Greenop, banjoists, are on a welcome return visit, and are as popular as ever, their clever playing being one of the hits of the programme. Sibb and Sibb are daring trapeze artists, their feats being clever and novel; the Society Quartette are smart dancers; the Swift Trio of cyclists, together with Miss Kathleen Cogan, comedienne, and Miss Sheila McNiell, Scotch comedienne, complete the bill.

MANCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, the United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmonstone Shirra.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's production of *The Dairymaids* attracted a fair audience here on Monday. The piece is very bright and interesting, and was well rendered by a company which includes Miss Edith Blanche as Lady Brudenell, Mr. Harry Dent as the amusing Joe Mivens, Mr. E. Statham Staples as Sam, and Miss Violet Lloyd as Peggy, clever work being added by Mr. George Desmond as Lieut. Brudenell, Miss Madge Avery as Miss Penelope Pychase, Miss Beryl Vaudrey as Helene, and Miss Rose Musgrove as Eliza. The large chorus and augmented orchestra were under the direction of Mr. Albert Bartlett, and the scenery and dresses are magnificent.

Prince's Theatre. — Proprietors, The United Theatres Co.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—This week we have here Mr. George Welch, in his latest success, *When Knights Were Bold*. A cleverly-designed farce, the piece offers fine opportunities for amusing work. Mr. Welch as Sir Guy de Vere is excellent, and he has admirable support from Miss Audrey Ford as Rowena, Mr. Edward Sass as Sir Brian, and Mr. Arthur Grenville as Isaac Isaacson; while clever and amusing impersonations are offered by Mr. Henry J. Ford as Widdicombe, Mr. Arthur Chesney as the Rev. Peter Pottleberry, Miss Emma Gwynne as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave, Miss Estelle Winword as Millicent Eggington, and Miss Daisy Cordell as Miss Isaacson, all contributing to a most enjoyable and novel entertainment. The play is preceded by *The Lady Burglar*, a smart one-act piece very neatly rendered by Miss Estelle Winwood and Mr. Henry J. Ford. The place of this, however, was taken on Wednesday (by special request) by *The Man in the Street*, in which Mr. Welch appeared with immense success.

Gaiety Theatre.—Mr. G. P. Huntley and company are here in *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)*.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company present here this week *The Temptress*, a powerful and entertaining drama. Mr. Weldon Atherstone as Lucas Denbigh gives a spirited performance; Mr. Wallace Campbell is well suited as Philip Welford; Mr. Fred. H. Constable adds a clever performance as Pedro Gonzales; and capable work is added by Mr. Claude Ashworth as Sir Oswald Fordyce and Mr. C. Quinton Fulford as Austin Dale. In the title-part Miss Lydia Donovan is particularly strong; while Miss Violet Sims as Marion Fordyce and Miss Effie Bartlett as Madge Denbigh contribute valuable assistance. Humorous impersonations are given by Mr. William P. Sheen (the author), Mr. Allan Carruthers, Mr. Charles Reyne, and Miss Ivy Chandos.

Metropole.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A capital programme here this week is headed by the Eight Lancashire Lads, a clever combination of singers and dancers. Carl Mysto, the handcuff artist, is also prominent; while the Dagodets give a fine comedy entertainment; Cribb and Cribb present a smart scena; Tod Lowan, comedian, is very well received; and other good turns are provided by Linton, the Mexican "cable" performer; Maud Vera, descriptive vocalist and coon singer; the Sisters Russell, comedy duettists; and Clarmont and Victor, comedy acrobats.

St. James's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Richd. Flanagan.—An interesting musical comedy drama, *At the World's Mercy*, is here this week. Mr. Carr Loates's company is a clever combination in which Mr. Loates, as Captain Manley, particularly shines, assisted in the companion heroic rôle of Alice Lloyd by Miss Lillian Beaumont. Mr. Percy Beresford as Barber, the solicitor, acts well; Miss Cissie Milford is excellent as Skittles; Mr. Henry Fergusson makes a capital Jew as Morris Goldstein; and enjoyable humour is contributed by Mr. Jess Boxer as Charlie Smart. As Dot, Little Daisy is remarkably clever, and Miss Molly Bee as Rosie deserves special commendation for her dancing; while Mrs. Loates is distinctly good as Kitty Knott.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company are here this week in their popular and attractive drama, *Her Luck in London*. Miss Mary Neil gives a really fine rendering of Nelly Harborne, and in strong parts Mr. Chas. A. Leicester, Mr. Douglas Tremayne, and Mr. Henry Charles are conspicuous. Miss Ada Roscoe is excellent as Madame Gabrielle; and among the fun-makers, Miss Florrie Groves as Maud Gladys Shovepenny and Mr. J. Telly Dillsen as Jerry Gotobed are worthy of particular praise. The entire production is under the personal direction of Mr. George Kirk, and is a thoroughly enjoyable one.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Berry.—Great interest was aroused here on Monday by the performance of *The Four Just Men*, by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company, including Mr. H. A. Saintsbury as George Manfred—an admirable impersonation. Excellent work was done also by Mr. E. H. Dobell as Miguel Thery, Mr. H. Elliott Ball as Sir Philip Ramon, Miss Dorothea Desmond as Juanita, Mr. Leonard Williams as Manuel Garcia, and Miss Alys Rees as Mrs. Mavis. The piece is worthily described as the successor to *Sherlock Holmes*, and is certainly a thrilling entertainment, well staged, and admirably played throughout.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—A fine programme here this week is headed by Percy Honri, who gives his latest success, *Concordia*, in excellent style, supported by a talented company. The Donaldson Bros. and Ardell present their well-known comic sketch, *A Zoological Comedy*; Professor Selkirk's juvenile spectacle, *In Bonnie Scotland*, is well received; Dora Barrington, in a song-scena, is heard to great advantage; Kate Cohen, vocalist, sings well; Preston and Balmaine give one of their enjoyable illustrated songs; and other good turns are provided by Albert Christian, vocalist; the Sisters Caselli, comediennes and dancers; and Norah Emerald, comedienne and dancer. The Bioscope pictures, as usual, are highly interesting.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry. — George Lashwood, the "Beau Brummel of Vanity," is the attraction here this week, and, as usual, makes a big hit. Excellent, also, are Radford and Valentine, in a really comic and clever juggling act. The Daunton-Shaw troupe go through an exceptionally smart cycle performance; Morny Cash, the Lancashire comedian, scores with his "Bed" song; Jeanie Hartley, comedienne, dances in a delightful manner; and Leoni Clarke introduces with success two hundred well-trained animals and birds. Other smart turns are contributed by the New York Nippers, in a scena "Bedtime"; Tatten Hall, comedian; Harry Conlin, comedian; and Nellie Martell, comedienne and dancer. Up-to-date pictures complete.

Hippodrome.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Mr. John Tiller's company are here this week, in an amusing sketch entitled *Mad Minstrels* (a most unsuitable and misleading title), in three scenes, introducing some fine dancing, good singing, and beautiful dresses. Particularly good are Dorothy Gould, Jessie Templeton, May Sharples, Harry Elliston, Sam Poluski, jun., and Harold Wardroper in the principal parts. The Leslie Brothers are excellent musicians of the comic order with decidedly funny patter, and make a big hit; the Welsh Wanderers are a trio of first-class singers, accompanied by a harpist, and are deservedly well received; Mlle. Larive, chanteuse, sings and dances exceedingly well; James Stewart, the tramp at the piano, creates his usual good impression; Corbin's dogs are canines of high intelligence, and "on their own" go through a fine performance; Lamber and Robertson appear in a typical Scotch scena, "Scots Folks a-wooing"; Miss Mildred Timms, assisted by the choir, sings in good style "Won't you come over to my house?" an illustrated song; and the programme also includes some excellent Bioscope films, and a well-rendered part-song by the choir.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Prominent turns here this week are the Warsaw Brothers, in a capital comedy musical act; Valvero's Naval Bombardment, a really clever performance; and Lauri Wylie, as the "mimicking mannikin," excellent, as usual. Other good turns are those of Rosa Rossetti, a charming 'celloist and violinist; Maude Prenton, chic comedienne, with a pleasing song; Walter Emerson, comedian; Fred Allsop and Florrie Beckwith, in a humorous act; Bert Bowden, quaint comedian; the Twin Sisters Edwards, vocalists, dancers, and drummers; and May Gurney, comedienne. Raymond's Vivagraph pictures complete.

King's, Longsight.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company is here this week in a tabloid edition of that capital sporting drama, *Bound to Win*. Mr. F. G. Kimberley is excellent as Harry Lyndon, and Miss Lottie Addison as Gladys Orme acquits herself exceptionally well. Mr. J. Franklin does admirably as Ned Oakley; Mr. Charles Vivian scores as the villain; and Miss Violet Langley is a pleasing heroine. Other parts are well sustained by Messrs. Edward Bekker, Charles Coventry, and Mrs. J. Franklin and Miss Trixie Toole. The drama is well staged.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An exceptionally bright and attractive programme is presented here this week, attracting good houses. Harry Grey, the Australian Nugget, is a vastly entertaining comedian, and is heartily applauded, as are also the Three Boccaccios, including Signor Francia, vocalists and instrumentalists of high merit; Mack Ollive, assisted by Daisy Baldry, is very successful in his whistling scena, entitled *The Candy Store*; the Moncktons (Fred and Lillie) present a smart comedy sketch; and Levano gives a unique and sensational double somersault act with daggers. Bert Rayner and Cissie Reece are clever dancers; the Two Wiltons, duettists and dancers, are very good; Nancy Renshaw, negro comedienne, is an expert bone soloist; King and Delane appear in a humorous comedy act, *At the Club*; George Edney is an excellent descriptive vocalist; and the Bioscope pictures are amusing.

Hippodrome (Hulme).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The star attractions here this week are Clown Zestho and his wonderfully well-trained dogs, and the clever Corman Youngsters, whose singing and dancing are good, their scena, *Christmas Eve*, being very pretty and effective. O. B. Krebo is an excellent comedy juggler; Will Litters is a capital comedian; Edie Gray and White Coons are good singers; Jay Laurier is a comedian with original methods; the Four Jumels give a fine musical act; the Kroney Brothers are clever tumblers; and Maud Kaye is a pleasing coon song and dance artist. "Following in His Father's Footsteps" is shown on the Bioscope, and is very amusing.

MANSFIELD.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietors, Mansfield Theatre Company; General-Manager, Captain Cecil Clayton. — This week the United English Opera company has provided the attraction here. On Monday Wallace's opera *Maritana* was staged, and greatly appreciated; Miss Elsa May filled the title-rôle with credit, singing her numerous items very nicely; Miss Doris Gilbert made a fine Lazarillo; Mr. F. S. Gilbert (a native of Mansfield) had a great reception in the part of Don Cæsar de Bazan; as Don José Mr. J. K. Campbell sang well, and the part of the King of Spain was ably presented by Mr. J. F. Farrelly; Mr. H. Blagrave scored in the rôle of Marquess Montefiore. The chorus was a capable one, and the staging was all that could be desired. On Tuesday evening Donnizetti's opera, *Daughter of the Regiment*, was given, when Mr. F. S. Gilbert sustained the part of Tony in an able manner. The evening concluded with the Miserere scene from *Il Trovatore*. Other operas for the week are *Faust*, the *Bohemian Girl*, and *Il Trovatore*.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Director, Mr. Tom Jennings.—The Singing Mill Lads top the bill here, and have a great reception. Another popular turn is that of Cope and Hagan, who create roars of laughter; Billy Taylor gives an exceedingly novel act which is loudly applauded; the turn of H. C. Prosper is also loudly cheered; Vernon's Imperial Biscope presents a good series of up-to-date pictures.

MARGATE.—Hippodrome.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. De Frece; General Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—This week's programme includes some pleasing turns, chief among which stands that contributed by Will Van Allen, the tramp musician and raconteur, in his novel and entertaining performance; Sinclair and Parr, in their diverting vocal entr'acte, *Keeping an Appointment*, are clever, their singing being above the usual standard; R. C. Note sings sensible songs well; Florrie St. Roy, comedienne and acrobatic dancer, is pleasing; Amy Elcock makes a dashing comedienne and dances well; and Ruby and Laws, vaudeville artists, give an enjoyable turn. The Hippodrome pictures this week are more amusing than usual.

MERTHYR TYDFIL. — Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Lewis Gilbert.—Mr. F. Marriott-Watson's company is here presenting *A False Wife*. Miss Florence E. Florence, in the title-rôle, displays considerable power; Mr. George Langham is successful as Sir Colin Mansfield; Mr. W. Howard Barlow, as Lieut. Mansfield, presents an excellent impersonation; Mr. Elton Morgan is highly diverting in the part of Ben Rattler; and Mr. F. Marriott-Watson ably depicts the adventurer Jean Beraud; Miss Annie Hylton acquits herself admirably as Agnes Weyland; and Miss Minnie Leslie makes a delightful Bessie.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—An interesting programme is headed by Jules Kiars, hand balancer; The Carvers, comedians and speciality dancers; the Three Parzones, in sketches; the Evalos, jugglers and gymnasts; May Peskett, serio; Bodie Bros., triple bar performers; La Sonnambula; and the Biograph with a new series of pictures, concludes an excellent entertainment.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Lingford Carson's Répertoire company is here this week On Monday and Tuesday *A Modern Adventuress* was presented; Mr. Charles Draycott gave a thoroughly dramatic rendering of Pietro Donelli; Mr. Sydney C. Cranston was effective as Harry Delby; the Wallace Danton of Mr. E. J. Fare was a capable effort; Mr. John Byron ably typified the bluff Yorkshireman, John Crompton; Mr. J. Dobson Clyde scored as the detective Beal; Miss Muriel Thompson played the title-rôle with the necessary callousness; Miss Marie Robson submitted a charming rendering of Vivette Delby; and Miss Daisy Norman made an interesting Sally Hodges. On Wednesday *The Octoroon* was played; on Thursday *The Heart of a Hero*, and on Friday *The Ticket of Leave Man*.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—The attraction at this popular theatre this week is Messrs. Carpenter and Cooper's company in a sensational play, *The Spider and the Fly*, by Arthur Shirley and Sutton Vane. Miss Nina Vaughton is an ideal Edith McAllister; Mr. Stanley S. Gordon, as Cyril Girdlestone, the hero, is well-suited to his part; while Mr. Ellis J. Preston, as Welby Girdlestone, is equally good; the part of Stella Grey, is placed in the hands of Miss Amy Venimore, whose powerful acting quickly wins her a reputation she thoroughly deserves; Mr. Frederick Ross is excellent as David Strong, an honest Jack tar; considerable amusement is introduced at intervals by Mr. Chas. A. Preece, as Remus Roe and Mr. Fred Terris as Romulus Roe (twin brothers); and Miss Lucy Murray, who is entrusted with the part of Molly Blake, a jolly little Irish servant lass.

Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Managing, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—*The Love of Woman* is the attraction here this week, and is presented by Mr. Edward Bradford's company. The interest and enjoyment are greatly heightened by attractive scenery and effects. Mr. Henry C. Cooper figures with marked effect in the leading rôles of George Leigh and Dominoe Bill; and Miss Nesta Sandford acquits herself admirably in the part of Nell Leigh; Miss Lillian King appears as Gladys Leigh, and gives a natural and womanly rendering of the character; Mr. Harry Fairbridge does full justice to the rôle of Sir Charles Murdstone, and for the part of Rupert Murdstone, a clever representative is found in Mr. Fellows Bassett; Miss Florrie Green is good as Jake, a waif; and Miss Winifred Glynn acquits herself admirably as Mrs. Gringer.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges. — A varied and interesting programme is submitted here this week. Ernie Mayne makes a great hit, his songs and patter creating roars of laughter; Jack Lane maintains his popularity, while Sinclair and Whiteford are enthusiastically received in their sketch, *Getting Even*; Lee and Kingston cause much laughter in their comedy duo, "Practical Joking"; and Les Molassos provide a clever dancing entertainment; Dave Meier and Belle Mora are exceedingly good in their ball punching, singing, and dancing turn; and Bob Baxter, comedian, pleases. The other turns are provided by Alma O'Brey, character comedian; and the Bioscope.

Oxford Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf. Graham.—One of the most popular turns here is that of Austin and Cowan, who render some well-known ballads. An amusing sketch, entitled *The Would-be Actors Rehearsing a Drama*, is given by Livesey and Rosbury; and Charles Austin causes roars of laughter with his funny songs; Julian Mac, comedian, pleases; and Mr. George M. Schilling, the famous athlete who has walked round the world, relates his adventures. Other turns are provided by Barney Stuart, Kathleen Gray, comedienne, and Culpitt, in his comedy skits, and the Bioscope.

MIDDLETON.—Pardoe's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. and J. Pardoe.—A capital company is this week presenting the thrilling drama *A Gambler's Daughter*. Sir Robert Ayrton gives a vigorous impersonation of the Irish emigrant. Miss Adria Hill, in a two-fold character, loses no opportunity for effect, and gains general admiration; Mr. Alfred Sanders makes a humorous Jew; while Mr. J. Martin is an ideal villain. Other members of the company give valuable support.

MOTHERWELL. — New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant.—Mr. Charles Carey's company is this week appearing in *After the Ball*. As a merrymaker Mrs. M. Sadie is a host in herself, her quaint get-up, the drollery of her songs and her patter keeping the house in continuous laughter. Miss Queenie Finnis is a sweet and winsome Nellie Mathers, singing and dancing with much grace and charm; the Ruth Gay of Miss Eva Ellis is an impersonation of much distinction; Mr. Algernon W. Lee does well as Halliwell Menit; Mr. Percy Baverstock is equally apt as the peppery old Colonel; Martin loses nothing in the hands of Mr. Buckstone Clair; and Dick Seymour is well impersonated by Mr. Norman Bowyer.

NELSON.—New Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. C. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. George E. Mudd.—This week Mr. Augustine Knight and powerful company are appearing in *The Assassin*. The staging of the piece is exceptionally good; Mr. Augustine Knight gives a fine portrayal of Prince Demetri; Mr. Edward E. Ashby as Ivan Ipanoff does some good work as the Prince's rival; Mr. Theo. Balfour causes much amusement by his eccentricities as Duke Karl; Mr. Chauncey Morris makes a capital General Nicol; Mr. Edward Jenner is good as Captain O'Neil; Mr. Tom Taylor ably sustains the part of Peter; Miss Ella Vane proves herself to be an actress of a high order of merit by her impersonation of Countess Wanda; Miss Hettie Senior, in the character of a comic Jonathan, makes a typical Yankee lady; Miss Frances Waring is good as the Prince's victim, Nita, and Miss Marie E. Robertson as Katrina cleverly plays the part of the maid.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—A first visit is paid to the Theatre Royal this week by Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux's company. Alfred Sutro's comedy, *The Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt*, the story of a man, woman, and motor, being given. The representation on Monday evening highly pleased a large and critical audience. Miss Gladys Mason is a delightful exponent of the part of the young widow, her reading of the character of Lady Howland being unrestrained and effective throughout. Mr. Vanderveldt is played in quite convincing fashion by Mr. Reginald Dance, the wit of the young rake and impertinence and gaiety of his whole demeanour being faithfully presented. As Colonel Rayner, Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton also figures admirably; Miss Mary Weigall, Miss Eve Titheradge, Miss Agnes Gunn, Mr. Edward Coutts, Mr. Russell Barry, and Mr. Gerald Henson, in other principal parts, are seen to advantage. The cast also includes Mr. George A. Seagar, Mr. George Percy, Mr. F. Vernon Travers, Miss May Brooke, Miss Dorothy Haigh, Miss Helen Tytler, and Miss Muriel Mason.

Tyne Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. C. Sutcliffe.—Mr. George Edwardes's company, in the modern light opera, *The Little Michus*, is again attracting large audiences to this theatre. The principals in the company are unchanged from the last visit; Mr. Eric Thorne, a great favourite on Tyneside, more than ever convulses the audience with his broadly-drawn portrait of General Des Ifs. As the Little Michus, Miss Iris Hoey and Miss Thelma Kaye are both charming, the one as the demure Blanche Marie, and the other as the livelier Marie Blanche. Mr. W. T. Andrews is capital in the part of the military lover; and a droll impersonation of the shop-assistant is given by Mr. Leonard Mackay. Very humorous, too, is Mr. Jack Carnot as Bagnolet; and Mr. G. Miller and Miss Florence Parfrey are also worthy of mention.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. T. Rowe.—That most fascinating of all detective plays, *Sherlock Holmes*, forms the programme this week at the Palace Theatre. The title-rôle is in the able custody of Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart, and as the heroine, Alice Faulkner, Miss Constance Leigh soon became a favourite with the audience. Mr. Ernest Gray gives an able impersonation of James Larrabee; and the Dr. Watson of Mr. Stanley Logan, and the Professor Moriarty of Mr. W. F. Stirling, also call for favourable comment.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—The popular musical comedy, *Kitty Grey*, is drawing good houses to this theatre. Miss Hilda Guiver as Kitty Grey is a pronounced success, her singing being especially good; while Miss Elsie Skillings as Sadie is also a favourite. The audience are kept in roars of laughter by Mr. Leslie Steward as Lord Plantaganet; while exceedingly good is Mr. Herbert Ranson as Sir John Bingfield.

Empire Theatre.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Andrews.—The Kremos, a troupe of ten of the smartest and most daring Risley performers ever seen in Newcastle, provide the chief turn in an attractive entertainment this week at the Empire, their accomplishment of amazing feats, with marvellous accuracy, being received with much demonstration. Ginnett's *Rejected Remounts* is an equestrian scene in which a well-trained animal is introduced to a nervous and novitiate rider, and provides hilarious fun; a charming vaudeville entertainment is given by the Nine Courtiers; and *The Serio and the Slavey* is a bright little sketch, produced by Ella and Dacie Hope. Holden's Mannikins, a clever marionette show, proves popular; and other turns are given by Clarice Netta, a gifted soprano; the Clarkes, banjoists; Pat Carey, Irish comedian; and the American Bioscope.

Pavilion Theatre. — Acting-Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The chief line on the bill at the Pavilion Theatre is occupied by Jock Whiteford, a Scottish comedian, who, in a recall, after two amusing songs, delighted large audiences on Monday evening with a capital and droll imitation of a football enthusiast witnessing a match. A clever dog act is produced by Charles Prelle, whose canine tribe is trained to perfection, the performance, indeed, being one of the best of its kind. The Paragon Trio, speciality vocalists, are also an acceptable turn; and a humorous parody on the "Shades of the old apple-tree," is ably contributed by Bert Lytton. An entertaining sketch, entitled *An Anglo-American Alliance*, is produced by Wilton Heriot and company; and clever impersonations of leading music-hall artists are given by Lily Sharplin. Other excellent turns—the whole programme being an exceptionally attractive one—are Winona and King, American speciality artists; the Rallis, in *The Artist and His Monkey*; the Mackweys, the riotous trio; the Three Sisters Thurban, vocalists and instrumentalists; Arthur Stacey, eccentric comedian and dancer; and a new series of pictures by the Barrascope.

NEWPORT.—Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*Florodora* is being played here by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company this week to delighted houses. Dolores (Miss Josephine Sullivan) sings finely, and makes a charming heroine; the Lady Holyrood of Miss Kate Leicester is a finished performance; and Miss Lily Gulliett, as Angela Gilfain acts charmingly; Mr. Alf. E. Passmore, a genuine humorist, revels in the part of Prof. Tweedlepunch; Mr. Allen Morris sings well as Frank Abercoed; and Mr. Stanley White exhibits a lot of quiet humour in the part of Cyrus W. Gilfain; Mr. Herbert St. John (Capt. Arthur Donegal), and Mr. C. A. James (Leandro) acquit themselves creditably.

Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Lil Hawthorne, a favourite here, fully sustains her reputation; the Harmony Four are a smart set of musicians; and Whit Cunliffe sings some catchy songs; Clemart provides much that is fresh in ventriloquial business; Paulinetti and Piquo give a clever gymnastic performance; and Maud Ross scores in a pretty step dance; Will Mitcham delights the house with his musical turn; and the Bioscope shows some interesting pictures of the Springbok *v.* Glamorgan football match.

NORTHAMPTON.—Opera House. — Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Seddon.—A return visit is being paid this week of *Saturday to Monday*, as presented by Fred Karno's company. Mr. Rolando Martin keeps the fun going from start to finish, and is ably supported by Miss May Rogerson, Miss Daisy Stone, Miss Ada Maskell, Mr. J. W. Bradbury, Mr. V. H. Crawford, Mr. J. Fletch, and Mr. Dick Harcourt.

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Representative, Mr. Edwin C. Jazon; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. A. Evans.—Mr. Will Musgrave, the popular comedian, nightly wins enthusiastic applause; the Three Delaries, in *The Demon Grotto*, give a clever series of acrobatic feats; Flo Melville, burlesque artist, give some piquant ditties with good effect; Fraser and Haley are again welcomed for their charming duets; Frances Ferina, assisted by a gentleman, appears in a pathetic episode, *Pity the Blind*; C. Vincent projects an interesting story of the gold mines on the screen; Harding and Preston give a very laughable and amusing comedy turn; and Cyril Earle, the actor-vocalist, submits a dramatic rendering of the descriptive song, "Dreams."

NORTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Chalmers Mackey's company in *Wearin' o' the Green*. As Barney O'Hea Mr. Chalmers Mackey keeps his audience in a happy mood; Mr. Charles Homer as Shamus M'Dermott is worthy of the highest praise; Mr. David McFarlane makes a capital Connor Martin; Mr. Haughton Macauley displays conspicuous ability as Michael Kenny, and Mr. St. John Stuart gives a fine performance of Jerold Courteney; as Norah McGrath Mrs. Chalmers Mackey submits an admirable rendering; Miss Adele Liddon works well as Mrs. McDermott; Miss Nana Flensberg makes quite a hit as Biddy M'Ginn.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Pickels, who perform some smart risley feats, are at the top of the bill here; Kloof and Ramsay in their musical act are accorded a hearty reception, and Messrs. Lambert and Glover in *My Birthday* cause much laughter; Messrs. Daly and Doyle, comedians and dancers, are loudly applauded; Veronique, speciality dancer, is smart; Mr. Syd Herman, Hebrew comedian and storyteller, is popular, and the Bio-Photoscope still meets with much favour.

NORTHWICH. — Central Theatre. — Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Secretary, Miss E. Golden.—Capital fare is presented here this week by Mr. Gilbert Payne's company in *The Honeymoon*. Mr. Gilbert Payne, who appears as Nathaniel Noodle, is an excellent comedian, and a good dancer; Miss Pattie Fairley, the possessor of a fine voice, does well as Madge Armstrong; Mr. Leslie Erle capably presents Jack Armstrong; as Archie, Mr. Harry Farrow both looks and plays the part to the life; Miss Nellie Dyson, as Stella Le Brunns, plays and sings in a charming manner; Mr. Roy Lovell gives a lifelike impersonation of Colonel Vandyke Brown; Miss Rene Walton, as Emeretta Noodle, is well placed; and the Florentia Troupe of dancers give several clever and pleasing turns. The piece is prettily staged and well dressed.

NORWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Manager Mr. Fred. Morgan.—Mr. Mouillot's excellent company is here this week with *San Toy*. Miss Bessie Allayne is pleasing in the title-rôle; and Miss Nellie Beryl is excellent as Dudley. Miss Irene Lavington is well received as Poppy; and Miss Maud Rundal is successful in her dance. Mr. Arthur

week. Mr. Alfred Paumier portrays the part of Paul Valmar in a forcible manner; Mr. Clinton Baddeley is capital as Capt. Von Scarsbruck; and Mr. Fred W. Freeman makes a good Crown Prince. Miss Annie Saker gives an artistic rendering of the part of the Princess Astrea; and Misses Florence Hunt and Prudence Laurence as Rozel and Marie do very well. The humorous characters are in the capable hands of Messrs. Page, Balfour, and Spalding as Max, Otto, and Bobo; and Miss Ada Champion assists effectively as Kathie. Mr. Ulick Burke ably fills the part of Lieut. Strelsburg; and Mr. W. S. Hardy makes a good Father Gerrard. The remaining characters are also well played.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—Frank and Jen Latona head the bill in a turn full of music and comedy; the Bros. Egbert cause much hearty laughter; and the Westwoods are a pair of smart trick cyclists, and are the recipients of much applause. Lillian Lea takes well in a beautiful song-scena; the Three Transfields, lady instrumentalists, are also very good; Madeline Rossiter is a capable comedienne and dancer; W. G. Webber is an excellent singer of bass songs; and W. G. Sutton is a tuneful vocal comedian. Interesting pictures by the Royal Dottoscope conclude the programme.

HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Nuttall.—The Five Saxonias are the stars this week with their novel musical act; Gus Harris, character delineator, is very good in his vocal scena, *The Synagogue;* the Sisters Lytton are sweet duettists; Ariel and Astarte have a smart aerial turn; Rose Tilley, versatile artist, is a capital vocalist; and Mike Cray, a skilful comedy juggler, introduces his dog Dooley. The Sisters Walmsley have a capital scena in *From School to Stage;* Charles Somers is a good comedian; and the Dottoscope is still a prominent feature in the bill.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—This week *The Spring Chicken*, admirably played by Mr. George Dance's company, is proving a genuine attraction here. There is not a weak spot in the cast, and the attractive and tuneful chorus and beautiful dresses and scenery make up a most enjoyable entertainment; Mr. J. S. Durant plays Babori with an agreeably light touch; Mr. Edwin Dodds gives an amusing rendering of Felix; Mr. Fred Payne keeps the house in good humour as Girdle; and Boniface, Baron Papouche, and Stephen Henry all find capable exponents in Messrs. H. Averell, R. Holland, and L. Wigley; Miss Crissie Leonard has won all hearts here with her delightfully piquant acting and clever dancing as Rosalie; Miss Nellie Kavanagh scores heavily as Mrs. Girdle; and the Baroness and Babori's wife find most charming and efficient representatives in the Misses Poppy Poole and Florence Lee.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bentz.—This week the popular comic opera *La Poupée* is making a welcome visit and doing first-class business, the company being that of Mr. Herbert Ralland. Miss Mysie Devine is an attractive and clever Alesia; her singing and acting are both very good. Mr. Harry Brayne as Hilarius is a general favourite and is conspicuously clever in the part, interpreting the doll-maker with the happiest results. Mr. Arthur Cozens creates a decidedly favourable impression by his embodiment of the novice Lancelot; Mr. Walter Balfour is well suited as Father Maxime; the Baron Chanterelle is admirably portrayed by Mr. Fuller Allen; as Loremois Mr. Arthur Dennis submits a distinct and successful representation; Mr. E. Mooney is excellent as Balthazar; Miss Edith Hunter imparts many commendable points in her assumption of Madame Hilarius; Henri is charmingly interpreted by Miss Doris Dickens; and as the first and second dolls Misses Nita Cree and Dora Dickens merit praise.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Wilson.—There is an excellent list of artists at the Hippodrome this week. Signor and Mme. Borelli provide a delightful and humorous musical turn; the songs and dances of Esta Stella, chic comedienne, are received with the heartiest applause; Fanny Robina, charming vocalist, makes an instantaneous hit; the Three Stebbings are well received in their amusing and likewise skilful equilibrist act; Jordan and Harvey are a pair of quaint dialect comedians; the Villions do wonders in their trick and comedy acrobatic cycle act; Billy Bint, popular vocalist, scores; Florrie Cooper makes an immediate success by her sweet singing; and the Hippodrome Bioscope concludes an altogether attractive programme.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—The bill of fare offered here is of excellent quality. A remarkable entertainment is provided by Fred Karno's comedians under the direction of W. B. Crabtree in the pantomimical burlesque *The Smoking Concert*, which evokes much laughter; T. C. Callaghan, refined character comedian, affords much enjoyment; Harry Jennings, comedian and dancer, is well received; an excellent turn is given by Will Gonn, instrumentalist, coon singer, buck and sand dancer; Marie Walker, trombone virtuoso, is successful; Gus Granville, comedian, is warmly welcomed; and Jessie Star, Scottish vocalist and comedienne, is very acceptable.

PENTRE. — LYCEUM THEATRE — Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and J. Duckworth; Manager Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident Manager, Mr. Harry Counsell. — *The Woman Who Gambles* is being played here by Mr. Morton Powell's company, under the direction of Mr. Horatio Sinclair. Mr. James Duncan gives an admirable impersonation of Count Otto Steinbach; Miss Gertrude Hunt displays histrionic powers as the Countess Natalie; Mr. Horatio Sinclair cleverly sustains the rôle of Baron Cratzlaw; Mr. Reginald Fox deserves praise for the apt manner in which he portrays the character of Lieutenant Carl; Miss Florrie Halton appeals to all in her pathetic interpretation of Cora Gouldhart. The comic relief is ably introduced by Mr. J. O. Stevenson, Mr. Fred Prior, and Miss Brenda May; and Miss Lilly Malvern is exceedingly good as Stella Melakoff.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Henry E. Leigh's company is here this week in the successful farcical comedy, *The 'Varsity Belle*. Mr. James Danver's delineation of Professor Septimus Stoney is clever and amusing; Mr. Edward Chester's Theocritus Ward Sparkleton is well received; Messrs. Morrice Holmes and Roy Barraclough are seen to considerable advantage as the two undergraduates, George Barker and Albert Perrin respectively; Mr. Frank Lilliput, as his name denotes, is a somewhat diminutive college scout, and as Runyard creates unrestrained mirth throughout; Miss Emma Rainbow is admirably suited to the rôle of Mrs. Barker; Miss Beatrice Egerton is a charming Maud Stoney; Miss Nellie Beacon achieves considerable success as Eva Stoney; Miss Josephine Ellis is entrusted with the title-rôle, and she certainly leaves nothing to be desired in her clever portrayal of George Sparkleton, her marked success eliciting hearty approbation. A special feature of the evening is Mr. James Danvers' sketch, "A Musical Lesson," in which Miss Nellie Beacon ably assists. *The Last Hour*, a one-act dramatic episode, is successfully given as a curtain-raiser.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—Mr. George Edwardes' company in *San Toy* is here this week. Miss Mora Hersee is a charming San Toy, singing with much tunefulness, and at the same time revealing herself as an accomplished actress; Mr. Victor C. Huntley is a manly and effective Captain Bobbie Preston; Mr. Grahame Herington, is well placed as the mandarin. Yen How; Mr. Bert Barton is a capital Li; Mr. Harry Turner is a dignified Sir Bengo Preston; Mr. F. W. Ford is good as the Emperor, and Mrs. Althea Hyde does satisfactory work as Poppy.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Langdon Lee.—The attraction this week is Mr. A. Clifton Anderson's company in the emotional melodrama, *Held Apart*. Mr. Anderson, as James Douglas presents the part in a manner satisfactory to the most critical; Mr. Leonard Lawrence is a quiet yet manly John Douglas, Laird of Glen Ross; Mr. A. W. Norman, as Captain Ford, proves to be a shrewd member of the Australian Mounted Police; and Mr. Robert B. Drysdale is the Andrew McPherson, his assumption of the Scotch dialect being complete in every detail. Miss Ethyle Murray acts capably as the distasteful Countess de Castro, a Creole; and Miss Ruby Loncraine, as the heroine, Sybil Grey, displays fine emotional feeling. Other members of the company fulfilling less prominent parts are Messrs. T. Kirkwood, T. Weymms, and the Misses Emily Levettez, Winifred Love, and Paget Ford.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Williams; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Grant.—After a highly successful six months' run, Mr. Percy Williams's capable stock company have arrived at their final week's performances, and present as a farewell piece, *The Shaugraun*. Mr. Edward Lloyd is a smart Captain Molineux; Mr. Alfred Brandon, as R. Ffolliott, the hero, makes a most effective study of this difficult part; Mr. Durford Geddes, as Corry Kinchela, is a villain of the first water, and Mr. Clavering Craig, as Harvey Duff, is capable; Mr. Larry Clements creates any amount of fun in the title-rôle; Miss Lilian Mildred is a fascinating heroine; Miss M. C. Livesey could hardly have improved on the part of Moya; and Miss Caroline Fenton is a humorous Mrs. O'Kelly.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—A diversified and attractive bill of fare is provided for the week. Hardeen, the handcuff king, mystifies large audiences by the ease and ability with which he frees himself from handcuffs and manacles; C. Emlyn Jones and his ladies' quartette of International singers are loudly applauded for their high-class vocal efforts; the Three Amaranths are the smartest trio of lady dancers who have visited the Palace for a considerable period; Rachel Lowe catches on immensely with her topical song, "The Progressive Woman;" Les Sados are a clever pair of jugglers and equilibrists; Cliff and Kean work hard in their comedy and dancing act; and Wal Robbins is a humorous black and white comedian. The other bookings are Spry and Monti, Charles Vincent, and Vernon's Pictures.

PONTYPRIDD. — ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE. — Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard. — A return visit of Mr. Fred Benton and his powerful company in *The French Spy* has been enthusiastically received here. The chief interest is naturally centred in Mr. Benton's able characterisation of Fritz. Mr. Beresford Lovatt is seen to advantage as Capt. Somers; Count Romanoff is ably played by Mr. Max Coutts; Mr. L. C. Thorpe scores well as General Trepoff; Mr. Charles Digby is worthy of praise as Viscount Alexis; Lieut. Maxwell is effectively portrayed by Mr. L. Chaseby; the part of Petroff Romanoff is in the able hands of Mr. Geo. Sherraton; Miss Madge Devereux admirably impersonates the Countess Andre; Miss A. Harrison-Tate cleverly portrays Olga; Julie is carefully represented by Miss Cissie Cleveland.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. George Dance's principal company, with *The Cingalee*, is here for the week, gaining unbounded applause from large audiences. The Baboo lawyer, Chambhuddy Ram, played by Mr. Jack Crichton, causes plenty of merriment; Mr. Cyril Dane takes the part of the Hon. Harry Vereker in good style and with great success; Boobhamba is presented by Mr. Helier Le Maistre in a masterly way, his very powerful voice being heard to advantage; Sir Peter Loftus, in the hands of Mr. Grafton Williams, is a most amusing personage; and Mr. Ethelbert Edwards as Bobby Warren is admirable. Miss Georgina Middleton gives a very fine portrayal of the Cingalee girl Nanoya, her charming playing and singing captivating the house; Peggy Sabine is delightfully rendered by Miss Gladys Guy; Miss Marjory Clark makes an excellent Lady Pat; and Miss Essie Perrin dances very prettily as Angy. The additional chorus and special orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. Peter Flitcroft, deserve mention.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—The popular moral drama, *The Sin of Her Childhood* is being played here this week by Mr. J. A. Campbell's capital company.—Miss Mary Fulton, in the character of Mary Harpel, plays with great histrionic power and charm; Mr. Austin Milroy as Stephen Haysel sustains the part in a fittingly callous and hard manner; the Rev. Alan Grey finds an excellent exponent in Mr. Charles Fancourt; Capt. John Thornton is ably undertaken by Mr. Wordley Hulse; Mr. Hugh Brady as the rollicking Irishman, Barney O'Reilly, and Miss Nellie Hook as Eliza Muggins are admirable in the comedy parts; and Little Dot Moss as Hannah Spry deserves a word of praise for her capable singing and dancing. The mounting and floral decorations are much admired.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Topping the bill here for the week is Arthur Prince, with his extraordinary ventriloquial entertainment, crowded houses giving him a hearty welcome; Carrie Joy, a clever and pleasing soubrette, meets with approval; Billy Bowlby, with his stump orations, proves most diverting; Amy Elvira, burlesque actress, is well to the fore with her smart business; Bruil and Hemsley in comedy act, *Fun in a Music Shop*, are amusing; Kavados, juggler and cannon ball performer, gives an admirable turn that is much appreciated; Grapho and Jackson in the sketch, *In a Restaurant*, are applauded for their many personations; the Schiavonys, lady and gentleman acrobats, are exceedingly clever; and other capable turns in the programme are J. W. Ellison, light comedian; Sisters St. Julian, harmonising vocalists and expert dancers; and Payne's Bio-photoscope, with some new pictures.

PRESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Executors of the late Mr. Wm. Johnson; Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Mouillot's company is here this week in *The Geisha*, and (on Friday night) *The Greek Slave*. Miss Lydia Bland gives a pleasing impersonation of O Mimosa San, her artistic vocalism being well appreciated. Miss Doris Langdon is seen to advantage as O Juliette Diamante; Miss Edith Adeson makes a captivating Mollie Seamour, and is an exceptionally good dancer; Miss Winifred Knightly acquits herself well as Lady Constance; Mr. Wilfred Heath as Reginald Fairfax renders his songs excellently; and Mr. Edward Pollard, Mr. Ryton Hoare, Mr. T. Squire, and Miss Emily Lovell are entirely satisfactory in their respective parts. Mr. Edward Kipling scores a success by his mirth-provoking delineation of Wun Hi; Mr. J. H. Booth is a droll Marquis Imari; Mr. Harry Reynolds a quaint Takemine; and Mr. Albert B. Hunter sings acceptably as Capt. Katana. Praise is due to the chorus, and the music is satisfactorily rendered under the direction of Chevalier Legrand.

PRINCE'S THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Will Onda's vaudeville company is appearing here this week. At the head of the bill is Mr. John Higgins, who gives a wonderful display of jumping; Mr. Will McIvor sings several songs, which earn well-merited applause; Mr. Rowland Hill is a comedian with good songs and patter; a clever ventriloquial turn is supplied by Mr. Gillin; Blanche and Diacott are two clever cyclists, who perform on an inclined track; Miss Daisy Morell is an accomplished vocalist; Miss Babs Lloyd is a smart little lady, who contributes several songs and dances; Mr. Will Raine and company successfully present a new novelty sketch, *The Motor Maniac*. Other good turns are the Sisters Kilner, vocalists and dancers, and the De Cars.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H Broadhead and Sons; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—Miss Ada Fawn heads the bill here, and is warmly applauded for her taking songs. Miss Marie Jones also is well received in her quick-change duologue, *The Way to Win a Bet*. The Juggling Geraldos present many new tricks in excellent style. Others who contribute successfully are Little Dando, eccentric comedian; Mabel La Blanche, ballad vocalist; Hardie Palm, comedian; the Four Sherrys, in a comedy act; Carr and Rose, the humorous singing duo; and Percy Farrimond, the Lancashire singing collier.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—Miss Florence Baines and company are paying a successful return visit in the farce *Miss Lancashire, Limited*. Miss Baines almost immediately gets the audience into good humour, and continuous roars of laughter are frequent throughout the performance. Miss Annie Mitchell as Eva Lancashire is delightful, and Miss Pattie Groves wins golden opinions as Bridget Thomson. Mr. Burt Burton gives a fine rendering of Isadore Moses, and Mr. David Donaldson is good as John Higgins, and Mr. Payne Fletcher deserves high praise as Farmer Thompson. Mr. Walter Hicks as Grant and Mr. Will Casey as Herbert Fox are both vivacious and eccentric.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—A popular attraction has been furnished here during the week in the shape of exhibitions of Gale and Polden's animated pictures, showing scenes of naval and military life. The series is entitled "The King's Service: Afloat and Ashore." The pictures effectively mirror the daily routine of the services, and there are in addition, humorous and topical films of first-rate interest. Musical sketches are introduced by Wilfred Lyndon, society entertainer, and there are illustrated songs by Miss Maudie Wright. Some fine effects are worked in with the pictures. There have been large and appreciative audiences.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—This week we have Mr. James Hare's company in *A Destroyer of Men*. Mr. Chas. Bickell makes an excellent Michael Mischla; Mr. Harold B. Lewis is conspicuous for his interpretation of Count Starevitch; Mr. Hill Cremer does well as Paul; Mr. Arthur Swain makes a capital Linievitch and Mr. James Hare a clever Carl Mischla; whilst Mr. Frank Orchard is successful as Strelitzki. Miss Gladys Lloyd is a delightful Vidal Ravel, and Miss Irene Clifford shines in her impersonation of Olga Mischla, and Miss Alice Buckland is responsible for bright relief with her humorous rendering of the part of Nina Pattakake.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Michael Dempsey.—Mr. A. Hardy's company is appearing this week in *Beauty and the Barge*. The part of Capt. Barley is played by Mr. Blake Adams with much humour, and all the other parts are well filled.

TOWN HALL.—A grand flying matinée was given here on Friday, at which Miss Camille Clifford, Mr. Lionel Brough, and a number of other well-known artists were announced to appear.

ROCHDALE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague. —*Lady Kinton's Necklace* is the attraction here this week. It is a play in which plenty of scope is given for the introduction of some clever illusions, remarkably well executed by Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco. The part of Prof. Le Gros is in the able hands of Mr. Frank Melrose; Mr. Henry Danson cleverly portrays Robert Fenton; Mr. Stafford Smith acts with effect the part of Lord Kinton; and Mr. John S. Chamberlain makes the most of Bothwell Daraville; Willie Atom is amusing as Billy Brighton; and Mr. Robert A. Innes is heard to advantage as Rufus Merivale; Miss Marie Ault creates roars of laughter as Annie Jones; Miss Queenie Fraser Brunner acts with success the part of Lucy Daraville; and Miss May Harley is a capital Mary Gray. Some of the illusions by Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco completely mystify the audience.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Co.—*Hands Up!* tops the bill here. It is a laughable sketch cleverly performed by the Pender troupe; Miss Marie Blythe is a popular vocalist; Carl Lynn submits a capital turn of animal mimicry; Geo. Young, blind musician, is another artist who finds great favour; the Continental stilt walkers; Golden and Grey, in a sketch, entitled *The Missing Will*; the Two Whites, comedy artists; and Vernon's Bioscope, complete the list.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves. —The Marlo Dunham Trio on the horizontal bars, perform some daring feats; Billy, the talking horse, introduced by Jas. De Voye, is a highly intelligent animal. Others turns are submitted by Ada Twibell, burlesque artist; Ted Young, versatile comedian; Mozondos, eccentric speciality artists; Franks and Thomas, duettists; Alice Maude, mimic and male impersonator; and the Empire Bioscope.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's No. 1 company is here this week with *Dare Devil Dorothy*, under the direction of Mr. J. W. Cordiner. Mr. Walter Ashley is a smart Captain George Fielding; Mr. Henry C. Ward is seen to advantage as Captain Edward Dudley; Mr. Arthur Hartley scores as Hawkins; and Mr. Will Brereton is an amusing Silas Crump. Miss Nellie Harcourt is a sprightly Judith, and Misses Mabel and Lillie Blake as Polly and Mary Ann respectively are deserving of mention; Miss Marie Vere is an effective Ruth Montrose, and Miss Nita Clavering an excellent Dorothy Montrose. Special musical items are presented by Miss Nita Clavering, Miss Marie Vere, and Messrs. Will Brereton and Walter Ashley, and Miss Mabel and Lillie Blake give an excellent mirror dance.

RUGBY. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Drew Mackintosh.—This week Kennedy's animated pictures and a good variety show are being presented here. The pictures are excellent. The turns include Miss Madeline May, American songstress; Mons. Reni and his dog; Martin Hope, eccentric comedian, who is very funny; the Cedrics, who score a success in their comedy act; Lulu, the lady instrumentalist, who displays great ability; Sands and Vincent, the comedy pair; Vela, in her wire act; and Mlle. Corlette, vocalist.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Jack Haddon's No. 1 company is this week presenting the thrilling drama *Under the Russian Flag*. Mr. George Herbert makes a fine General Romanoff; Miss Marie Rayner creditably portrays Luka Marischla; Vera Vassiloff is successfully presented by Miss Elaine Vanbrugh; Michael and Ivan are respectively well played by Mr. Edward Avinal and Mr. Cecil Merton; Mr. Jack Haddon gives a clever impersonation of Captain Demetrius; Mr. P. Haming is well placed as Alex Skopolopski; Mr. Hal Forde as Peter Poulski, and Miss Violet Lytton as Orgarita, furnish plenty of amusement, and Wolf Marischla is a good study by Mr. Charles Liddon.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—An excellent programme this week includes Miss Ada Reeve, who appeared at the first house on Monday evening. Among the other attractions are Lillie Soutar, comedienne; Alice Raymond, lady cornettist and bugler, assisted by John Kurcamp, in a clever and pleasing performance; Walter Wade, comedian and mimic; Fred Mulvey and Minnie Miriam, in their sketch, *In the Studio;* Rosie Lloyd, comedienne; Happy Tom Parker, comedian and dancer; and Austin and Austin, comic acrobats.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—The chief contributors to this week's programme are Peter Gotz, light-weight wrestler; and MacKinnon's Scottish Meisters, in a vocal scena. Other good turns include the Two Falcons, good hand balancers; Little Tichborne, song and big boot dancer; Mlle. Hayden, with her miniature theatre; the Brothers Esdale, patter comedians; Ernest Montifiore and company, in *The Little Colonel;* Field and Lewis, burlesque artists; and the Edwards Trio, jugglers and balancers.

SCARBOROUGH.—LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Waddington; Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—Mr. Ian Maclaren's Old English Comedy Company is here this week. On Monday evening Mr. Maclaren delighted the audience with *David Garrick*, taking the title-rôle with very marked ability. He was ably assisted by Miss Edith Coleman, who as Mabel Brackson was all that could be desired. As the Hon. Bob Fairley, Mr. Philip Gordon has a part that suits him admirably, and he acted up to it. As Mr. Peters, Mr. Whitford Kane gave a clever representation of a City gentleman; Alderman Brackson was in the very able hands of Mr. Edward Landor; and Mrs. Henry Howard as Arabella Johnson adapted herself in an energetic fashion to a difficult part. During the week *She Stoops to Conquer, The School for Scandal*, and *The Merchant of Venice* were also announced.

PEOPLE'S PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—Variety is still the order of the day, amongst the artists being Geo. Gulliver, ventriloquist, who is a master in the art of deception; Barefoot and Carson, comedians, are very funny; Flo Penley and Geo. English, in old English comedies, strike a line that finds distinct favour with the audience; Tom E. Odlin is a comedian with much originality; Sandy and Carl are clever acrobatic dancers, and submit a comic boxing act; Eric Temple is a very dainty comedienne, and sings well; Vernon's Imperial Bioscope is as popular as ever, with excellent pictures.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. Zalva.—A good programme is submitted to patrons here this week; Lilly and Albert are clever gymnasts, and execute their feats with precision; Harry Hayton is full of comicalities; the Two Wambas submit an up-to-date comedy musical act; Louis Kerno sings coon songs in a polished manner, and is well received; and the Lovelaces find favour with their illustrated songs. An important item of the programme is the animated pictures, which are of considerable variety.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is here this week with *The Christian*. Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp is a capital John Storm, and Miss Laura Walker gives a powerful rendering of Glory Quayle. Parson Quayle (Mr. Percy Johnson), Father Lamplugh (Mr. Harry Colbeck), and Archdeacon Wealthy (Mr. Phipps Stanley) are all well played by their respective exponents. Mr. Percy Twyman as Lord Robert Ure, and Mr. Duncan Yarrow as Horatio Drake, give satisfaction; as also does Mr. Anthony Raules as the Faro King. Miss Aggie Royal gives a pathetic rendering of Aggie Jones; and Miss Alice Maude presents a capital Mrs. Callander.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—Mr. W. Reuben Payne's company is here this week with *The World's Verdict*. Mr. Cecil R. Thompson is a capable Sir Geoffrey Woodleigh, whose scheming nephew, Jasper Woodleigh, is carefully drawn by Mr. Albert Guyon; George Ashford is vigorously represented by Mr. Harry Stuart; Mr. W. Reuben Payne is responsible for much hilarity as Jeremiah Screw; another good humorous character is Sammy Carrot, as played by Mr. W. G. Wesley; and the maniac, Nathan Black, is played with realism by Mr. Eric Hudson. Florence Woodleigh is artistically portrayed by Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh; a sympathetic Nellie Ashford is found in Miss May Axon; as Sally Miss Anna Walton is popular; Cora Cassilis is carefully acted by Miss Lily Roselle.

SHEERNESS. — THE HIPPODROME. — General-Manager, Mr. F. Leighton.—This popular place of amusement still continues to draw crowded houses. Topping the bill for this week are Hayman and Franklin, who create a favourable impression in the comedy sketch, *A Matrimonial Agency;* Eddie Stidder and Gwennie Dunbar, in a musical potpourri act, are well received; Frederic Neiman presents a capital entertainment with his ventriloquial minstrels; Florence Leonard, soprano vocalist, wins admiration; and Mabelle May, comedienne, is likewise much appreciated. The remaining items include Charles Cardow, comedian, and Harry Morgan, coon song and dance artist; the programme concludes with a capital selection of pictures from Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—The company engaged here this week is fully up to the standard for which the Palace is noted. Miss Ethel Mordaunt is a charming ballad and descriptive vocalist; Mr. Frank Godfrey makes a hit with his songs and recitations; Mr. Horace Sade Leggett is a capital comedian and champion dancer; the Maynard and France company produce a first-class dramatic sketch, *All for Gold;* Miss Topsy Levane is making a great and deserved success, her songs being capitally rendered. She is also a clever and graceful dancer. The Elshaw company conclude with a screaming comedy sketch, *A Perfect Lady*.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont. — *La Poupée* was again played to a good house on Monday by Mr. C. P. Levilly's company. Miss Stella Gastelle as Alesia repeated a performance replete with grace, vivacity, and vocal charm; Mr. W. H. Powell proved a great success in the rôle of Hilarius; Miss A. Graham was a handsome Madame Hilarius; and Miss Kitty Cavendish made a comely Henri. Mr. Vernon Reed was effective as Belthazar; Mr. William Griffin played the part of the Baron on approved opera-bouffe lines; Mr. Frederick Hobbes acted and sang well as Maxime; and Mr. Aubrey Carr as Launcelot ably depicted the embarrassments of that shy young lover, singing also with sympathetic expression.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*Lady Madcap* began a welcome return visit to Sheffield on Monday, when the serio-comic adventures of Oroya Brown, cleverly impersonated by Mr. Harold Parkes, kept a large audience in the best of humours. Miss Mabelle Dillon, in the title-rôle, acted with the requisite high spirits, and sang in a tuneful manner. Other characters were admirably represented by the talented members of Mr. George Dance's specially-selected company, and the delightful play was in every way a success.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. Jas. Willard's popular company headed by the Alexandra favourite, Miss Grace Lester, opened to an enthusiastic house on Monday in the thrilling domestic and sensational drama *A Woman's Pluck*.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—A well-arranged bill of fare has been submitted to crowded audiences this week, the star turn being the screamingly funny pantomimic absurdity *The Bricklayers*, rattled through by those agile performers the Boissetts; Mr. J. H. Milburn, Sheffield's old pantomime favourite, returns to the vicinity of his early triumphs as a vocal comedian, and meets with a cordial welcome. Mr. Ben Albert is a humorous comic vocalist; the Misses Lucia and Viati, wire performers, are pretty, graceful, and accomplished; Baker and Balfe are two expert instrumentalists; and other clever and successful turns are Madame Albertine Melich and her well-trained parrots, pigeons, &c.; the Bros. Hayes, comedians and dancers; Miss Lillian Lowe, a prepossessing vocalist; and Miss Daisy James, a dashing serio-comic vocalist, who does a clever imitation of Miss Camille Clifford as the "Gibson Girl." The American Bioscope winds up a delightful programme.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—The following artists are appearing here to appreciative audiences: Mr. Paul Courtney's popular combination; Mr. S. S. Peake's company, in a dramatic sketch; Miss Madge Field, comedienne; Mr. C. F. Best; Mr. Woolmer Young; Mr. Eric Graham; and Simosa San. Pallister's Biograph remains a popular feature in the Grand programme.

SHILDON. — EMPIRE.—Sole Lessee, Mr. R. Lomas; Acting and Resident Manager, Mr. M. Baker.—The company here this week is an exceptionally strong one. The Camerons (Jim and Marie) are placed in their right position at the top; their comedy sketch, *Plough Boy and Lady Guide*, is one which the audience heartily enjoyed. Alexander Fox, ventriloquist, keeps the audience amused with his wooden figures; Flo Beck, clever comedienne, J. Taylor, clog dancer, and Lukos, man monkey, are very good; Marie de Voy is a favourite; and Leo Fallowfield, quaint comedian, Dan Ashton, singing collier, and the Lomascope, with good pictures, complete the bill.

SHREWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's bright and thoroughly capable company is here this week with the attractive musical play, *Three Little Maids*. Miss Kate Graham-Beck is a most successful Lady St. Mallory; and the Misses Cora Lingard, Daisy Sylverton, and Eva Weigh impersonate the daughters of the Vicar of Market Mallory in a creditable manner. Miss Laura Wright is a droll Gretchen, and her dance with "Cupid" is loudly encored. Miss Hilda Stencker, Miss Daisy Goldsack, and Miss Edith Maynard are an attractive trio as protegées of Lady St. Mallory; Miss Maude Mudie merits praise as Miss Price; Mr. Victor Kerr is an amusing and clever Daisy; Mr. Guy Williams plays with care and ability as Bryan Molyneux; Mr. C. Leverton makes a good Vicar; Mr. Chas. Caffrey is a lively Cupid; and Mr. Eric Barrington is a smart Mme. L'Orme.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company is playing a very successful first visit with *The Blue Moon*. Several favourites are included in the cast, viz., Messrs. Alfred Clark (the Major), A. Wykes Ashdowne (Bobbie Scott), Alfred Beers (Moolraj), and Reginald Switz (Private Chas. Taylor), all of whom do exceedingly well, and are mainly responsible for the success of the play. Among the ladies, Miss Florence Imeson is delightfully vivacious as Millicent, and Miss Clarice Lockstone sings sweetly as Chandra Nil. The other members of the company render good support, the chorus doing good work under the bâton of Mr. Carlton Mason.

PALACE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. William Trussell.—The pièce de résistance is Chas. Majilton's sketch, *The Trippers*, which is productive of great merriment; a capital turn is that given by Mr. Chas. Parker's sextet of entertainers, known as the Aeolians; the Leotard Bros., hat throwers; the Bros. Durrant and the Three Rubys, acrobats; Spencer and Marks, comedians; and Minnie d'Aubyn, burlesque actress, complete the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Manager, Mr Harold P. Howell.—The star turn is that given by Lockhart's elephants, who are put through a wonderful series of tricks by Capt. Taylor; Mlle. Aladina and her clever cockatoos also give an interesting performance; De Henau, armless wonder; the Kentucky Four, including Topsy, a smart dancer; Dale and O'Malley, cross-talk comedians; Keir and Kempton, vocal duettists; Chas. J. Johnson, coloured comedian and dancer; and Will Fredo, comedian, also submit acceptable turns.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Lingham Power.—For the first three nights of this week Mr. Lawrence Brough presented *The Lady of Ostend*. Mr. Henry Hampson made an ideal Dick Whortles; Mr. Charles Groves, jun., gave a worthy portrayal of Joseph Carbury; Mr. Lawrence Brough, in the rôle of Le Baron, was seen to advantage; Mr. Watkin Wynn was decidedly good as Toby Krockett; and Mr. Harry Collier was successful as John Humbert. The Lady of Ostend found in Miss Daisy Cook a creditable exponent, and Miss Ida Vynall cleverly interpreted the part of Jane. Matilda Carbury had in Miss Bessie Harrison a clever exponent. Miss Evelyn Ormonde gave a pleasing characterisation of Millie Grace, and Miss Kate Milford's Dorothy Whortles gave entire satisfaction.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—On Monday evening Mr. William Greet's excellent company presented for the first time at this theatre

Sprightly, up-to-date comediennes; Bosanquet in an illuminated speciality scena introducing the singing violin and his Bosanquephone; Lozell, sensational gymnast. Other good items are contributed by Fannie Humber, instrumentalist, comedienne, and expert skipping-rope dancer; Rose Waller, comedienne; G. W. Foster, comedian; Alec Kenedy, actor-vocalist; and the Bioscope, with the latest films.

PIER PAVILION.—Proprietors, The Southport Pier Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Charles F. Johnson.—The following good all-round combination of variety artists are appearing here this week:—The Tennessee Guards, in their marvellous lightning drill and wall-scaling exhibition; Lillian Hodge, ballad vocalist; Leslie and Player, comedy duettists and patterers; Tom Moore, character comedian; Monti Santos, the original comedy coon juggler; James Alston, comedian, in his amusing parody "Starve her Joe"; the Paolias, speciality performers; Pete and Minnie Lee, in a sketch entitled *The Scotchman's Visit to London*; and the Bio-Tableaux.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—A powerful company is here this week presenting *Lucky Durham* to good houses. As John Durham, Mr. Edmund Kennedy, an actor of considerable ability, stands out in bold relief; Mr. Arthur Leigh portrays the Hon. Reginald Steighton very cleverly; Mr. Robert Forsyth makes an able Lord Mountfallen, and the same may be said of Mr. A. E. Walker as Mr. Vallerton; Helen Valerton is charmingly played by Miss Alice Esther Belmore; Mrs. Durham is in the able hands of Miss Louisa Gourlay, and Miss Frances Wolviston is godd as Lady Mountfallen. The minor parts are all capably performed.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Fred Karno's inimitable comedians are here another week in their sketch *Jail Birds*, which loses none of its popularity. A film representing the recent great fight between Gunner Moir and Jack Palmer is shown by the American Bioscope, and the movements are narrated to the audience at intervals by a lecturer. The bill also includes Charles J. Jerome, speciality artist; D. W. Watson, cornettist; Ruby Wentworth, a clever coon comedienne; L. W. Harris, versatile comedian; and Mona Macdonald, comedienne.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. K. Hall and Jos. Sweeney; Business-Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The chief turn is Mr. Alix Lukos, who gives a good entertainment in "Pictures in the Fire"; Maggie Rimmer is well received, her latest song being "I drive the motor"; Nancy St. John is a charming comedienne, her dancing being much admired; other enjoyable turns are Bros. Ralston, James McNamee, Charles Craston, and the Bioscope.

STAFFORD. — LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone. — From this week on the theatre will be known as the Stafford Empire and Lyceum, and there will be two performances nightly. The bill this week includes Craig, Rose, and Craig, gymnastic experts, in a smart and clever show; Percy Victor's minstrels—highly-trained dogs; Ivy Gallard, comedienne and dancer; Sphinx and Sphinx, magicians; Empress, who thoroughly mystifies the audience as a handcuff expert; Ray and Miles, eccentric jugglers; Eddie Clay, American comedy musician; and E. W. Selman, comedian and dancer.

STALYBRIDGE. — GRAND THEATRE. — Sole Lessee, Mr. Louis Ellison; General-Manager, Mr. Eugene E. Hardie; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. D. Oswald.—The Alberto troupe are excellent as head, hand, and wire equilibrists; the selections of The Greys, operatic duettists, are chosen with taste, and are loudly cheered; Dickinson and Johnson give a fine aquatic exhibition; Will Dalton, a quaint comedian, causes much merriment in a parody on a popular song; the Sisters Brand, duettists and dancers; Dan Paulton, comedian; Rosie Sylvester, comedienne; Bros. Brooks, comedians; T. C. Jaques, comedian; and Aletheon, in speciality act, meet with much favour.

ST. HELENS. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—This week we are favoured with a welcome return visit of Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Christian*. Mr. Frank Tennent displays power and ability as John Storm, and Miss Grace Chalmer's impersonation of Glory Quayle leaves little to be desired. Both are capitally supported.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Will Sley, and Fred Wilmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Parks' Eton Boys head the bill here this week. Others appearing are the Ringling Trio, in a laughable sketch entitled *The Manager's Lunch*; Miss Emilie Warren, illustrated ballad vocalist; Miss Ruby Dahl, with "The Merry Mannikins"; Vincent, acrobatic table expert; Myles and May, "the Merry Huntsmen"; Luggins and Mulone, black and white comedians; and Miss Rosie Elliott, comedienne.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*At Cripple Creek* is being capably played here by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Frank Blow's company, Mr. Stanley Bedwell acts the character of Joe Mayfield in manly style; and Mr. Chas. H. Lester makes a capital villain, Martin Mason; whilst Mr. Arthur D. Layland impersonates the faithful Indian Wahketah, with much power and effect; Mr. Sydney Benson is genuinely funny as the negro Ben White; and an amusing character is Reggie Harwood in the hands of Mr. Will Hook; Belle Gordon is charmingly played by Miss Lily Beagle; marked ability is shown by Miss Agnes Verity, as "Dynamite" Ann; and Miss Daisy Carlton delightfully fills the part of Maggie Mason.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The Three Vaudevilles, comedy vocalists and instrumentalists, who head the bill here, have been thoroughly entertaining; a quaint comedian is George Collins, whose feminine make-up is distinctly funny; Jean Seul, illusionist, is cordially greeted; the popular comedian, Henry Carlton, and company, in *The Window Cleaner*, causes plenty of laughter; Mlle. Victoria Dagmar and comedy assistant on the horizontal bar are highly pleasing and clever; and Jennie Johns, comedienne; J. C. Scatter, comedian and clog dancer; and Jock Walker, Scotch comedian, are successful.

ALBERT HALL.—The "Times" animated pictures, under the direction of Mr. Frank Abbott, are being displayed here this week to crowded audiences.

STOKE. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietor, Mr. T. Allen Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—Miss Madge Grey heads the bill this week, and is distinctly successful with her mimicry; the Two Hartfords, in their clever cycle act, are the recipients of much applause; the Virginians, in their plantation dances, are capital; Miss Adelina Collier (supported by Mr. Hal Collier) is seen in a clever sketch, *The Lost Heiress*; Mark Leslie, the dusky prince, is successful in his songs and dances; Grant and Allen are, as usual, most diverting; Marco, as an illusionist, is well to the front; and Nat Watkins also scores a hit.

STOURBRIDGE. — ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr. T. Arthur Jones and company are paying a return visit with the drama, *Life's Sweetest Sins*. Amongst the capable artists who form the cast, the most prominent is Mr. Oswald Douglas, who, as Dr. Colbroke, was especially good. Mr. T. Arthur Jones as Captain Marston played in his usually clever style; while Miss Hazel Dent as Doreen Rivers proved an accomplished actress. Others who deserve mention are Messrs. Robert Sawin, Clem Horlock, Fred Winstone, Edgar Morgan, and Misses Mary Ainslie and Elsie Watton.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE. — Director and Manager, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—Mr. George Musgrove's *The Prince of Pilsen* company is proving a strong attraction here. As Carl Otto, the princely Heidelberg student, Mr. J. B. Fox creates a favourable impression; Mr. Martin Adeson infuses much breezy heartiness into his rendition of the American brewer, Hans Wagner; Mr. G. Villiers Arnold is smart as Lieut. Tom Wagner, and Mr. Lawrence Wensley is successful as the Earl of Shrimpton. Mr. Alfred Selley is active as the versatile French waiter, Francois, and Mr. G. O. Ugiass is commendable as Sergt. Bril. Miss Maise Ettinger sustains the rôle of Mrs. Maddison Crocker with graceful vigour, singing her allotted numbers with excellent taste; Miss Isa Bowman, as Nellie Wagner, both sings and acts charmingly; Miss Nellie Barnwell is in evidence as Edith Adams; and Miss Nell Emerald's rendering of the French maid, Sidonie, is sufficiently vivacious, and has all the necessary abandon; Miss Meg Hamylton is a sprightly Jimmie. The augmented orchestra is under the baton of Mr. T. M. Tunbridge, and the staging leaves nothing to be desired.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jos. Hemingway.—The intensely interesting play, *The Golden Ladder*, appeals strongly to the devotees of stirring modern drama. It is presented by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company. Mr. Wm. Clayton, as the zealous young missionary, Frank Thornhill, plays with well-sustained dignity and earnestness; a fine character study of the kind-hearted Samuel Peckaby is submitted by Mr. Joseph Rowland; Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds as the unscrupulous Michael Severn leaves little to be desired, receiving all the necessary assistance from his accomplice, M. Peranza, played by Mr. Graham Winsford. Miss Mary Austin's embodiment of Lilian Grant stands out as a strong histrionic effort that secures the plaudits of her audience; Miss Mimi Edwards is commendable as Mrs. Peckaby, and a world of praise is due to Miss May Ediss for her excellent rendition of the child-part of Lily.

PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. Browne and Stringer.—The premier position is this week held by Gustave Fasola, the oriental wonder worker and mystifier; the Martelloni troupe of lady acrobats also figure large upon the bill; J. W. Rickaby, comedian, is also recalled; a successful sketch is submitted by James Willard and company, entitled *Did He Deserve It?* The programme also includes Matt. Wilkinson and company in *The Registry Office* sketch; Will Cornish, hand-bell ringer; the Steinway Quartette, in "Songs of the Sea"; Herbert Clifton, comedian; and Vernon's pictures.

VICTORIA HALL.—Proprietors, The Sunderland Corporation, Ltd.—Pringle's North American Animated Picture Company continues to draw good houses here. In addition to an excellent selection of pictures, there is a good band and a smart vaudeville company, including, amongst others, Chocd's clever performing dogs.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Edward Gray.—Mr. Julian Malvern opened here on Monday with his capital company in the powerful drama, *I Defy the World*. The parts are all in good hands, and those who achieve distinct success include Mr. Percy Ballard as Leon Darville, Mr. Charles Conway as Laroche, Miss Violet Crauford, who gains sympathy as Blanche Darville, and Miss Rosalie Heath, who ably portrays the character of Pauline Delaporte.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Mr. Eade Montefiore is this week presenting that popular old drama, *The Streets of London*, performed by a strong company. Mr. William Rokeby must be highly commended on his excellent portrayal of the part of Badger; Mr. Riddell Robinson is seen to advantage as Bloodgood; and Mr. Reginald Palgrave is successful as Mark Livingstone. Miss Winifred Ingham is prominent and winning as Lucy; while Miss Dorothy Cacey submits a clever impersonation of the banker's daughter. Mr. Joe Bracewell is capital as Puffy; and Miss Adelaide Gracey as Mrs. Puffy; while Miss Florence Moore as Dan, their son, is very pleasing. Mr. Clifford Armitage as Capt. Fairweather and Mr. Charles Kean as Paul deserve mention for good work. The local fire brigade effectively assist in the fire scene in the last act.

TODMORDEN.—TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, Todmorden Corporation; Secretary, Mr. H. Stansfield.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company opened here on Monday in *The Chinese Honeymoon*. Miss Francis Olgar as Soo-Soo was piquant and pleasing; Miss Florence Wilton as Mrs. Pineapple proved a great success; Miss Alma Bolton as Mrs. Brown, looked the part to the life; and Miss Kitty Clayton brought down the house with her antics and amusing sallies as Fi-Fi. The part of Tom Hatherton was ably played by Mr. C. F. Howard; and Mr. Edwin Sykes as Hi Lung, Lord High Admiral, did exceedingly well. Hang Chow, the Emperor, was cleverly undertaken by Mr. James Wilson.

TON-Y-PANDY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—*Her Nameless Child* was presented here on Monday by Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company. The play was written by the wife of the popular general-manager and the resident-manager (Mr. Barrie). Mr. J. W. Evelyn did well as Anthony Ford; Arthur was ably played by Mr. F. R. Gwyn Richardson; Mr. Ellerslie Pyne made a success as the villainous Lord Woodville; Miss Pattie Hastings was an excellent Phyllis Ford; and Lady Sybil Woodville was admirably undertaken by Miss Grace Jones; the comedy relief being supplied by Mr. A. Sawyer and Miss Grace Harlington, as Tom Rivers and Bessie Brooks respectively.

HIPPODROME.—Director, Mr. D. Taylor; General Manager, Mr. Curline Baldry.—Among the most successful turns here are the Tokio Troupe of Imperial Japanese; Mrs. H. de Beer's company, in a comedy sketch, *The Collar Stud*; the Gondolier Glee Singers, who are much appreciated; Sword and Robb; the Reays; E. G. Aitken; and Leon and Onda.

TORQUAY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Messrs. Granville and Thorne's company, in the historic drama, *Napoleon the Great*, commenced a week's engagement here on Monday evening. As the Emperor, Mr. Hugh Montgomery acts with domineering power and kingliness; Mr. Henry Earlesmere portrays Colonel Lavarennes with Machiavellian duplicity; and as Colonel Jules Meuron, Mr. Phil Harper is both calm and courageous. In the rôle of Marie Walewska, Miss Leslie Warner displays much sympathy and tact; and Miss Maud Russell acts with womanly affection as Mlle. Leonie. Sergeant Choupin is successfully represented by Mr. Albert Sinclair; and Mr. Bartlett Garth works energetically as Paul Laczinska, his strenuous appeal in the last act being particularly well done. The lighter element is supplied by Mr. Frank M. Thorne as Pierre Pomponnet; and Miss Marie Harcourt as Marcelle Choupin. The remaining characters are also well sustained.

BATH SALOONS.—Proprietors, The Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. George Courtney. — Mr. McCrae is this week presenting the Smart Set Entertainers, and on Monday evening an enthusiastic audience greeted the reappearance of this popular party. Mr. Arthur Court has a tenor voice of much power, and is frequently applauded; and Miss Georgie Martin is a pleasing comedienne. Miss Lena Hutchings is a young artist of considerable promise; and Miss Hilda Light has a cultured soprano voice, and meritoriously encored her duet with Miss Martin being particularly admired. Mr. Walter George is an old favourite, and provokes general hilarity; and Mr. Lionel Atwill has a good bass voice. Miss Ethel Willford is a capable elocutionist; and Mr. Herbert Oliver is a very efficient accompanist.

TREHERBERT. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Poole; Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Miss Rose Faith's company, in *No Cross, No Crown*, opened here on Monday. Mr. W. Carriden deserves unstinted praise for his interpretation of Sir Francis Luttrell; Mr. Harrison Chapman is good as Professor Nebb; Mr. Herbert de Ville gives a capital reading of Austin Blake; Dr. Ashby is in the capable hands of Mr. Fred Gresham; Miss Rose Faith, in the part of Lady Luttrell, deserves special mention; and Miss Gwen Stewart as Mistress Gray and Lady Margaret Luttrell is clever.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Hilliard Vox and company were here this week in the drama *Alaska*, the first three nights of the week. Mr. Albert Rogers is capital as the Coon Pompey Cæsar; Mr. C. D. Robert is effective as Ned Larson, the villain, and is well supported by Mr. H. Naylor Grimson as Baptista; Mr. John Ford is satisfactory as Malumite Kid, and Mr. Hilliard Vox gives a striking impersonation as Skookhum Jim; Miss G. Hastings Walton acts with power as Alaska, and Miss E. Turner Elliott wins favour as Jessie Dalton. *A Man in a Thousand* was billed for the remaining three nights.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The Lizzette Troupe, a quartette of lady acrobats, submit a good turn; Mr. A. P. Boswell, negro comedian, gives a clever and amusing performance; Harry Gold, comedian, sings in capital style; Miss Ivy Dene, soubrette; Salida and Vone, Creole duettists and dancers; Elsie Rubina, wire walker; the Gelders, illusionists; Miss Molly Augarde and Miss Marie Ray, ballad vocalists, complete an attractive programme.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—A capital programme is being submitted here this week, the principal attraction being Kaiser Wilhelms, military Hercules; Paul Conchas, the famous military juggler; Alex Kendall, patter comedian; Farr and Farland, patterers and sensational banjoists; Mount and Corelli, society entertainers at the piano; the Two Finneys, mermaids, who please; Little May Orchard, juvenile comedienne; and Mabel Bright and company, in a very enjoyable sketch, *Girls Will Be Girls*.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—A visit is being paid here this week by Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson's company, with *Her One Great Sin*. Mr. Jackson makes a capital Arnold Thornhill; Mr. Fred Hudson is good as Jerry Jumble; Miss Nellie Lambert as Nancy Winpenny, and Miss Maudie Lambert as Little Gracie, do exceedingly well; Miss Blanche St. Albans gives a clever representation of Grace Warhurst.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. Joseph Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. F. R. Benson's company is here this week in a series of the most notable productions of the Swan of Avon, meeting with the great success that it merits. A crowded audience assembled on Monday evening to witness *Henry V.* Mr. Henry Herbert gives a capital portraiture of the King, and is effective alike in the intensely dramatic as well as the lighter passages of the play; Mr. Charles Francis shows a fine appreciation of the humours of Pistol; and Mr. Ross Shore plays cleverly as Fluellen; the fine elocution of Mr. E. Spencer Geach, as the Duke of Exeter, is much admired; Miss Dorothy Green is a charming Katharine; and Miss Mary Webb is effective as Isabel; Miss Rosa Burgess scores well as Mistress Quickly. The dresses and staging is very effective. On Tuesday night *The School for Scandal* was staged, and that the comedy is still a favourite was evidenced by the crowded house. Mr. Henry Herbert, as Joseph Surface, realised the cunning and hypocrisy of the character; and Mr. Charles Francis, as Charles Surface, infused plenty of humour and life into the part; nothing could have been better than Mr. Reginald Davis's portrayal of Sir Oliver Surface; and Mr. E. Spencer Geach did convincing work as Sir Peter Teazle; as Lady Teazle, Miss Dorothy Green was seen to great advantage, her reading of the part drawing forth great applause. On the remaining nights *As You Like It*, *Macbeth*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Richard III.* were billed

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Willmot.—Another capital entertainment is doing good business here this week. Norman and Leonard Trio are heard to advantage in the musical sketch, *The Itinerant*; Dandy George and his remarkable dog are an acceptable turn; and the Lannons are clever duettists and dancers. Other good items are U. C. Ugo, the man of mystery; Blanche Marion, comedienne; Baroni and Kemp, change artists; Arthur Woodville, comedian; and the Royal Bioscope pictures.

WEDNESBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Kuner. — Messrs. Beaudyn and Crowe's company in *The Way of the World* is making a big hit here this week. Mr. Malcolm J. Cumming's characteristic rendering of Cecil Montague is hailed with hearty applause, and as Captain Fred Slade Mr. Victor Gordon makes a capital impression; Mr. Herbert Skardon plays the important part Mathew Malyon in an effective manner; excellent humour is provided by Mr. Augustus Hammond in the rôle of Horatio Bluff; Adela de la Roche is admirably portrayed by Miss Sidney Crowe, and as the heiress Marian Fanshaw Miss Laura Deering leaves little to be desired; Miss Marie Fontaine does well as Kate Montague and the rôle of Mlle. Bellini is ably sustained by Miss Violet Vivienne.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—*The Shadow of a Crime* is this week drawing good houses, the four-act drama being capably presented by Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's company. Harry Bullington finds a clever and manly exponent in Mr. Stephen Crossley, Sir Edward Bullington is effectively played by Mr. John H. Manley; a vigorous Jim Murdock is found in Mr. Wm. Mathews; the deep rascality of Ralph Esmond is clearly shown by Mr. Robert Forder; Mr. E. W. Avery keeps the house in a good humour in the character of Tom Brown; Mr. Alfred Richards lends excellent aid in his portrayal of Jim Todd; Miss Ina Grant plays the part of Loyale Norman with distinction; Dora Bullington is charmingly presented by Miss Dorothy Riddell; Miss Bertha St. Rude is all that can be desired as Sarah; and as Mrs. Brown Miss May Rosine causes much mirth.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—The programme this week is headed by Mr. George Gilbey, in his screamingly funny songs; the Ten Dixie Girls give a smart show, and well deserve the applause accorded them; a clever turn is submitted by Welda and Wynne; a mirth-provoking sketch, entitled *Semi-Detached*, is presented by the Meymotts; Ellis and Watts do well in their song and dance; Robins and Collier appear in a comedy scena, named *The Lady and the Porter*, and cause a great amount of genuine fun; Mrs. Oscar Luck's company in *Kismet* evokes much praise; an original turn is provided by the Bollingers, who produce some clever realistic pictures on the large screen entirely out of coloured rags; Montague Biggs is well received; and the Hippodrome pictures conclude the evening's entertainment.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's company is this week presenting *Proof*, which is being favourably received. Mr. Gerald Kennedy appears as Pierre Lorance, and presents a masterly portrayal of the character; Mr. W. J. Butler, in the rôle of Lazare, is conspicuously successful; judicious comedy is infused into the play by Mr. Wilford Bailey as Chamboran; and Adrienne and Valentine have capable exponents in Miss Beatrice Shirley and Miss May Grimshaw.

PALACE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—A most marvellous exhibition of the Protean art is that presented by R. A. Roberts in his production *Ringing the Changes*, a sketch of eight characters, all of which are taken by Mr. Roberts himself; the contortions by Leonzi are clever; Vox, the Irish ventriloquist, has wonderful facial control, and his diologue is crisp and witty; George Hyam contributes an acceptable item to the programme; and praise is due to Bert Harrow, comedian; Les Belles Americaines are loudly applauded for their vivacity; Bliss and Bliss, so popular here as pierrots, have had a good reception; and Raymond's Bio-tableau shows some new and interesting pictures.

WEST STANLEY. — VICTORIA THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Raws; Responsible Manager, Mr. John Cassidy.—Lovers of variety are well catered for here this week. Mlle. Florence is a clever globe-runner; Polly Adula, a winning comedienne; Hoozee's ventriloquial act evokes applause; the Arnolds give a mystifying act; the Astley Bros. are responsible for considerable amusement; Dale and D'Argan are clever comedy conjurers; Alvar is a favourite gymnast; Harry Kebble a good comedian; and the programme is brought to a close by Abex, the Miniature Hercules.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Messrs. Darcy and Little's company is here, playing *On the Stroke of Twelve*. Mr. Vin W. Carlyle gives a manly portrayal of Jack Rutledge; Mr. Fred Guiness is an effective George Bainbridge; Mr. Creagh Hunt makes a typical James Horton; Mr. Fred Ferne a good Harry Rutledge; Miss Nellie Moore is responsible for good acting as Jess Bainbridge; the rôle of Doris Rutledge is well handled by Miss Beatrice Moore; Miss Madge Laverton is a capable Marie; Mr. Syd T. Russell a typical Jew; and Mr. Fred Little as Jasper, a coloured gentleman, is responsible for good work.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—The following variety company is engaged here: Miss Daisy de Roy, Miss Violet Robson, the Sages (burlesque artists), Miss Edna Reeve, Bert Boothroyd (comedian), Fred Field (baritone), and Soros (illusionist).

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and L. Maitland's Lancashire play, *The Coal King*, appeals very strongly to the sympathies of a large section of this coal-mining district. The chief characters are admirably sustained by Mr. L. Maitland as Tom Roberts, mine-manager, and Miss Gertrude Valentine as Grace Shirley, a schoolmistress. Other prominent players are Messrs. Wm. A. Armour, Escott Robson, and Alfred Terris. Miss Sinna St. Clair as Mad Ann also displays much dramatic ability.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—The Craggs are exceptionally clever acrobats, and are enthusiastically received. Starr and Leslie, excellent vocalists and club-throwers, are also exceedingly popular; the Dunvilles, Elton and Elma, Leo, Johnny Holland and company, Harry Levaine, and the Sisters Volbecque provide a sufficiency of good comedy; and Mlle. de Rose, baritone, and J. H. Hawtrey, actor-vocalist, complete the bill.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—Still another visit is being paid by Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in the ever-popular *Royal Divorce*. The Josephine of Miss Edith Cole is so well and favourably known that no comment is necessary, and Mr. Frederick Victor is equally successful as Napoleon. The remaining characters are in the hands of Mr. Alfred Granville, Miss Helen Richmond, and other able artists.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Haley's Juveniles, a clever set of artists, are the leading attraction here this week; *Electra's Bower*, presented by Alma, Abdullah, and La Superbe, is a pleasing performance. Other items in the programme include George Martinengo, 'cello player; Roxburgh and Wright, comedians; Prince and Milner, quick-change artists; Hyram Travers, the pearly king; Bert Reeves, comedian; and Tom Davies' Comedy Sketch Company.

HIPPODROME.—The principal features in this week's programme are Arthur Conquest and company in the North American pantomime *The Sioux*, and Vi Carlyle, with "My Mountain Maid" song. Other attractions are Larmo, juggler; the Macdonald Trio, musicians; Frank Gee, comedian; Rita Resdan, character comedienne; and Miss Violet Nunn.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—The Moody-Manners Opera company is providing a full week's grand opera, commencing on Monday with *Faust*, and giving at successive performances, including a matinée, *Carmen*, *Lohengrin*, *Bohemian Girl*, *Il Trovatore*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Maritana*. The support accorded has been of a generous description, and will, it is hoped, lead to an annual visit. *Carmen*, with Mlle. Zelie de Lussan in the title-rôle, was, perhaps, chief attraction of the week, and for this performance there was a crowded house. Other well-known principals appearing during the week have included Misses Alice Boaden, Enriquetta Crichton, Rosina Beynon, Lucie Lever, Mary Norton, Messrs. Seth Hughes, George Neilson, Chas. Carter, Fredk. Erle, Maurice Pall, and Marshall Vincent. With a powerful chorus and largely augmented orchestra, several operas have been heard under the best of conditions, and the principals have entirely justified their great reputations.

WORKINGTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—On Monday night, Mr. T. Morton Powell's company presented *Honour Thy Father* to a large house, and was well received. Mr. B. N. Ross was a good hero; as the villain, Mr. W. R. Winning was forcible; Mr. Claude Merton was excellent as Merry; Mr. F. Roles was humorous as Mike; Mr Walter M. Cameron evinced skill and pathos as Garth; and Miss Kate Newton secured approval as his wife; Miss Mabel Coleman as Lillian gave satisfaction, and equally so Miss Winine Donovan as Mercy.

WREXHAM. — EMPIRE MUSIC HALL. — Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—The following strong company has appeared here during the past week: Burton and Trent, in their legmania and musical comedy act; Miss Maud Marlow, burlesque artist; Mr. Andie Burn, expert dancer; MacIntosh and Royal, clog dancers; Mr. J. H. Crew, character comedian; and the Empire Electric Animated Tableaux.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. J. Dacre.—Mr. F. J. Little's company is here again this week with *The Executioner's Daughter*. Mr. Stanley Radcliffe as Mons. Roche gives a telling rendition; Miss Nellie Howett is a charmingly natural Annette; and Miss Evelyn Robson as Felice acts a disagreeable rôle with much skill; Mr. W. Ruddle Brown as Paul Rovel is a capital exponent of a popular part; and the villainies of Felix Marus are accentuated by Mr. Juan de Alberti; much fun is caused by Mr. Willie Hicks and Bella Moody as comic servants.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook. — The York Operatic Amateurs are producing *My Lady Molly* this week, with unbounded success, which, to a great extent, is due to the excellent coaching of Mr. Geo. McCloskie and to the clever acting of the professionals engaged. Miss Mabel Lait is a most engaging Lady Molly; Miss Olivia Elton as Hester looks handsome, and acts with grace and charm; Mr. H. E. Bean is a dashing Capt. Romney; the tuneful vocalisation of Mr. Ernest Harries as Lionel Bland is one of the hits of the opera; and Mr. Albert Chapman as Sir Miles uses his splendid voice and ripe experience with excellent effect.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

On Thursday, Nov. 22,
Matinée of
"THE SPRING CHICKEN."

Encouraged by the success of previous matinées, Mr. Kay Draco enlisted the services of Mr. Geo. Dance's principal *Spring Chicken* company, and it was but natural that a good house should result. The play was admirably rattled through, and many of the numbers were rapturously applauded, and not a few redemanded. Premier honours go to Miss Chrissie Leonard, who proved altogether delightful as Rosalie; from start to finish she kept the house in constant good humour; her song "Rotterdam" won much applause, and she had to comply with many demands for repetitions throughout the afternoon. Mr. J. S. Durant was eminently successful as the impulsive young avocat, Gustave Babori. Everyone voted Mr. Girdle a droll dog, and very ably did Fred Payne enter into the fun, causing explosions of merriment right along the line; whether entertaining girls at the "Crimson Butterfly," or metaphorically fencing with Mme. Girdle, he was always amusing and often really clever, his duet with Babori, "Sunday in London," proved his versatility beyond doubt. Mr. Edwin Dodd made quite a clever little character-sketch of Felix, the head-waiter of the "Crimson Butterfly." Miss Nelly Kavanagh played the part of the jealous mother, Mrs. Girdle, and she acquitted herself to the satisfaction of everybody; her best vocal efforts were "Regent Street" and "I guess," both of which were redemanded. Quite prettily and effectively Miss Florence Lee sustained the part of the wife, Dulcie Babori; she made a decided success in her song, "Go gently." Another dainty impersonation that merits more than passing notice was the Baroness Papouche of Miss Poppy Poole; she sang with delightful *naïveté* "It's the very first time I've done this sort of thing." Mr. Ralph Holland, as the Baron Papouche, did very well; and mention may also be made of Stephen-Henry, who, as the precocious youth, popped up whenever opportunity occurred. Miss Nancy Reeve as La Belle Cissi looked handsome and danced prettily. Some excellent work, too, was done by Miss Lilian Erroll as Emmy-Lou; nor should dainty Miss Laura Hayden be omitted from the roll of honourable mention, inasmuch as her performance of Sybille was very charming. Minor parts were efficiently filled by Messrs. M. Frank Stewart, A. Burton, C. Nikola, and Mesdames V'Ames, Percheron, Kitty Carlisle, and Enid Brook. The chorus and orchestra did excellently under the direction of Mr. Knight Pearce, while Mr. Harry B. Earle was responsible for the company generally, and left nothing to be desired. To Mr. Kay Draco considerable credit is due for the excellent arrangements throughout.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

MR. EDWARD TERRY, writing from Dublin, sent to Mr. William Johnson, secretary of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, three cheques of £8 each, being the final portion of the Dramatic and Musical Fund for the following societies:—The Heads of Departments' Association, the General Staff Branch N.A.T.E., and the General Theatrical Operatives Sick and Benevolent Society. The other societies benefiting by the distribution of these funds are the Actors' Benevolent Fund, the Actors' Orphanage, and the Theatrical Ladies' Guild.

THE Stage Employees' Concert Committee have received the following additions to the list of patrons:—Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Cyril Maude, and Mr. Edward Terry. Miss Genevieve Ward and Mrs. Cecil Raleigh have each taken tickets for a box.

THERE appears to be an energetic competition between two stage-managers connected with West End theatres as to which can sell the most tickets for the concert on Dec. 22. At present Mr. Harry Norton, at the Haymarket Theatre, is leading. It may be as well to remind intending supporters that there is a great demand for tickets for the concert, and no time should be lost by those who wish to be present. Mr. George Faber, M.P., has placed his box at the Opera House at the disposal of the Concert Committee. See advertisement columns for full particulars.

A WELL-attended meeting of the Provisional Committee appointed to form a daymen's branch of the National Society was held during the week. The following officers have been appointed:—Chairman, Mr. Ed. Keating; vice-chairman, Mr. A. Searle; treasurer, Mr. W. Crane; secretary, Mr. G. W. Farrell. It was decided that the entrance fee should be 2s. 6d. and the contribution 3d. per week, being 2d. to the General Fund and 1d. per week to the Benevolent Fund. Any dayman who has been continuously employed for twelve months in any stage department, a painting-room, or theatrical workshop is eligible for membership.

THE Islington Trades Council have passed a resolution recommending the granting of a licence for the Finsbury Empire to Mr. Oswald Stoll, subject to an agreement to pay the rate of wage recognised by the Theatrical Employees' Societies and the Musicians' Union.

AT the moment of going to press we regret to learn that Mr. T. Sheridan, whose condition has for some time been hopeless, died at eleven o'clock yesterday (Friday) morning. His brother, Mr. David Sheridan, has been appointed electrician at the Waldorf Theatre.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie gave his last lecture on "Bohemian Music" on Wednesday afternoon, and in speaking of the great composer Dvorák, said he would principally confine his lecture to his early career. Dvorák, the son of a butcher, was born in 1841, and early manifested a taste for music, and, against his father's wishes, contrived to get some kind of tuition, the lecturer remarking that in his former lecture he referred to the fact that most schoolmasters were required to teach music in Bohemia. At last, after a hard fight, Dvorák, in 1857, was allowed to become a pupil in the Organ School at Prague. About this time Dvorák was so poor that even a piano was beyond his reach,

"DAVID GARRICK."

David Garrick .....CHARLES WYNDHAM
Simon Ingot .....MR. LOUIS CALVERT
Squire Chivey .....MR. SIDNEY BROUGH
Mr. Smith .....MR. H. PAULTON
Mr. Brown .....MR. REGINALD WALTER
Mr. Jones .....MR. BERTRAM STEER
William .....MR. LAWRENCE WHITE
George .....MR. J. NAPPER
Mrs. Smith .....MISS EMILY VINING
Miss Araminta Brown ....MISS CAROLINE EWELL
Ada Ingot .....MISS MARY MOORE

There was a gratifying attendance at the special matinée of *David Garrick* given under Mr. Charles Calvert's management at the New Theatre on Thursday. A special interest attached to the revival in view of the fact that Mr. Calvert appeared in the rôle of the old city merchant, Simon Ingot. For Mr. Calvert's characterisation we have nothing but praise. It was a picture of flesh and blood and a good deal of human feeling. Simon Ingot stood before us, the affectionate father who would give way to his winsome and rather self-willed daughter on every subject and in every request she had to make except as to her marrying a play-actor—Simon Ingot, the typical self-made man, who required something more than mere sentimental reasoning to convince him that it was possible for a play-actor to be gentlemen, and to disabuse him of his prejudice against the theatre. But if Mr. Calvert showed us a materialist, he also showed a man with a heart and a man with a understanding, and his portraiture brought out in convincing fashion the essential traits of the individual he represented. Sir Charles Wyndham gave his deligthful performance of David Garrick. The lovable and high-minded attributes of the generous-souled actor were indicated in a manner that would, we doubt not, have secured a pæan of praise from Sir Charles's prototype. Sir Charles Wyndham's scholarly interpretation of the part needs no commendation at this day. His name in association with Garrick's is always regarded as a pleasant memory by all who have seen him enact the rôle. Miss Mary Moore was as engaging, tender, affectionate, and sincere as Ada Ingot, and her work revealed that thought and care and artistic realism to which this accomplished actress has accustomed us. Mr. Sidney Brough played with spirit and with rollicking good humour and youthful abandon the part of the inebriate Squire Chivey, and Mr. H. Paulton was ludicrously comical as Mr. Smith; while Mr. Reginald Walter as Mr. Brown and Mr. Bertram Steer as Mr. Jones added each his quota to the humorous side of the play. As the absurdly-affected, absurdly-mannered, and absurdly-attired Miss Araminta Brown, Miss Caroline Ewell was intensely entertaining, and evidenced an adequate appreciation of the quaint comedy of the character; while Miss Emily Vining realised to good effect the superciliousness and ridiculous hauteur of Mrs. Smith.

In response to enthusiastic cries for speech, Sir Charles Wyndham once more stepped before the footlights, and after thanking the audience for their reception of him, went on: "You may, perhaps, like to know why this special performance has been given. I have not announced the fact, though I may tell you in confidence that this month and this week twenty years ago we first produced *David Garrick*, and it speaks volumes for your kindness and your indulgence that, with one exception, every year of those twenty years has been marked by a revival of this play, and this, of all the houses that I have had during these twenty years, is the largest and the most enthusiastic. There has been during the last few days an after-thought of mine that another benefit would accrue from it. A little while ago Miss Moore received a letter from a mutual friend of ours in New York regretting that I was in such a sorry state of health. He thought by my long holiday it meant serious illness. This performance should be a polite reply to the contrary, although on second thoughts, I am not quite sure it would be so effective, because if they read—as they probably will—of your wonderful reception of us, they will attribute my present condition to the excitement which you have engendered. I may say with candour that such a welcome as yours I think would revive a corpse. It has had one effect, and that is, a determination on my part, as soon as I possibly can, to return to my ordinary duties on the stage. I cannot exactly say what date, but I can say in the words of my friend Chivy, "that my intentions are honourable though remote," and since I am indulging in confidences, permit me to make one more. I have already told you what infinite pleasure you have given to my partner, Miss Moore, and myself, and talking it over this afternoon, we came to the conclusion we should like others, a little less fortunate than ourselves, in some way to participate in that pleasure. So we have decided to give a performance of this play on Monday week, Dec. 3, for the benefit of the Actors' Benevolent Fund. It is our intention to defray all the expenses and give the entire receipts to them, and in connection with that you will perhaps allow me to mention two gracious and generous acts, first, that Mr. Calvert (my tenant for the present) has offered the theatre for that occasion rent free, and the rest of the company, cheered by your kindness, have all volunteered their gratuitous services. We trust, therefore, that this fund, which needs assistance so much, will benefit considerably by your kindness and by theirs. I take a special interest in this cause. Being the president of the fund, I am taking the chair on Dec. 5. And now all I have to say to you is to thank you and to wish you a grateful au revoir."

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"HER SON."

A Comedy, in Four Acts, by Horace Annesley Vachell, produced for the first time at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, on Thursday, Nov. 15, 1906.

Dick Gascoyne .....MR. EILLE NORWOOD
Sir Augustus Helmingham .....MR. HARRY ASHFORD
Min (in Act II.) ....MASTER BOBBIE ANDREWS
Min (in Acts III. and IV.) ..MR. M. WETHERELL
Parfiete .....MR. H. CANNON GEORGE
Lady Curragh .....MISS MAY CHEVALIER
Chrystal Wride .....MISS MINNA BLAKISTON
Susan Judkins .....MISS KEITH LYTTON
Lady Helmingham .....MISS EILEEN MUNRO
Kitty Tabard .....MISS HARRIET TRENCH
Toy Seller .....MISS YVONNE MOREL
Dorothy Fairfax .....MISS WINIFRED EMERY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

This new play is designated by the author a comedy, and doubtless the conventional and satisfactory "happy ending" justifies the name, but the story, very early in its development, takes a serious tinge, and retains it to within a few minutes of the fall of the curtain. When the play opens we are introduced to Miss Dorothy Fairfax, a bright and animated young lady of independent views, who has, in opposition to the wishes of her relations, become engaged to a clever but impecunious young journalist, Dick Gascoyne. Dorothy's worldly uncle and aunt, Sir Augustus and Lady Helmingham, even tempt her with an offer of marriage from an earl, but she remains firm. However, a few minutes afterwards there is ushered in one Chrystal Wride, a music-hall dancer, who had befriended the journalist in his days of penury, nursed him through an illness, and latterly lived with him for a time. To save this woman from suicide, Dorothy promises to postpone her marriage for a year at least, or even indefinitely. On this assurance Chrystal Wride departs, telling Dorothy that her good-heartedness has "saved *two* lives." When Gascoyne is told about the visit, and the postponement of the wedding, he accepts an engagement as war correspondent in Africa, and is absent for several years. Meanwhile, the dancer dies in giving birth to a son, and at the request of the dying mother, Dorothy adopts the child. As this still further estranges her relations, she, with her faithful servant Susan, removes to France, where she passes as a widow to save awkward explanations regarding the boy, and there she remains for about eight years. During this time Dick Gascoyne returns from Africa, follows Dorothy to France, and hearing her referred to as a married lady with a young son, returns to England without making any further inquiries, and marries soon after. The next meeting between Dick and Dorothy takes place at Bournemouth, and she is on the point of telling the actual parentage of the boy when the news that Dick is married stops her, and as she has become much attached to Min, as he is called, she allows the father to depart without any hint of the truth. Ten years elapse, and we find Dorothy and her grown-up son residing at Winchester. The boy has appealed to "Sir" Richard Gascoyne, who has now amassed vast wealth, and in response the millionaire-journalist comes in person to see what can be arranged. He is followed by his jealous wife, who is in failing health, and in a dramatic scene this lady accuses Dorothy of being her husband's mistress, and brands the son as the fruits of their supposed guilt. The upshot is that the excitement upsets Lady Gascoyne, who goes off home, and conveniently dies; explanations ensue regarding the parentage of Min, and the father (in a scene somewhat reminiscent of a similar one in *A Woman of No Importance*) expresses much admiration for the manly young fellow, of whose relationship he had till then been quite in the dark. A quiet, but effective, interview between Dorothy and Sir Richard follows, and the curtain falls on the prospective realisation of their long-deferred happiness.

The play obtained excellent treatment from Miss Winifred Emery and her company, and the reception of it was most enthusiastic. As the tender-hearted Dorothy, Miss Emery was particularly good, and her scenes with Dick in the first act, the depth of her feeling for Min in the later scenes, and the dramatic power of her acting in the concluding act, were alike admirable. Mr. Eille Norwood, as Dick Gascoyne (the part which will in London, we understand, be taken by Mr. Cyril Maude), was well placed, and from the light-hearted gaiety of the love-making scenes, to the restrained but powerful intensity of the more dramatic moments, he easily carried the sympathies of the audience with him. Miss Minna Blakiston, as Chrystal Wride, is only seen in the first act, but her performance was a striking and clever one. The ostentation and vulgarity of the character, hidden beneath a slight veneer of polish ("You notice I speak like a lady now," she says pathetically), were given with convincing fidelity. As Min, the little boy in Act II., Master Bobbie Andrews, gave an exceptionally bright performance, without the slightest touch of staginess, and his reception by the audience was most hearty, even when later on in the evening he was ensconced in a private box. In Acts III. and IV. Min is played by Mr. M. A. Wetherell, and he was able to give the impression (rather difficult in most plays) that we were witnessing the same open-hearted, bright boy as he would be after ten years' interval. In the strong scene, where he first learns his actual parentage, his acting was both powerful and pathetic. Mr. Harry Ashford and Miss Eileen Munro ably hit off the conventional society couple as Sir Augustus and Lady Helmingham. Miss Harriet Trench, as Kitty Tabard, who marries Gascoyne, gave a clever performance. Miss May Chevalier as the sympathetic Lady Curragh, Miss Keith Lytton as the faithful Susan Judkins, and Mr. H. Cannon George as Min's friend Parfiete, all lent able assistance. Miss Yvonne Morel, cleverly made up, gave a touch of character to the toy-seller in the Bournemouth scene. At the first performance the play went absolutely without a hitch, and the success of it was immediate. Calls were given to all the principals at the end of each act, and at the conclusion, in response to loud demands for the author, Mr. Vachell appeared before the curtain, and thanked the audience most heartily for the enthusiastic reception they had accorded the new play.

MISS MAIMIE BRICKWELL.

MISS MAIMIE BRICKWELL on Saturday last sailed for South Africa under contract to Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler to play the leading parts in a répertoire of musical plays, including *The White Chrysanthemum*, *The Dairymaids*, *The Beauty of Bath*, &c. Miss Brickwell is a daughter of Mr. H. T. Brickwell, for many years lessee of the Garrick, Globe, and Court Theatres, and made her first appearance as one of the little schoolgirls in the revival of *The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown* at the Court Theatre some four years ago. Since then, despite the fact that she aspires to play comedy parts, she has drifted into musical comedy, having played leading parts in Mr. George

MISS MAIMIE BRICKWELL.

Edwardes's *San Toy*, *Kitty Grey*, and *Three Little Maids* companies on tour with great success. Miss Brickwell is accompanied by her sister Eva, who is under engagement to the same management, and who plays under the *nom de théâtre* of Eva May.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Nov. 19, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Arthur Shirley, entitled "THE MIDNIGHT MAIL."

Critical audiences have to be faced this week by *The Midnight Mail* at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, for in the neighbourhood are the huge works of the Great Eastern Railway, whose employees form no inconsiderable proportion of the patrons of Mrs. Ellis Frederick's popular melodrama theatre. That the incidents of railway life stand the test well is evidenced by the loud applause which the piece evokes, and the success of its former visit is being easily repeated. Mr. Alfred Goddard depicts the temptations of the engine-driver, Harry Steyne, with much realism, and his fine stage appearance and fluent diction render the character additionally popular. In depicting such a strange character as the drunken, dissolute stoker, Billy Brewer, Mr. Fred G. Evison displays strong histrionic ability, mirth and pathos being blended with fine judgment. Mr. Robert Grey makes an outspoken and convincing Leonard Royle; and the scheming Hassan Padisha is capitally delineated by Mr. Arthur Gilroy, who combines also the duties of stage-management. Mr. Charles McCann does well as the good-hearted Donald Craig; Mr. J. Warburton makes an admirable Superintendent at the Waif's Home; Mr. A. Dobell Lyle submits a clever sketch of the signalman Jasper Thornleigh; and Mr. J. Ingledew is well placed as Sergeant O'Flynn. Miss Phyllis Dailley is a handsome and pleasing exponent of Lady Phyllis Eustace; Miss Ada Oakley acts in entire sympathy with the part of Mary Steyne; and Miss Mildred Carr plays with the utmost success as Nancy Brewer. Miss Grace Chesterfield is good as Mrs. Mildmay, the Matron of the Waifs' Home, and Miss Dolly Gilroy plays Patty appropriately.

"THE BEAUTY SHOP."

A Musical "Something-to-laugh-at," in three scenes, by W. H. Kirby, Music by George Gee, and Lyrics by Douglas B. Watson, Produced at the New Gaiety Theatre, Ayr, on Thursday, Nov. 15.

Daniel Dobbs .....MR. W. H. KIRBY
John Jenkins .....MR. D. R. WATSON
Harry St. Clare .....MR. E. H. BERTRAM
Colonel Berry .....MR. CHAS. HOWITT
Constable Higgins ..MR. REG. HUGH HUMBER
Jasper .....MR. WILL B. CRONIN
Mrs. Agnes Dobbs .....MISS NORAH MELTON
Miss Mary Dobbs .....MISS K. EMMETT
Angelina Blossom .....MISS MILLIE GORDON
Bertha .....MISS M. BANKS
Susette .....MISS CORDELIA KNIGHT

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

On Thursday evening of last week, in the New Gaiety Theatre, Ayr, Mr. W. H. Kirby successfully produced his new play. The title of the comedy is *The Beauty Shop*, but we think *The Troubles of Daniel Dobbs* would be more appropriate. It is a game of complications from the rise to the fall of the curtain, and these are so deftly worked into the fabric of the play that an amused bewilderment alternates with laughter that cannot be controlled. The piece affords opportunity for an artist like Mr. Kirby to revel in his humour, yet he has not forgotten any of those who take part with him, for all have their opportunities. As Mrs. Agnes Dobbs, Miss Nora Melton gave a most pleasing impersonation; Susette, a French girl, had a sweet exponent, who sang delightfully, in Miss Cordelia Knight; Miss K. Emmett played the part of Miss Mary Dobbs very cleverly; but Miss Millie Gordon divided honours with Mr. Kirby in her clever embodiment of the slavey, Angelina Blossom. Mr. D. B. Watson was the John Jenkins, and Mr. E. H. Bertram was Harry St. Clare, and they played their parts very well; while Mr. Chas. Howitt made a characteristic Colonel Berry, and in the scene between him and Dobbs, the garrulous passage of words is of the most comical description. There are many opportunities for working in special business. In the last scene, the characters are assembled in the garden grounds of Mr. Daniel Dobbs, and strut about in fancy costume, prior to a rehearsal of *Hamlet*, which they are going to produce for the benefit of some charity. Into the midst of this assembly comes Mr. Dobbs, who, to avert the discovery of his former acquaintance with Susette, conceals his identity in many disguises, but particularly as the waiter, he extracts much fun from the situation. The piece abounds in smart things, play upon words, witty sayings, and with ludicrous situations, and is bound to prove a draw. The music is by Mr. George Gee and the lyrics by Mr. Douglas B. Watson, and there are several very good songs in the piece, notably "That's how a married man's found out," and "When a man's in love."

MISS DAPHNE DE ROHAN

AS A SUPPORTER OF "L'ENTENTE CORDIALE," AND FRENCH AND ENGLISH LIFE-SAVING SOCIETIES.

Chère Mademoiselle de Rohan,—

I take a very early opportunity of again expressing my most sincere thanks for the charming performance you gave last night. I was enchanted; and one thing struck me very forcibly: it is the wonderful power you possess of "throwing your voice" so as to fill such a very large hall. It is marvellous! Every word you spoke could be heard as if one were quite near. Excuse this brief tribute and accept my kindest souvenirs.

(Signed). BARON L. DE SANTA MARIA,
Delegate-General of French and Belgian Life-Saving Societies; Chevalier de l'Ordre du Devoir, Ordre de St. Jean Baptiste (Spain), &c., &c.

Nov. 3, 1906.

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Bow Schools Swimming Association Prize Day.

The interest was, however, centred in Mlle. Daphne de Rohan's splendid impersonation of Lady Teazle in the well-known Quarrel Scenes from the *School for Scandal* Mlle. Daphne de Rohan, who has obtained world-wide fame as a society actress, vocalist, instrumentalist (mandolinist), and dancer, not to speak of other accomplishments, is an honorary member and patroness of the French "Mariniers Ambulanciers," and being much interested in swimming and life-saving work, kindly gave her services to the committee. Mlle. de Rohan, who specially arranged the scene and composed the very elegant gavotte therein introduced, really surpassed herself. Gowned in a lovely silver, pearl covered costume, which enhanced her natural charms, she seemed the perfect incarnation of the wayward lady of fashion of that bygone age of perruques and powder. Her enunciation is particularly clear and silvery, and, when she danced with old-world grace the stately measures of the gavotte the finishing touch was given to a chef d'œuvre of dramatic art. At the conclusion, amidst loud applause, Mlle. de Rohan received a fine bouquet from the committee. —Kent Herald, Nov. 11, 1906.

MR. J. BANNISTER HOWARD will put before his rapidly-increasing patrons at the Crystal Palace Theatre next week Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company in *Three Little Maids*. At Mr. Howard's Castle Theatre, Richmond, for the last three evenings of the week, the attraction will be *Lights Out*, presented by Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory's company.

NEW PLAYS AT LADBROKE HALL.

The Thalia Dramatic Society presented at Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, on Thursday evening three new one-act plays. The first of these was a comedietta by Kitty Smart, entitled

"HER NEXT NOVEL."

Sir Giles Cripplegate..MR. HOLDSWORTH FISHER
Hugh Trevor .....MR. G. ESDALE
Norah Fitzgerald .....MISS FLORENCE DOWSE
Lily Landon .....MISS MINNA WING
Susan .....MISS G. HEINRICH

A quiet, simple little piece, fairly well written, and quite suitable for amateur actors. Norah Fitzgerald is a lady novelist who lives in a flat, where she receives a visit from Sir Giles Cripplegate and her friend Lily Landon. Norah is secretly in love with a young man named Hugh Trevor, but finding she has a rival for his affections in Lily, she generously sacrifices her own feelings and promises to help her friend. Therefore when Hugh calls, and after explaining that he has just had the offer of a lucrative appointment, makes ardent love to Norah, his amatory overtures are coldly received. He naturally believes that he has been deceived by the lady and that his wooing is only to be made use of as material for a penny novelette. Norah, however, remains staunch to her friend, and Hugh takes his departure in high dudgeon. Then Lily Landon, who may reasonably be described as a fickle young person, returns and joyfully announces that Sir Giles has asked her to marry him, and she has consented. Hugh Trevor also comes back to ask forgiveness for the unkind words he had used to Norah, who quickly gives him to understand that she has changed her mind, whereupon he is overcome with joy. He enquires why she refused his offer of marriage an hour or so ago, and she replies—not quite truthfully, be it said—"Oh, simply to gain a new experience for my next novel." Mr. G. Esdale played the part of Hugh Trevor with commendable earnestness and conviction; and Miss Florence Dowse was a pleasing but amateurish Norah Fitzgerald. Mr. Holdsworth Fisher made Sir Giles Cripplegate an irritatingly inane individual; Miss Minna Wing was an animated Lily Landon, and Miss G. Heinrich as the servant Susan completed the cast.

The next new production was a fantastic play by B. N. Graham, entitled

"THE ROSE WITH A THORN."

Pierrot .....MR. ERNEST HOWE
Pierrette .....MISS GERTRUDE CHURCHILL
Corin, a Shepherd .....MR. G. ESDALE
Mira, a Shepherdess .....MISS GRACE BATLEY

Fantistic but not very funny, this little play shows only a faint glimmering of real humour. The plot, too, is somewhat nebulous; but we gather that Pierrot and Pierrette, travellers from Moonlight, pay a visit to Sunland in search of adventures, and on the borders of a wood make the acquaintance of Corin, a shepherd, and Mira, a pretty shepherdess, with whom he is very deeply in love. Mira carries in her hand a small rose bush, and the strong perfume of the flowers apparently possesses some potent influence, for after smelling the roses Corin suddenly transfers his affections to Pierrette, and snubs poor Mira. However, matters are put right by the magic pricks of the thorn, and the travellers from Moonland depart, leaving the bucolic lovers quite reconciled and happy. Mr. Ernest Howe and Miss Gertrude Churchill sustained the parts of Pierrot and Pierrette with appropriate vivacity of manner; Mr. G. Esdale was amusing as the love-lorn shepherd, and Miss Grace Batley spoke her lines well as the shepherdess.

The third piece in the programme was a comedy in one act, by F. E. Potter, entitled

"KNAVE OF HEARTS."

Sir Ralph Hamilton-Eyre, Bart. .....MR. CORYTON DAY
Dick Cuninghame .....MR. ERNEST HOWE
Peters .....MR. PLANTAGENET LUMSDALE
Dulcie Fane .....MISS G. HEINRICH

Knave of Hearts reveals the inexperienced playwright in a lurid light. The action is much too slow, the story is awkwardly handled, and much of the dialogue is inept, discursive, and hopelessly feeble. Sir Ralph Hamilton-Eyre, late of the Indian Service, and his niece, Dulcie Fane, are on the rise of the curtain discovered in a summer-house on the banks of the Thames. They indulge in a game of nap, of which the old gentleman from India is very fond, and the knave of hearts turns up with remarkable frequency, and wins a trick every time. The audience were not sorry when the—to them—tedious game was interrupted by the arrival of Dick Cuninghame, *alias* Aubrey Lyle, who has performed some gallant deed in one of our little wars in India, and is described by the enthusiastic old gentleman as "the lion of the season." He and Dulcie have met before, and parted years ago through a misunderstanding which arose in consequence of an undelivered letter. The young man enlisted in an assumed name, and has risen to the rank of captain. Explanations ensue, and the one-time lovers renew their vows, the gentleman's advent having been forecast by the eccentric behaviour of the knave of hearts. Mr. Coryton Day did very well in the part of the old gentleman from India; Mr. Ernest Howe was a satisfactory Dick Cuninghame; Miss G. Heinrich was an intelligent and graceful Dulcie Fane, and Mr. Plantagenet Lumsdale appeared as Peters. A programme of music by the St. James's Orchestra of amateurs, under the direction of Mr. Sydney W. Toms, was played during the intervals.

PRINCESS LOUISE (Duchess of Argyll), accompanied by the Duke of Argyll and suite, were present at Wyndham's Theatre on Thursday, and witnessed the performance of *Peter's Mother*.

CHAPPELL & CO.'S PANTOMIME SUCCESSES.

Songs for Principal Boy:

"WHISPERS OF LOVE,"
"THE PARISIENNE,"
"VIVE LE SPORT,"
"MAL DE MER,"
by Harry Fragson.

"ROSE-A-RUBIE," by Bernard Rolt.

"WHEN THE STARS ARE SHINING IN THE SKY,"
by Garnet Wolseley Cox.

"RAMONA" (Indian Love Song),
by Lee Johnson.

Songs for Principal Girl:

"LOVE'S LAST WORD,"
by Octave Cremieux.

"THE LILY OF BOULTER'S LOCK,"
"THE LITTLE GOLD FIREFLY,"
by Bernard Rolt.

Songs for Principal Girl:—continued.

"LA MATTCHICHE" (Maxixe),
by Ch. Borel-Clerc.

"WHEN THE STARS ARE SHINING IN THE SKY,"
by Garnet Wolseley Cox.

"KISSING IS NO SIN,"
by Edw. Eysler.

Songs for Fairy Queen:

"CARESSANTE,"
by Frank Lambert.

"THE WIND IN THE ORCHARD,"
by Frank E. Tours.

"A SONG OF ANDALUSIA,"
by E. J. Margetson.

Songs for Comedian:

"VIVE LE SPORT,"
"MAL DE MER,"
"THE PARISIENNE,"
by Harry Fragson.

"A SURPRISE,"
by Frank E. Tours.

N.B.—We can confidently recommend all the above, as they have been placed with most of the principal Pantomimes throughout the country. Professional copies will be supplied to recognised artists upon receipt of professional card and six stamps for each song required.

Instrumental:

"THE WHISTLER AND HIS DOG,"
Caprice, by Arthur Pryor.

"HOP-SCOTCH," Two-Step,
by Paul A. Rubens.

Instrumental:—continued.

"HALLO! HALLO!" March,
by P. Maria Costa.

"CHRISTMAS," Valse,
by Alfred Margis.

"FOLIE D'AMOUR," Valse,
by Paul Fanchey.

"FASCINATION," Valse,
by F. D. Marchetti.

"WIENER FRAUEN," Valse,
by Franz Lehar.

"REVE DE JEUNESSE," Valse,
"SOURIRE D'AMOUR," Valse,
by Frank Lambert.

N.B.—The above are particularly recommended for Ballets and Marches.

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Musical Play, entitled
"THE BLUE MOON."

Mr. Robert Courtneidge's *Dairymaids* company has been succeeded this week by his *Blue Moon* company, the first visit to the North of London of this successful Lyric musical extravaganza. The representation is as finished and complete and as sumptuously mounted as could be wished for. Full advantage is taken of the opportunities presented by the Marlborough stage for the effective presentment of the gorgeous scenery, and the quick change of the elaborate sets is in no small measure due to the able stage-management of Mr. David Fisher, jun., and his assistants. The company is one and all up to a very high standard of merit. Miss Florence Smithson scores a distinct success both by her quiet acting and with the vocal numbers allotted to the part of Chandra Nil. Mr. Herbert Clayton met with a hearty reception as Captain Jack Ormsby. His acting is good, and he is a singer of exceptional merit. Both artists are encored for their contributions, and especially good is their duet "Mystic Love." Mr. Leslie Gaze plays and sings well as Major Vivian Callabone, and Mr. George Mudie, jun., deserves favourable mention for his breezy portrayal of Bobby Scott. Mr. Thomas Holding is to be commended for a clever performance as Prince Badahur Samatsinjhi; and Mr. J. W. Duval (Abdul), Mr. Walter Lynham (Hafez), Mr. Arthur Wyndham (Hon. Archie May), and Mr. Horace Manger (Clive Mansfield) treat their respective characters in a natural and effective manner. Mr. Bert Gilbert as Private Charles Taylor works like a Trojan; his comedy acting is above the average, and his real ability for versatile dancing makes him a conspicuous figure. His comic rendering of the song "Mother" is much appreciated, and many encores are demanded for his "Crocodile" song and eccentric dance, in which he is ably assisted by a number of "Oriental" ladies. Miss Lulu Valli is a smart and vivacious Millicent Leroy. Both these artists play well into each others hands. Miss Valli secures a well-earned encore for "She didn't know," and both she and Mr. Gilbert in their burlesque on music hall items appear quite exhausted before the audience is satisfied. Mr. Edward Lewis is funny in the part of Moolraj; his dry humour and the alert way he scores points when opportunity serves are indeed capital. Miss Mabel Lorrell plays Lady Augusta Brabasham, and her voice and manner contribute to a successful reading of the rôle. Miss Daisy Revett is very smart as Evelyn Ormsby; she has a happy manner of imparting the maximum of piquancy to the lines falling to her share. In the remaining parts all are deserving of praiseworthy mention, but we must not omit to pay a deserved compliment to Mr. Ernest Hurman, the musical conductor, and the chorus, which has been so well drilled, acquit themselves with merit.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Play, by Wilkie Collins, entitled
"THE NEW MAGDALEN."

Mr. Mulholland's revival of *The New Magdalen* is a distinctly interesting one. He is the proud possessor of the original MSS. in Wilkie Collins's handwriting, and, we believe, holds the performing rights of the play. Upon both of which he can be congratulated. *The New Magdalen* is the most skilful and was the most successful of Wilkie Collins's several plays, and ought to be much more in demand. The part of Mercy Merrick requires the powers of a really great actress, and the present production fortunately can boast of having been the means of giving a further example of the remarkable talent of a young actress of extraordinary promise, namely, Miss Edith Wynne-Matthison. She positively electrified the house on Monday evening by her powerful acting, and in the scene where, stung by her taunts, she defies Grace Roseberry she received a well-merited ovation. Mr. Walner Gregory assisted by a very spirited representation of Horace Holmcroft. Captain Arnault was capably played by Mr. F. L. Lawrence, and Mr. James Storey made a clever Surgeon Surville. A sound performance was that of Mr. Lloyd Townrow as Surgeon Wetzell, the German army doctor. Mr. Ernest E. Norris rendered Julian Gray, the clergyman, very successfully. His acting was well within the picture, and he proved a valuable colleague in the scenes with Mercy Merrick. As Grace Roseberry Miss Ethel Royale bore herself with proper distinction and skill in that very unsympathetic part; and Miss Phyllis Manners scored as the dear old Lady Janet Roy. The scenery was, as usual, up to the high standard of the King's Theatre.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, by
Brandon Thomas, entitled
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

The old lady hailing from Brazil, "where the nuts come from," is still running, and this week she is in Camden Town, where her stage career is being laughed at as heartily as ever. Mr. Brandon Thomas's capital company opened at the Camden on Monday to a well-filled house, and the comedy went as merrily as ever. Mr. Stanley Cooke again appears as Lord Fancourt Babberly, and his assumption of the rôle of Charley's aunt is as mirth-provoking as of yore, for he never overdoes the part, and proves his value as a first-rate comedian. As Jack Chesney Mr. Hastings Lynn is in every way acceptable; and Mr. Richard B. Mason is decidedly good as Charley Wykeham. Miss Lena McNaughton is seen to advantage as the real Donna Lucia, a part which she fills in a distinguished manner. The Misses Lilyan Lait and Kitty Carew are both most charming as Kitty Verdum and Amy Spettigue. Ela Delahay is fascinatingly depicted by Miss Eva Boyne, who plays in a very sweet manner; Stephen Spettigue has a fine exponent in Mr. Walter Beaumont, who hits off the character in most amusing fashion. Mr. Sydney Compton, in his old part of Brassett, is again most successful; and Mr. C. B. Keston is likewise good as Sir Francis Chesney. The comedy is preceded by a clever little play, *Fourchette and Co.*, also from the pen of Mr. Thomas, in which Mr. C. B. Keston and Miss Eva Boyne appear with much success. Mr. C. B Keston is the stage-manager, and Mr. Alleyn M. Hylton the manager of the company.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Comedy, by Edward A. Parry and Frederick Mouillot, entitled
"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW."

It has long been known *What the Butler Saw* at Foden Wells Hydro, but the story—as interpreted by Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche's capable company—is so humorous and entertaining that it is very evident that for years to come it will be well worth repeating. The visit had been eagerly anticipated by Clapham playgoers, and at the opening performance on Monday evening the theatre, from floor to ceiling, was filled with an enthusiastic audience. Miss Ada Blanche, by her clever and spirited impersonation of the fascinating Mrs. Barrington, added another triumph to her long list of successes, and at the final fall of the curtain was accorded much applause. The popular comedian, Mr. Lionel Rignold, as Pink the butler, has a part which suits him to perfection. Mr. Charles Fawcett contributed a delightful embodiment of Jack Barrington, who is so susceptible to the charms of the fair sex, and in an arduous and exacting rôle acquitted himself with distinct success. Another good performance was that of Mr. Reddick Anderson, who submitted a natural and polished performance as Sir Charles Foden. Mr. George Ascott scored with a clever delineation of the peppery General Dunlop; and Mr. Harry Rignold depicted the Jew, Abraham Weinstein, with excellent effect. Mr. Louis Lingard as Sydney Clifford, Mr. Alec Alves as Vere de Bogyns, and Mr. Frank Kingsley as Dr. Clayton were capable exponents of their respective parts; and Mr. Roy Boyford as Professor Shales caused much laughter by his appearance, in the last act, as an early Briton. Miss Marie Daltra displayed considerable ability in the rôle of Miss Foden; and Miss Jenny Wigney was pleasing as Nora. Miss Hilda Davies and Miss Vera O'Connell, as the two Miss Dunlops, also rendered valuable assistance. Miss Violet Gould as Mrs. Fleming Smyth, and Miss Annie Coward as Mrs. Hake, contributed excellent performances in their respective parts, and are deserving of warm praise. Miss Minnie Willett was satisfactory as Sophonisba Hake; and the parts of Fanny and Maria were adequately sustained by Miss Agnes Webster and Miss Dorothy Garth. The scenery is admirable, and the dresses, &c., very effective. Mr. W. H. Cecil Pierpont is acting-manager for Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche.

THE CORONET.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
"THE SPRING CHICKEN."

Mr. George Edwardes's company is appearing this week at the pretty Notting Hill Gate theatre, under the business-management of Mr. W. H. Hesseltine. The piece is prettily mounted and dressed, and the scene at the Crimson Butterfly Restaurant is gorgeous in the extreme. Miss Gertrude Glyn is delightfully winsome and sparkling with animation as the charming Rosalie, and her Dutch clog-dance is exceedingly graceful and quaintly contrived. Miss Irene Verona is one of the best of the "Connie Ediss" impersonators, and adds little touches of her own to the part of Mrs. Girdle, her songs, "I can guess," and "Regent-street," go with a swing. Miss Gertrude Gilliam is an attractive Baroness Papouche, and her affectation of terror lest the little supper-party should be surprised by her husband, is most realistic and laughable, and her rendition of "It's the very first time" is quite in keeping with the character. Miss Nancy Langtyre has one of the best songs in the piece allotted to her in the shape of "Gently," which never fails to please, and she gives a sweet and sympathetic rendering of the part of Dulcie Babori. Mr. George Gregory is immensely funny as the indefatigable Mr. Girdle, and in song and dance and "business," he is one of the merriest fellows we could wish to while away the time with at any musical comedy. As "Ajax defying the soap trust" he is "great." Mr. John Brabourne, who was such a prime favourite in last year's pantomime here, acts the part of "le coquin de Printemps" with great ability, his transition from the earnest, sedate advocate to the giddy, frivolous bird of passage, is very aptly indicated in manner and appearance. Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., shows indications of inheriting the talents and of being a credit to his illustrious forbear, and as a singer, actor, and dancer he does marvellously well; and Miss Nellie Lonnen, as Emmy Lou, is another who is equally promising, especially as an exponent of the calisthenic art. Miss Jennie McNulty's name catches the eye; and Mr. William Spray does good work as the young hopeful, Stephen Henry Girdle. Mr. Frank Hector makes an effective entrance as Baron Papouche; and Mr. Jocelyn Hope is funny as the infuriated proprietor of the Crimson Butterfly restaurant. Mr H. C. Portway stage-manages the production, and Mr. Ernest Vousden conducts the augmented orchestra.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 19, the Drama, entitled
"OLIVER TWIST."

Mr J. Bannister Howard's company is presenting at the Dalston Theatre this week Mr. J. Comyns Carr's adaption of Dickens's novel, *Oliver Twist*. This is the second visit little Oliver has paid to Dalston, and, judging by the enthusiastic reception accorded the entire performance, it would appear that the story woven around the life of the workhouse waif appeals strongly to the sympathies of residents of this part of London. Miss Dorothy Marsdin takes the part of Oliver Twist, and she succeeds in investing the character with a considerable amount of interest. Fagin finds a weird, but, withal, an impressive representative in Mr. Stanley Drewitt; Mr. James Skea brings out all the terrible ferocity of the brutal Bill Sikes; and Nancy is sympathetically played by Miss Edith Anton Laing. Miss Dorothy Mayhew makes a charming Rose Maylie; and Miss A. Lingham is well placed as Mrs. Maylie. Mr. W. H. Rotherham scores in the dual characters of Mr. Grimwig and Monks, a combination requiring considerable diversity of style. Mr. Fred Penley represents Mr. Brownlow, Mr. Charlie Clark the artful dodger, Mr. R. C. Hunter Charlie Bates, Mr. J. Johns appears as Tom Chitling, and Mr. Arthur Klein as Barney. The cast also includes Miss Cicely Oates, Miss J. Tyres, Mr. Paige Lawrence, Mr. E. Walsh, Mr. J. C. Appleby, Mr. T. Williams, Mr. Crank, Mr. J. James, and Mr. C. Brown.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Comedy, by Cosmo Gordon Lennox, entitled
"THE FREEDOM OF SUZANNE."

An excellent house assembled here on Monday night to welcome Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in the above-named comedy. An excellent company has been got together, and the interpretation of the play is in good hands throughout. In the title-rôle Miss Mabel Love is provided with a part which is admirably suited to her particular style of acting, and which she plays with a spontaneous gaiety and vivacity all her own. Suzanne's varying moods—from light-hearted carelessness to momentary fits of tearful repentance—are rendered with rare skill, and the whole character is portrayed with commendable naturalness and absence of effort. Mr. Percy Hutchison plays Charles Trevor in good style, acting easily and quietly a part that calls for considerable exercise of these qualities. He is particularly successful in the love scene at the end of the last act, in which his acting shows an admirable combination of tact and suppressed passion. A most amusing rendering of Fitzroy Harding is submitted by Mr. F. G. Thurstans, whose humour is as unforced as it is characteristic, and makes one quite regret his early disappearance from the scene of action. Miss Annie Stalman is sufficiently shrewish as Lady Charlotte; Miss Florence Harwood is amusing as Fanny Minching; and Miss Violet Ley makes the most of the small part of Lady Isabel. Mr. J. Hastings Batson makes a decided hit as Lord Datchet; Mr. Patrick Quill is an admirable and good-humoured Sir Horace Hatton; Mr. Townsend Whitling plays forcibly as Captain Harry Cecil; and Mr. Richard Neville does as well as possible in the somewhat thankless and characterless part of Tommy Keston. The play is mounted and staged with an unusual degree of elaborateness.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Comedy-Drama, in Three Acts,
by Herbert Keith and J. T. Tanner, entitled
"THE BROKEN MELODY."

M. Auguste Van Biene and company are presenting *The Broken Melody* at this theatre during the present week. As Paul Borinski, the Polish refugee, he is interesting, and his skill on the 'cello wins him much applause. Mr. Henry Ludlow gives an excellent portrayal of the character of General Ivanhoff, supplying just that touch of officialdom which gives realism to the part. Mr. Charles A. Morgan is capital as Dickson, the lodging-house keeper, who proves such an excellent friend in adversity. As Mortimer, Mr. Faulkner Cox provides plenty of amusement as a theatrical agent of a very energetic nature; and Mr. Lawrence Grove as Beaufour, a concert impresario, is highly successful. Mr. Archie Selwyn makes the most of his opportunities as the Hon. Richard Spinnaker; and Mr. W. Thompson gives a careful rendering of the part of Dr. Magrath. Miss Rosemary Lees as the Duchess plays with earnestness and feeling; as the Hon. Mrs. Spinnaker, Miss Mary Mannering is exceedingly amusing; and Miss Rosie Lewis as Miss Dickson could scarcely be bettered. Miss Lena Turnleigh as Mabel proves herself to be an actress of considerable power, and quickly wins the sympathies of her audience for her highly effective rendering. The piece is excellently staged and produced under the capable managment of Mr. Gilbert Heron.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Historical Drama, entitled
"DOROTHY O' THE HALL."

This charming play was presented to a critically discriminating but none the less enthusiastic audience by Mr. Fred Terry's company, and was acclaimed a complete success. The story is one of absorbing interest, not only to the ordinary lover of the drama, but to all students of the romantic incidents of English history, and the possibilities are fully exploited at the hands of Mr. Fred Terry, Miss Julia Neilson, and their company. The play contains some scenes of tragic intensity which hold the audience spellbound, and give the principal characters opportunity of displaying their undoubtedly great power of dramatic interpretation. The staging is excellent, and the dresses are accurate in every point of detail, so that the audience have quite a series of instructive and picturesque tableaux of the stirring days of the sixteenth century presented them. Mr. Fred Terry was admirable as Sir John Manners, a character eminently suited to an artist of his rare gifts. His was a powerful study of the part. Miss Julia Neilson was as warm a favourite as ever in the title-rôle, her charming manner and vivid portraiture of the girl anxious to save her lover's life bringing down the house. As the Earl of Rutland, Mr. F. Groves gave an excellent impression. Mr. Horace Hodges ably represented Perkin, the deformed jester; Mr. J. Carter-Edwards scores as Sir George Vernon; Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw deserves praise for his effective Sir Malcolm Vernon. Miss Claire Pauncefort did well in the part of Lady Vernon. The Mary Queen of Scots of Miss Lilias Waldegrave left little to be desired; and Miss Miriam Lewis gave a careful study of Queen Elizabeth. The Misses Mary Mackenzie, Marion Sterling, Messrs. Frederick Groves, D. J. Williams, Malcolm Cherry, Haines, Edwin Dudley, and Borthwick also lend valuable assistance, and the romantic play is admirably mounted and dressed.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Arthur Shirley and Wm. Muskerry, entitled
"A CITY OF SIN."

Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Elliott's company in the above drama is the current attraction at his theatre. In choosing Paris as the locale of the play, the authors have utilised all the opportunities for both vivid and sensational incidents, and the result is a production that fulfils to the full every demand that popular melodrama has to satisfy. Mr. Conrad Heywood as Paul Lorraine has a part that calls for a good deal of resource, both as an actor and quick-change artist, but he surmounted the difficulties with distinction. Zip Barzon receives excellent treatment from Mr. Wilfred Braham, who acts with intensity and power. Mr. J. Berresford touches the right note as Mortain, and submits a clever study. The welcome humorous relief is in the safe hands of Messrs. C. W. Spencer and Val. C. Gully, together with Mesdames Polly Denville and Elvira Stuart, their matrimonial experiences furnishing abundant material for laughter. Messrs. W. H. Burton as Bertrand and J. Gardner as Boulard render valuable aid; and Mr. W. G. Clements is an efficient police-sergeant. Miss Jenny Weston as Ilma acts with obvious sincerity, and makes a good impression. Miss Edith Wallis as Alice is very effective in the rôle. Smaller parts are all satisfactorily filled by the remaining members of the cast. The mounting of the drama is on a lavish scale, the big scene, the Devil's Casino, being a very effective stage-set. A good audience witnessed the performance on Monday, and very cordial applause was the order of the evening.

THE GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Historical Play, in Four Acts, entitled
"CHARLOTTE CORDAY."

This play, founded on the tragic career of Charlotte Corday, has provided Mrs. Brown Potter with good opportunities of displaying her great dramatic powers. Her performance is a fine one throughout. It is a clever study of the character of a woman with a mission, a devotee and a mystic, almost entirely preoccupied with her purpose, when once it has taken possession of her, very much like Charlotte's great prototype, the Maid of Orleans. Possibly, it is in the later scenes of the play that Mrs. Brown Potter is at her best, particularly in the last and most moving scene of all, the farewell to her friends in the prison of the Conciergerie, in which the actress makes a beautiful and strikingly pathetic figure. Much excellent work is done by other members of the cast. Mr. Clarence Blakiston contributes a fine study of the grim personality of the infamous Marat, and shows fine power in his last scene. Mr. Esme Percy acts well as Charlotte's unhappy lover, Adam Lux; while Mr. Edwin Palmer and Mr. F. Morland are admirable representatives of the two old men, Charlotte's father and the Abbé Fleuriot. Mr. Lawrence Grant plays the famous painter David in the grand manner, and is well supported by Mr. Harold Payne as the advocate, Chauveaux-Lagarde. Mr. Frank Collins contributes a dash of humour to the otherwise undiluted tragedy as the barber Potin; and so do the representatives of a most truculent patriot and his unfortunate landlord. Miss Dora Maitland acts sympathetically as Charlotte's sister Rose; and Miss Lena Pierpoint does well as Simonne Evrard.

LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Drama, by Arthur Jefferson, entitled
"THE WORLD'S VERDICT."

An excellent production of the above domestic drama is being given by the Lyric's stock company at their theatre this week, and a full house nightly is recorded. Mr. D. G. Noble, to whom the villainous part of Jasper Woodleigh is entrusted, is quite equal to the responsibility, and renders the rôle in a life-like and telling manner. Mr. A. Bawtree as George Ashford, the somewhat unfortunate but gallant hero, gives a praiseworthy performance of an English gentleman. As Cora Cassillis, Miss Beatrice May is excellent. A sweet, yet emotional, heroine is portrayed by Miss Agnes Collier as Nellie Ashford, and on the night of our visit she received much applause. Miss Louise Hampton is responsible for the pathetic character, Florence Woodleigh, and runs her performance through with a charming grace and pathos. There is plenty of merriment in the play, Mr. A. P. Kayne as Sammy Carrot and Miss May Seton as Sally Jenkins causing roars of laughter at their every appearance. A word of praise must be given to Mr. Edward Harvey for his wonderful impersonation of Sir Geoffrey Woodleigh—a part all too short; while Mr. J. P. Dryden as Jeremiah Screw is really good. A character at once realistic and gruesome is that of Nathan Block, a dangerous maniac, played by Mr. Alfred Holles with considerable skill. Others who deserve mention are Mr. Ashton Winslow as old Ned, the postman, and Mr. Alfred Manning as the Inspector.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."

The Belle of New York has visited Peckham several times before, but, judging from the enthusiastic and crowded audience on Monday, the charms of the dainty and melodious young lady remain unabated, and have in no degree lost their attraction for local playgoers. Mr. George Musgrove's principal company, which is under the direction of Mr. J. Bannister Howard, gives an excellent rendering of the famous musical comedy, which has the advantage of possessing Mr. Frank Lawton in his original part of Blinky Bill. Mr. Lawton, by his whistling, dancing, and performance on the bones, secures a great reception. Miss Florence Hersee ably seconds him as Bill's sweetheart, Mamie Clancy. The little lady works untiringly throughout the evening, and her clever dancing is much appreciated. Miss Empsie Bowman makes a pretty and demure Salvation lass, as Violet Grey, rendering her musical numbers in excellent style. Miss Lily Maxwell is very fascinating and engaging as the French girl, Fifi Fricot, and one can quite forgive the millionaire's son for falling a victim to her allurements. Miss Winnie Browne is a handsome and stately Cora Angelique, and shows considerable vocal ability. Mr. Paddy Dupres exhibits much humour as Ichabod Bronson; and Mr. John Doran sings nicely, and acts pleasantly as Harry Bronson. Mr. Max Copeland gives a clever character-sketch in the rôle of Karl von Pimpernick, "the polite lunatic," his German-American accent being well sustained. Mr. Walter Uridge is quaint and humorous as Kenneth Mugg, the low comedian, whose manager, the portly Doc Snifkins, is well played by Mr. Alfred Sandoe. The Portuguese Twins receive adequate treatment at the hands of Messrs. Lionel Yeoman and R. L. Cody. Mr. Ernee Woodville conducts efficiently; and the large chorus render effective aid throughout. One of the chief attractions of the production is the bright and effective scenery, notably the street in Chinatown, and on the lawn at the Casino.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Drama, by the late F. A. Scudamore, entitled
"THE BEAUTIFUL AVENGER."

On Monday, the members of the clever stock company at this theatre gave a further instance of their capability by a most acceptable rendering of the late Mr. Scudamore's play, *The Beautiful Avenger*. It is an interesting piece of work, and well suited to a popular audience, as the applause on Monday night rightly testified. Mr. Ashley Page plays the hero, Cyrus Telford, in his usual forcible and telling style, well realising the character. Miss Marion Denvil, in the title-rôle, has a good part, and a great reception is awarded her for her artistic efforts. Miss Denvil is a great favourite at this house. Mr. John Sargent has an arduous task in playing the old scoundrel Zadoc Foxbane, and scores heavily, enlivening the part with some grim flashes of humour. His son, Herman Foxbane, is excellently acted by Mr. Alfred Harding. Miss Georgie De Lara gives sympathetic treatment to the rôle of the unfortunate girl, Edna Volta; and Mr. Johnny Chippendale causes much laughter as Peregrine Patch. Miss Mattie Everett is very amusing as Arabella Binks; and Miss Ida Taylor is pathetic in the character of the poor lad, Baldie Mansfield. Mr. C. A. Chandler is humorous as Jim J'hams. Special music has been composed for the play by the musical conductor at this theatre, Mr. Alexander Humphreys. The scenery and effects are all that can be desired.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Play, in Five Acts, by Theo. Kremer, entitled
"THE FATAL WEDDING."

The return visit of Mr. Bert Coote's company to Marylebone proved to be very welcome, and a hearty reception was accorded them. Mr. Wilson Howard impersonates Mr. Howard Wilson in a suitable way; Mr. Guy Hastings thoroughly succeeds in making a good impression as Robert Curtis; Mr. E. Morgan skilfully portrays the French butler, Toto; Mr. Jack Waring gives a humorous study of O'Reilly; and Mr. Arthur Law Raynor, in addition to his duties as business-manager for Mr. Coote, proffers an imposing and dignified portrayal of the Rev. Dr. Lanceford. The important rôle of Cora Williams is sustained by Miss Leah Marlborough in a convincing and masterly way, which instantly attracts great attention; Miss Katherine Clarke enacts Mabel Wilson in a painstaking way; Miss Blanche Stanley makes a hit as Bridget; and Miss Madge McCalla fashions prettily as Jessie. The chorus of specially trained children in the third act is most effective, and a great measure of praise is due to Master Walter Aubrey for his skilful step-dancing; to Miss Ivy Westaby for her singing of "Absence makes the heart grow fonder"; to Miss Winnie Crisp for her clever toe-dancing; to Miss Madge McCalla for her rendering of "Honey, won't you stop teasing me?"; and to Miss Dolly McCalla for her Indian coon song and dance, "Cariboo," which she gave in quite her best style.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Musical Play, entitled
"THE LITTLE MICHUS."

Notwithstanding the dull and depressing weather, there have been good houses at the Kingston playhouse this week to witness this charming production, which was presented by one of Mr. George Dance's companies, which is equivalent to saying that it was presented well. The humour of the play was not lost upon those who came to hear and see, judging by their laughter, which was almost continuous, and the tuneful music was equally well appreciated. Chief honours were carried off by Mr. Foster Courtenay, who as the eccentric General des Ifs was irresistibly funny. The two little Michus, Marie and Blanche, were charmingly portrayed by the Misses Alice Coverick and Ethel Bryan, who each invested the part with a naïve simplicity that was most engaging. Their singing and dancing, too, were very cleverly done. Mr. Leon Simkin and Miss Florence Hylton as Pierre and Madame Michu were both most satisfactory in the parts allotted to them; and Mr. Gilbert Childs as the facetious aide-de-camp Bagnolet contributed considerably to the general hilarity. Good work was done by Mr. William Everard as Gaston Regaud, whose voice was heard to advantage in the numbers allotted to him; and valuable assistance was also rendered by Mr. Robert C. Harcourt, who made a most acceptable Aristide Vert. A word of commendation is also deserved by Mlle. Marjorie for her graceful dancing. The chorus is a numerous and well-trained one, and was admirably kept under control by Mr. Otto Manns, who also conducted an augmented orchestra.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Drama, in Five Acts, by Frederick Melville, entitled
"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."

The patrons of the popular parts of the spacious Borough Theatre are directly catered for this week by the engagement of Mr. Fredk. Melville's company in *Her Forbidden Marriage*, which is paying a return visit. Mr. Henry Lonsdale plays in manly and convincing style as George Madison; and the villainous Charles Devereux is portrayed in an incisive and forcible manner by Mr. Louis Hector. Mr. Beresford Whitcomb makes a natural and dignified Sir George Lancaster, and Mr. Leonard Maxwell does excellent work as Geoffrey Broughton. Mr. Fred De Vere is decidedly amusing as Timothy Tuttutt, and his odd actions cause roars of laughter. Mr. Arthur Hickman does well as John William; Mr. Rawdon Vivian plays Rev. Mr. Dean appropriately; Mr. Wm. Griffin is smart as Inspector Doone; and Mr. Philip Renouf gives an able sketch of an old rustic. Miss Octavia Noel portrays with ease and fluency the adventuress, Lady Lucretia Lancaster; and Miss Nellie Bonsor is a sympathetic and charming Lucy. Miss Barbara Gott lends distinction to the part of the Mother Superior; and Miss Denny Fitzherbert makes a bright and sprightly Patty Lovejoy. Mr. John A. Atkin worthily fulfils the duties of general and stage manager of the company.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by A. Conan Doyle, entitled
"BRIGADIER GERARD."

A very complete performance is given at the Alexandra Theatre this week of Conan Doyle's stirring and exciting play, *Brigadier Gérard*, by Mr. Lewis Waller's company, under the direction of Mr. Peter Davey. The piece is admirably dressed and no less admirably mounted, and evidently no pains have been spared to make the production in every way a successful one. The hero, who is only "Captain" Gérard until almost the final fall of the curtain, is played by Mr. Loring Fernie, who infuses plenty of dash and spirit into his impersonation, and fully realises the character of the gallant Gascon. A finished and clever piece of acting comes from Mr. George Mallett, who, as Talleyrand, submits one of the most striking and artistic performances in the piece. Mr. Arthur Somers as the Emperor Napoleon does not make his appearance until the last act, but the excellence of his work leaves a marked impression. The rôle of the Comtesse de Roquelaure is allotted to Miss Maud Hoffman, who proves herself fully equal to all the demands made upon her. A bright little sketch of the maid, Agnes, comes from Miss Gertrude Beattie; and a characteristic Mère Lafitte is found in Miss Florence Denbigh. Other parts of a long cast noticeably well played are those filled by Messrs. Cecil Wynne, Edwin Bennett, Reginald Mason, Arthur Bowyer, Frank Powell, Fenn Hamilton, and J. Henry Twyford. Messrs. Leon M. Lion and Tom Gallon's one-act play, *The Borrowed Uncle*, is played as a curtain-raiser by Miss Gertrude Beattie and Messrs. Frank Powell, Arthur Claremont, and Arthur Somers, the last-mentioned being particularly good as Filby, an escaped convict.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Arthur Jefferson, entitled
"LONDON BY DAY AND NIGHT."

Large audiences are being attracted this week by the interestingly improbable incidents so convincingly dramatised in *London by Day and Night*. The author is much indebted to Mr. J. M. East's excellent stock company, which gives a most adequate rendering of this powerful and stirring play. Mr. Albert Ward, in the responsible part of Richard Thorneycroft, contributes greatly to the success of the piece, and realistically plays the careworn and much-wronged guardian. Mr. Horace Hunter gives another of his well-finished and polished representations as Gideon Snake, a shady legal villain, and equally successful as his accomplice in crime is Miss East Robertson as Olga Snake. Mr. W. H. Hatchman is entirely effective as Edgar Thorneycroft, a sea captain. Mr. William Felton gives a careful reading of Jack Hainsworth, who might be described as the hero of the play. Mr. Horace Pollock plays in a convincing style as Geo. Fleming, a man of many parts. Miss Irene Ross as Richard Edgar Thorneycroft is admirable, and should, if she so wishes, have a future before her as a male impersonator. That clever comedian, Mr. Teddy Coleman, as Nicodemus Sneezer, by his wheezes and eccentric costumes, keeps the house convulsed with laughter. Mr. H. J. Crane makes an imposing Governor of Portland Prison, his fine elocution being most noticeable. Mr. Edward Boddy renders valuable assistance as P.C. Black. That experienced actor, Mr. Brian Daly, does excellent work as Peter Carter, chief warder, and also in other parts. Miss Kate Mac is successful as Mrs. Weston, as also is Miss Anderson as Sybil Langton, and Miss Daisy Marshall as Mrs. Sneezer. Miss Agnes Paulton charmingly impersonates Maria Pink, Miss Kathleen Russell as Beatrice Thorneycroft quite secures the sympathies of the house, and gains much approbation for her clever impersonation. The orchestra, under Mr. J. Nurnberger, very ably supply the incidental music. Mr. R. A. Neville courteously and carefully looks to the front of the house.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, written by Seymour Hicks, composed by Ivan Caryll, entitled
"THE EARL AND THE GIRL."

Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company has played to full houses this week in this popular musical comedy. Through the sudden indisposition of Miss Alice Nixon Miss S. W. Wynne appeared as Elphin Haye, the American heiress, and efficiently supplied her place. Miss Nellie Dade's broad humour made Eliza Shoddam a most amusing impersonation, and Miss C. Stephens as Virginia Bliss, the hostess at whose house the action of the second scene takes place, was sprightly and well-gowned. In the part of Mrs. Shimmering Black, Miss M. Maude filled the bill in more senses than one, and Miss Florence Brandon as Daisy Fallowfield looked sweet, and secured encores in the well-known "Sammy" song. There was a full chorus of "Cosy Corner Girls," maids at the Fallowfield Inn, and guests at the Fancy Dress Ball, all smart and well-costumed. Mr. John Clegg as Jim Cheese, the dog trainer, showed great aptitude as a first-class low comedian, and Mr. Frank Wilson worked hard as Dick Wargrave, the heir, scoring well in his song with Elphin Haye in the first act. Mr. Frank Wilson's impersonation of the Hon. Crewe Boodle was full of life and go, and Mr. H. Cotter as the Yankee bent on revenge was vehement and effective. As Downham, an American solicitor, Mr. Alec Godfrey pattered agreeably and danced nimbly, and Mr. F. Franks as Rossiter was an ideal footman. The scenery was elaborate and appropriate.

GRAND THEATRE, FOREST GATE.

On Monday, Nov. 19,
the Play, in Three Acts, by Herman Merivale and F. C. Grove, entitled
"FORGET-ME-NOT."

The company Mr. Sibley presented on Monday was worthy of the heartiest support, and certainly those who visted the theatre during the week were delighted with a really high-class performance of a play which has long been known to fame. Mr. Alfred Hearne has played Sir Horace Welby so often that he seems to live in the part, and the audience followed each line with marked interest. A clever and powerful rendering of the Prince Mallotti is given by Mr. John Duggan; and Barrato is played with dramatic power by Mr. H. Middlemass. Stephanie Marquise de Mohrivart has an excellent representative in Miss Edith Jordan, who looks the part perfectly and dresses it with perfect taste. Miss Elsie Dennis is all that could be desired as Alice Verney; and as Mrs. Foley, Miss Pattie Lundie completes an excellent all-round cast.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

MR. SHAW, in his new medical play, *The Doctor's Dilemma*, produced at the Court on Tuesday afternoon, almost exaggerates the callousness of the hospital ward on the matter of death. His moribund painter is pushed in on an invalid chair, and dies realistically, after a prolonged monologue. Then one of the doctors says—we quote from memory—"Let's get this out of the way!" and proceeds to wheel the corpse into the next room. The phrase makes one's flesh creep, and we can aver from experience that it is a libel on the medical profession.

MR. SHAW'S fashion of alluding to himself in the dialogue of his pieces is unworthy of his genius. Fancy Mr. Pinero in *His House in Order* making one of his characters say, "Saw a piece of Pinero's last night; devilish clever fellow, that!" Yet something very like this occurs in *The Doctor's Dilemma*. Mr. Shaw is improving so much in method and manner that it jars on one to find that he has not quite abandoned his early tricks of charlatanry. He can really do without them now.

MR. W. T. STEAD, with Mr. F. R. Benson and Mr. J. T. Grein, are enthusiastically promoting a Dramatic Revival Society, which is to realise the ideal of restoring to the everyday life of our English folk the four great instruments of innocent mirth and of popular culture—the dance, the song, the pageant, and the drama. The first object of the society is to facilitate and encourage amateur dramatic representations throughout the country, especially in villages by the villagers themselves, in schools by the scholars, for purposes of education and recreation. Our elementary schools, we are told, will never truly succeed in stimulating the sluggish mind of our youth until the drama's all-powerful assistance has been completely recognised and guaranteed. The only item of public amusement with which Mr. Stead has expressed himself absolutely satisfied is the performance of La Milo; and few amateurs, if any, would be found capable of emulating that artist.

MRS. KENDAL was in "her best form" when she opened the Scottish Horticultural Society's chrysanthemum show in Waverley Market, Edinburgh, the other day. She presented two prize cups, one to a Mr. Thomas Lunt, the other to a Mr. Hutton; and, we are informed by the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch*, "the accomplished actress, who appeared to enjoy the proceedings thoroughly, amused and delighted her audience by an unrehearsed effect. The wrong cup was handed to her for presentation to Mr. Lunt. Before the presentation ceremony was complete the mistake was discovered, and Mrs. Kendal, dramatically throwing her hands up in mock consternation, apologised promptly to Mr. Lunt, adding, however, that it was not her fault since she had been badly prompted." In conclusion she told an anecdote of the early days of her connection with Edinburgh. When the late Mr. Robert Wyndham was alive, she said, and the Haymarket company came to Edinburgh, the members of the company were always entertained to a picnic. One year it was held on May 2, just below Arthur's Seat. While the picnic preparations were being made, some of the younger members of the company strolled away, and on the very top of Arthur's Seat a young man proposed to a young woman, by whom the proposal was accepted. When they came down to luncheon everybody knew the secret, though they did not observe that themselves. (Loud laughter). She would not tell them who that young man was, because he ought to have been there beside her on the platform. (Loud laughter). She had been looking for him everywhere. (Laughter). He was far more attentive on the day of the picnic than he had been that day. (Loud and prolonged laughter).

MR. J. N. RAPHAEL, the "Percival" of the *Referee*, included some pungent statements in his address to the O.P. Club at the Criterion on Sunday. In describing a Paris pantomime, he said the chief characteristic of the French manager was his voice. Unless he could stand at the back of the dress-circle and bellow, he was nowhere. There were French authors who were more capable of producing and staging a play than the managers. But in a general way there was a certain amount of trouble, because the manager always thought he knew better how to produce it, and then there was his voice to reckon with. Consequently the rehearsals lasted a good deal longer, but the extraordinary thing was that the result was in a general way a good deal better. The point of this lies in the fact that, for many years past, we have been assured that in France the author is despotic at rehearsals, and is never interfered with. Another illusion gone!

ACCORDING to the *Sketch*, the matinée hat difficulty has been conquered. A Frenchman has invented a device which enables one to look over the matinée hat, or any other obstacle in the line of vision. The device is in appearance like an ordinary walking-stick, opera glasses being fixed near the handle, and an eye-piece at the end of the stick. When the stick is raised so that the opera glasses are above the obstacle, the person can see the players through the eye-piece, their images being reflected by a set of lenses and mirrors.

MISS LENA ASHWELL has met the inevitable American interviewer. The subject of discussion was wife-beating. Miss Ashwell remarked that she preferred to cry rather than laugh when she went to the theatre, as laughter does not touch the heart, while misfortune, sorrow, and crime do. On being asked if she believed in the spectacle of wife-beating as an evening's entertainment, Miss Ashwell replied: "It is true to life, is it not. And if it is true to life it should be an entertaining play. Men do beat their wives, you know. If the secrets of all domestic lives were laid bare we would find that wife-beating is a much more common diversion than is generally thought. Also if the secrets of men's lives were laid bare we would find that there are a lot of husbands who would like to beat their wives if they dared."

"How about wives beating their husbands? Would you approve of that?" asked the interviewer. "Certainly," was Miss Ashwell's answer; "turn about is fair play. I presume many of them would like to if they were only strong enough. I know of one woman in the west of England who used to do it. She was very athletic, rode to hounds, and did all that sort of thing. She was a big woman, too. Her husband was a little fellow, and the way she used to whip him on the slightest provocation was a joy to all the old maids in the neighbourhood." Miss Ashwell added that she herself had met some men that she would have liked to beat—in fact, "lots of them."

MR. E. H. SOTHERN and Miss Julia Marlowe recently appeared at the Lyric Theatre, Philadelphia, in Hermann Sudermann's play, *John the Baptist*. Mr. Sothern enacted the title-rôle, and Miss Marlowe represented Salome. The play follows the Bible story closely, Salome demanding the head of John the Baptist on a golden charger as the price of her dance before Herod. The head is brought in covered with a cloth. The final scene shows the approach of the King of the Jews, and the striking of Herod by a bar of light from above as he is about to ascend the steps of the throne. The audience, we are told, was "perhaps more amazed than enthusiastic," the most intense scenes being followed in silence. Many Baptist ministers were present as the guests of the management, and some of them appeared to be absolutely immersed in the play.

"KING RICHARD II."

Revival of Shakespeare's Play, at His Majesty's Theatre, on Monday, Nov. 19.

King Richard II. .....MR. TREE
John of Gaunt .....MR. J. FISHER WHITE
Edmund of Langley..MR. CHARLES QUARTERMAINE
Henry of Hereford .....MR. LYN HARDING
Duke of Aumerle .....MR. JULIAN L'ESTRANGE
Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk
MR. BASIL GILL
Earl of Northumberland ....MR. CLIVE CURRIE
Henry Percy .....MR. REGINALD OWEN
Bishop of Carlisle .....MR. ROBERT ATKINS
Sir John Bushey .....MR. SWORDER
Sir William Bagot .....MR. DAVID POWELL
Sir Thomas Greene .....MR. E. EGERTON HINE
Duke of Surrey .....MR. JAMES SMYTHE
Earl of Salisbury .....MR. HEWETT
Lord Scroope .....MR. EDWARD OUSTON
Lord Berkeley .....MR. PALMER
Lord Ross .....MR. A. C. GRAIN
Lord Willoughby .....MR. STUART GRAHAME
Lord Fitzwater .....MR. REGINALD CRAVEN
The Lord Marshal ....MR. S. YATES SOUTHGATE
Sir Piers of Exton .....MR. P. FORBES
Keeper of the Dungeon .....MR. WARMINGTON
The Gardener .....MR. G. W. ANSON
Second Gardener .....MR. J. FRANCES ELVEY
The Queen .....MISS VIOLA TREE
First Lady .....MISS HILDA MOORE
Second Lady .....MISS FLORENCE WELLS
Third Lady .....MISS EVELYN BEAUMONT
Fourth Lady .....MISS ELIZABETH GILSON

Richard II. is a curious and exceptional play. As a rule, Shakespeare is an optimist. But there was certain themes which defy optimistic treatment. Take the story of *King John*, for instance. The sympathy shifts about from time to time; we never know on which side the playwright is, and on which he expects us to be; all is compromise, cynicism, and despair. In most of Shakespeare's historical plays there is no mistake about the author's intention. Richard III. is a "bloody dog" from beginning to end; Henry V. is a high-toned hero of the best British water. But sometimes Shakespeare, in the dearth of popular plots, was led to "tackle" a period and a condition of affairs so "unmanageable," that he was obliged to stick to the story, and make the best of a bad business. The characters in *Richard II.* are, indeed, a sorry crew. The King is the most contemptible of all. When he is in power he is insolent, exorbitant, and profligate; when he is in distress, he is profuse in high-flown sentiments and poetical reflections. As for Bolingbroke, the hypocrisy with which he covers his intention of seizing the throne and having its lawful possessor conveniently assassinated, is positively sickening; and the pretentious vacillations of York, who plays the traitor to the accompaniment of a vast amount of high-toned protestation, is scarcely less repellant. Shakespeare, in most of his works, has shown men governing circumstances; in *Richard II.* he adopts Byron's theory that

"Men are the sport of circumstances when
The circumstances seem the sport of men."

Placed in a less difficult position, York would probably have led a life of unblemished respectability; Bolingbroke, unhardened by his exile and the threatened loss of his inheritances, might have been a good subject; and the youth of Richard, on his ascending the throne, and his consequent susceptibility to evil influences, were more to his disadvantage than any inherent vice—at any rate, far worse kings have died in their beds and in the odour of sanctity. *Richard II.* is a realistic picture of a muddy "back-water" of English history. Shakespeare seems to have chafed under the trammels of his theme, and to have relieved himself by putting into the mouth of John of Gaunt the finest outburst of patriotism ever written. It is characteristic of this sorrowful play that Gaunt—the one honest man of the principal personages—dies soon after speaking it.

The great attraction of the performance of *Richard II.* at His Majesty's on Monday—the play was first revived at this theatre in the September of 1903—was Mr. Tree's Richard. Mr. Tree is absolutely true to the character, as drawn by the dramatist. He shows us, in the earlier acts, the King's love of pleasure, his baseness, his weakness, and his petty cruelty. There is a timorous indecision in Richard's attitude towards his unruly courtiers, combined with a tyranny which tries to be crafty, but is only rash and injudicious. With this are combined touches of uxoriousness and effeminacy which make up a most effective and complete character-study. Later on, Mr. Tree delivers the eloquent tirades of the deserted monarch with admirable expressiveness; and presents a picture which is strikingly subtle, finished, and artistic. Mr. J. Fisher White is nobly dignified as John of Gaunt and delivers the famous speech about the "precious stone set in the silver sea" grandly and impressively. Mr. Charles Quartermaine is thoroughly good throughout as the Duke of York; and a very clean and distinct rendering of the rôle of Aumerle is contributed by Mr. Julian L'Estrange. Mr. Clive Currie is capital as the Earl of Northumberland. The two rivals, Norfolk and Hereford, have powerful and energetic exponents in Mr. Basil Gill and Mr. Lyn Harding. Mr. Gill is full of fervour and emotional earnestness; and Mr. Harding makes Bolingbroke exactly the needed combination of energy, craft, and ruthlessness. Mr. Reginald Owen plays Henry Percy very creditably indeed. Bushey, Bagot, and Greene have careful and conscientious representatives in Mr. Sworder, Mr. David Powell, and Mr. E. Egerton Hine; and Mr. Robert Atkins is an excellent Bishop of Carlisle. Mr. Edward Ouston must be particularly praised for his liberal treatment of the rôle of Lord Scroope; and Mr. G. W. Anson's sonorous tones and ripe experience well fit him to depict the solid and sententious Gardener. Mr. James Smythe deserves praise for his performance as the Duke of Surrey; Mr. Hewett is equally commendable as the Earl of Salisbury; Mr. Palmer is conscientious and careful as Lord Berkeley; Mr. A. C. Grain's Lord Ross is entirely satisfactory; Mr. Stuart Grahame is efficient as Lord Willoughby; Mr. S. Yates Southgate's Lord Marshal "fills the eye"; Mr. P. Forbes's rôle of Sir Piers of Exton suits him thoroughly; and Mr. Warmington as the Keeper of the Dungeon and Mr. J. Francis Elvey as the Second Gardener do good and useful work. Miss Viola Tree plays the Queen not only with exquisite grace and sweetness, but with real depth of feeling in the pathetic passages. Her depiction of the Queen's sorrow and despair is very earnest and expressive indeed. *Richard II.* is mounted with the superb scenery, armour, and costumes which are familiar to those who have witnessed the previous performances of the play at His Majesty's, and the well-known work of Messrs. W. T. Hemsley, Joseph Harker, and Walter Hann is again immensely admired.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of the sun, winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at All Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING and REFRESHING after walking, golfing, cycling, motoring, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM and SON, CHELTENHAM.—[ADVT.]

"THE DOCTOR'S DILEMMA."

A Tragedy, in Four Acts and an Epilogue, by Bernard Shaw, produced at the Court Theatre, at a matinée, on Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Sir Patrick Cullen ..MR. WILLIAM FARREN, JUN.
Sir Ralph Bloomfield Bonnington
MR. ERIC LEWIS
Sir Colenso Ridgeon .....MR. BEN WEBSTER
Cutler Walpole .....MR. JAMES HEARN
Leo Schutzmacher ....MR. MICHAEL SHERBROOKE
Dr. Blenkinsop .....MR. EDMUND GURNEY
Louis Dubedat .....MR. GRANVILLE BARKER
Redpenny .....MR. NORMAN PAGE
The Newspaper Man .....MR. TREVOR LOWE
Mr. Danby .....MR. LEWIS CASSON
A Waiter .....MR. PERCY MARMONT
Jennifer Dubedat .....MISS LILLAH MCCARTHY
Emmy .....MISS CLARE GREET
Minnie Tinwell .....MISS MARY HAMILTON

In one of Alfred de Musset's little-known tragedies, a dissolute Abbé is induced, in order to win the favours of a celebrated *danseuse*, to murder a man. The result is that the amorous ecclesiastic is disappointed, and, deploring his fate, concludes,

"J'ai taché mon pourpoint et l'on me
congédie,
C'est la moralité de cette comédie."

The first thing one ought to do in analysing a piece of Mr. Bernard Shaw's is to seek out its *moralité*. For he is nothing if not an Ideologue. He was not sent, he infers in his prefaces, to bring peace into the dramatic world, but a sword. Lately, his *moralité* has, like Gratiano's reasons, resembled two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff; you shall seek all day ere you find it, and—but the quotation is somewhat musty. The intellectual kernel of *The Doctor's Dilemma* is a protest against the conventional ideas respecting money and marriage. "I have not been scrupulous as to borrowing money with no intention of repayal," says his artist on his death-bed; "but, on the other hand, I have not debased my gift of genius by doing anything but my best work. I have not hesitated to commit bigamy; but I have made one woman perfectly happy; and I shall live in her, and in my life-work. I have neglected the lower duties for the sake of those which I regarded as the higher ones."

But *The Doctor's Dilemma* is not, like *Widower's Houses* and *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, firstly and chiefly the development of an idea. It is, more than any of Mr. Shaw's previous works, a drama of plot, circumstance, and incident, and contains obvious evidences of an attempt at design. It is necessary, for the sake of our afternoon's enjoyment, to grant Mr. Shaw his improbable premiss that a doctor may be so skilled in the treatment of tubercular disease that any patient he takes in hand may be considered saved; also that the physician can truly announce "house full" when a certain number of sick men are on his hands. This is the position of Sir Colenso Ridgeon in Mr. Shaw's piece. To him comes Jennifer Dubedat, the wife of a young artist of genius, who is attacked by consumption. Will Sir Colenso take him in hand and cure him? "No," says the great doctor; "for in order to do so I should have to throw over one of my present patients. I must be satisfied that your husband is worth more than the man I should thus abandon." So Mr. and Mrs. Jennifer meet Sir Colenso and his friends at dinner at the Star and Garter; and here the discovery is made that Dubedat is a shameless borrower, and has committed bigamy—or, at least, what looks like it. Then an absolutely virtuous doctor, named Blenkinsop, with one lung affected, begs Sir Colenso to cure him; and thus we have the case clearly put: Which is to be saved, the artist of genius, or the blameless medico? This is the doctor's "dilemma."

But he has fallen in love with Jennifer, and hopes to marry her when she is a widow. So he hands over the husband to a fashionable quack who kills him; and Dubedat dies, with his head on his worshipping wife's bosom, after reciting an artist's parody of the Creed, and begging Jennifer to marry again. Sir Colenso, however, finds that he has committed a medical murder in vain. Jennifer continues to adore her husband's memory; and when, at an exhibition of his works in the epilogue, Sir Colenso confesses his crime and his love for her, she simply "squashes" him by reminding him of the difference in their ages, and telling him that, in obedience to Dubedat's dying desire, she is already remarried.

The flaw in the construction is obvious. Up to the end of the second act, the scheme is consistent. The dilemma is "stuff of the conscience"; and the drama, having been ethical so far, should continue to be so to the end. The only logical development lies in the doctor's choice between the two men being influenced by conviction. But, after the Star and Garter scene, the ethical question is dropped, and the motive of the medical murder is simply the doctor's desire for the artist's wife. The drawn-out argument between Dubedat and the doctors as to his "blackguardism" is thus put outside the plot and action of the piece, and is excrescent. This is felt all the more on account of the distressing length of the artist's "last dying speech and confession." On the other hand, the comedy in *The Doctor's Dilemma* is the best Mr. Shaw has ever written. There are no less than six doctors; and each of them is drawn with masterly decision, delicacy, and humour. The fun—the exquisite, irresistible fun—of their discussions, deserves our warmest gratitude and praise. The caricature of the brutal reporter is "cheap," and so is Mr. Shaw's introduction of vain references to himself; but Jennifer Dubedat, the doctor's servant Emmy, and the waitress at the Star and Garter are all admirably observed and invented. If Dubedat were not such an "unconscionable time in dying," there would not be a "draggy" scene in the play.

The Doctor's Dilemma was acted with a finish which raised the performance into the atmosphere of high comedy. Each of the doctors was capitally differentiated, and each creation was real, typical, and convincing. There was Mr. William Farren, jun.—to the life the slightly-soured, sceptical, but kind-hearted Sir Patrick Cullen; there was Mr. Eric Lewis, from whose lips, as Sir Ralph Bloomfield Bonnington, the longest speeches came most trippingly, and who hit off the amusing character with marvellous cleverness; there was Mr. Ben Webster, capitally made up as the refined, acute, slightly autocratic specialist, and acting the part with absolute fidelity and exactness, and with a power and restraint which were remarkable; there was Mr. James Hearn as the operating surgeon, firm, hard, and forcible; there was Mr. Michael Sherbrooke as a dry little Jew, resigned to repose during most of an act, but making his impression nevertheless; and there was Mr. Edmund Gurney, touchingly modest and self-suppressed as the unsuccessful doctor, Blenkinsop. With such acting at his disposal, the coming comedy-writer need not delay his arrival for fear of inadequate interpretation. Mr. Granville Barker's rôle of Louis Dubedat suited him well. He sustained it unimpeachably, and certainly Dubedat's death scene was a very severe trial of skill. Mr. Norman Page was efficient as Redpenny; and Miss Lillah McCarthy was exactly the earnest, *exaltée*, and spirited creature inferred by the dialogue. A palpable hit was scored by Miss Clare Greet as the doctor's servant Emmy, a minor character, but one to be remembered; and Miss Mary Hamilton played Minnie Tinwell with a nice sense of the meaning and proportion of the part. All the scenery was satisfactory and effective; and the Star and Garter set, with its distant river and landscape dotted with lights, was quite realistic.

"THE BANQUET."

A light comedy, in three acts, by Frank Freeth, Revived at the King's Hall, Covent Garden, on Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Alderman Gosling .....MR. FRANK HOLE
Roland Newby .....MR. BIRKET FOSTER
Captain Smart .....MR. BERNARD A. EVERITT
Hon. Arthur Scallop..MR. P. H. STANLEY-ADAMS
Gregory .....MR. VICTOR T. TOLLER
Bella .....MISS DOROTHY FOSTER
Enid .....MISS RENÉE DE VAUX.
Ada .....MISS MARY STRAHAN
Susan .....MISS ADRIENESSE CLARKE

Mr. Frank Freeth's play was revived at an amateur performance given in aid of Our Dumb Friends' League Horse Ambulance Fund. As there was a large audience present a deserving object will no doubt benefit largely by Tuesday night's entertainment. The "light comedy," which was originally produced at the Kilburn Town Hall on May 26, 1888, although not showing any striking originality, either in plot or characterisation, is not without distinct merits, and is beyond question admirably adapted for the modest requirements of a company of amateur performers. Mr. Freeth, we may take it, has made no attempt to aim high as a playwriter, but he can, at any rate, be credited with a certain degree of skill in the handling of his plot, he possesses an appreciation of stage effect, and his dialogue, if not brilliant, is natural, unaffected, and often pointed.

The first act shows how a rather serious difference arises between Mr. Roland Newby, a country solicitor, and his wife Enid, over a very trifling matter. Mr. Newby has prepared a speech for the Mayor's approaching annual banquet, and the notes he has made for use on this occasion are found on the desk in his study by his wife, who has, it appears, a strong objection to his again attending the festivity. She therefore consigns the manuscript to the flames, and answers the anxious inquiries of her husband by confessing what she has done. Roland, however, expresses his annoyance at the destruction of the notes of his intended speech, and in spite of the tearful entreaties of Enid, declares his intention of going to the banquet. The lady loses her temper, and threatens to leave her home. After this domestic tiff Captain Smart calls, accompanied by his friend, the Hon. Arthur Scallop. They are both invited guests to the banquet; and Smart asks Newby to permit Scallop to stay at the house. The solicitor consents, but introduces the Hon. Arthur as a new clerk whom he has just engaged.

The scene of the second act is at Alderman Gosling's house, where the old man's niece unexpectedly makes her appearance, alleging as an excuse that at home "there is something wrong with the kitchen range." Gosling has another niece named Ada, with whom the Hon. Arthur has fallen in love, and considerable amusement arises from Mrs. Gosling treating the girl as a child, and, therefore, much too young to have a sweetheart. In the last act the husband and wife are happily reconciled, Mrs. Gosling is induced to give her consent to the engagement of the Hon. Arthur and Ada, and, finally, a communication is received postponing the banquet owing to the illness of the mayor of the town.

That experienced amateur actor, Mr. Frank Hole, gave a capital embodiment of the genial, good-hearted Alderman; Mr. Birket Foster played quietly, but effectively, the part of Roland Newby; and Mr. Bernard A. Everitt was an appropriately hearty and boisterous Captain Smart. Mr. P. H. Stanley-Adams scored well in the dude part of the Hon. Arthur Scallop, but an unfortunate lapse of memory quite marred the end of the first act. Miss Dorothy Foster was an amusingly precise and severe Mrs. Gosling; and Miss Renée de Vaux played exceedingly well as Enid. Miss Mary Strahan was a pleasing and girlish Ada; and able assistance was rendered by Mr. Victor T. Toller as Gregory, Gosling's man-servant, and Miss Adriennesse Clarke as Susan, the Newbys' maid.

The new piece was preceded by Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's one-act comedy, *A Bed of Roses*, in which Mr. H. Fuller-Clark, as Peter Vellacott, drew a capital picture of an irritable dyspeptic old man; Mr. E. Gordon Taylor was a manly, earnest George Dalyson; and Miss Adrienesse Clarke played brightly and naturally the part of Dora Vellacott. Other characters were satisfactorily sustained by Mr. P. H. Stanley-Adams, Mr. Edwin Feis, and Miss Irma de Kusel. Both plays were produced under the able direction of Mr. E. Gordon-Taylor, and the duties of acting-manager were safely entrusted to Miss Adrienesse Clarke.

MR. WILLARD AND ACTORS' DAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Lest your paragraph concerning myself and "Actors' Day" should breed a misunderstanding in the minds of those not fully acquainted with me, I should like to point out that the contributions to the Actors' Funds of England and America made by the ladies and gentlemen of my company during the past three seasons have been as entirely voluntary as have been my own. It is true, that for convenience sake, there is a clause in each contract that I shall have the right to retain, as trustee, the salary due to each artist on one special night in each year, but this clause was only inserted after consultation with the members of my 1903 company, and after their engagements had otherwise been definitely settled; has never been since challenged by anyone, and if it were, would at once be struck out by me, as I have as great an objection to what is known as "enforced charity" as any of its more openly-avowed exponents; but I have also gained sufficient knowledge of my fellow workers during my thirty-seven years' experience of the stage to know that without some kind of organisation, their generous impulses are apt to fail of fruition.

I hope, therefore, that "Actors' Day" will be made a "non-paying" day in all contracts, feeling sure that in a year or two actors will regard it with the same equanimity as they now regard Christmas Day, Good Friday, &c.

I am not theorising, but speaking from the experience of four such days in my own company, the last having taken place at Buffalo on Nov. 1, and being cheerfully contributed to by all my company, including those American artists who, having been engaged at the eleventh hour, had not, owing to the pressure of other business, had the formal contract submitted to them.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD S. WILLARD.

THE final in a golf handicap for a cup presented by Mr. Horace Mills for competition among the members of *The White Chrysanthemum* company took place at Sandygate, a suburb of Sheffield, on the 14th inst. One of the semi-finals was played the previous week on the Shipley Club's course, near Bradford, between Horace Mills and F. Freeman, the latter winning by four up and three to play. The other semi-final was decided at Sandygate on the following Tuesday, the players being O. E. Lennon and W. H. Rawlins, the latter winning by 4 and 3. Considerable interest was taken in the final, and, in the end, Rawlins won by seven and six. The competition was on the American tournament principle.

THE King and Queen of Norway witnessed the performance of *Raffles* at the Comedy Theatre on Tuesday night.

SCALA THEATRE.

CHARITY PERFORMANCE.

Two performances in aid of the Little Sisters of the Poor were given at the Scala Theatre on Friday and Saturday evenings last week, when the programme was an interesting one, including, as it did, Mr. F. W. Broughton's musical comedietta, and Mr. T. Arthur Bleackley's "fantastic opera," in one act, entitled *The Minstrel*, the music to both pieces being, as is well known, the work of the Rev. Father Downes; and Mr. Bleackley's duologue *La Jalouse*. We confess that there is not much to be said for *A Simple Sweep* and *La Jalouse*. The music is the pleasantest part of the former, while as for the latter, it consists of less else but inane conversations between two supposed lovers. In both cases good acting was wasted upon weak lines. Mr. George Robins presented a rather comical figure as the proud baronet, Sir Orange Peel, in *A Simple Sweep*; and Mr. Aubrey Standing as the Sweep, Miss Nora Long as the "interesting heroine," and Miss Florence Shee as Miss Lemon Peel, fulfilled the requirements of their parts in able fashion, and sang well too. To Mme. Emilie Clarke a special word of praise is due for a very lively impersonation of the sweep's aged mother. In *La Jalouse*, Mr. Lawrence White as Cyril Peach, and Miss Olga Kay as Violet Ulmar, delivered their respective speeches—such as they were—with appropriate expression.

The Minstrel was unquestionably the best item in the programme, though the complaint can be levelled against it that it is far too long-winded. Here, again, it must be conceded that Father Downes's music forms the better half of the piece. One can always listen to the reverend gentleman's compositions with great delight, for, as in the play under review, they are graceful, tuneful, and ear-enchanting. The story, with which many people are already acquainted, concerns the offer by a Princess of her hand in marriage to him who shall be deemed successful in a song contest. The triumphant competitor is, seemingly, an old man, bent with the weight of years, and with the white locks and flowing beard of a patriarch. Of course, the King expostulates with the Count at the idea of a young maiden marrying an aged and penniless minstrel, but all of a sudden the latter is transformed into a youth of glowing countenance and sprightly movement. Mr. Walter Dolphin was an imposing figure as the King, arrayed in magnificent robes of scarlet, gold, and ermine. M. André Kayà (Simon), who possesses an excellent vocal range, was heard to good effect in some duets with another talented singer, Miss Nora Long (Catherine); and Mr. Bernard Ansell, as Frederick, was also seen and heard to advantage. Mr. Dennis Creedon as Prince Eustace, Miss Palgrave-Turner as the Queen of Harmony, and Miss May Gurney as Myra, gave admirable support. The operas were produced by Mr. Reginald Cooper, the orchestra conducted by Mr. Frederick Rosse, the whole performance being under the managment of Mr. Reginald Walter.

ACTORS' DAY.

Nominations for the proposed Advisory Board, particulars of which we gave in a recent issue, must reach the Organising Committee not later than the last day of November, and must be sent on copies of forms printed below:—

NOMINATION FORM.

Name of proposed representative.....
Permanent Address .....
*Class .....
Name of Proposer .....
Permanent Address .....
*Class .....

If elected, I consent to act as representative on the Advisory Board to the trustees of the Actors' Day Fund.

Signature .....
Date.....

* State here whether Actor, Manager (resident, touring, acting), or Author.

Those who have promised, and have not yet sent in their contribution, would greatly oblige if they would forward them as soon as possible to the Committee, 10, King's-street, Covent-garden, W.C.

THE LONDON MUSICAL CLUB.

A musical, dramatic, and Shakespearean entertainment, under the direction of Mr. Gerald Stevens, was given at Hart-street, New Oxford-street, on Friday evening, Nov. 16, the hall being well filled. The most important feature of the entertainment was the Shakespearean scenes recited by Mr. Norman Wrighton, who was first heard in Scene III., Act I., of *The Merchant of Venice*, Mr. Norman Wrighton giving Shylock's speech relating to Antonio's loan of three thousand ducats. Mr. Wrighton has great elocutionary powers, clear enunciation, and a style quite his own. At times, however, a somewhat hurried delivery of the lines marred their impressive effect, and this was especially noticeable in Mr. Wrighton's second and most striking example, the scenes from Act I. and Act V. of *King Richard III.*, where, in the character of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, Mr. Wrighton first gives the soliloquy and then the stormy scene with Lady Anne, admirably impersonated by Miss Daisy Murch. In this scene Mr. Wrighton was at his best, although the famous line, "Was ever woman in such humour wooed, was ever woman in such humour won?" lost much of its significance for want of a pause. Mr. Wrighton's last scene was from *King Henry V.*, Scene I., Act III. The incidental music for the Shakespearean scenes was composed by Mr. Francis Böhr, who, during the evening, gave several selected pianoforte solos with good effect. A number of well-selected songs and recitations pleasantly varied the proceedings. The instrumentalists, Messrs. F. Burns and J. Dunn, played Ed. German's "Dances" from *Henry VIII.* Mr. Wallace Bosco greatly pleased the audience in his song, "Beloved, Awake, Arise!" by Valentine Emery; and Mr. Wood Barrett gained hearty applause for his singing of "I thank thee" (Francis Böhr), and "I'll sing thee songs of Araby. In Tosti's "Good-bye" Miss Elisabeth Davies was honoured by an encore; while Miss Freda Sharlotte created so good an impression by her recitation of "Bride of the Timbalier," by Victor Hugo, that she had to respond with "Lorraine, Lorraine, Lorree." Later in the programme this clever reciter was set down for a monologue, *The Cheat*. Mr. Percy Brookes was also well received in Dr. Arne's song, "Blow, blow, thou winter wind," from *As You Like It*. A so-called Shakespearean coon song, sung by Mr. Reginald North, who gave a comic version of the balcony scene in *Romeo and Juliet*, written by Hill, caused much merriment, the audience taking up the chorus, and afterwards encoring the vocalist. Mr. North's song in the second part of the programme was "The burglar's serenade" (Ed. Kent), by desire. The small stage on the platform was under the direction of Mr. Wallace Bosco; and in the Shakespearean recitals the wigs were by Gustave, and costumes by W. Nathan. Mrs. David Christie Murray, Miss Isabelle Brunnel, and Miss Carter presided at the piano.

T.R.H. the Princess Henry of Battenberg, Prince Leopold of Battenberg, Princess Beatrice of Saxe Coburg and suite witnessed the performance of *Amasis* at the New Theatre on Monday.

"SINS OF SOCIETY," a drama in a prologue and three acts, by Charles Darrell, will be produced at the Theatre Royal, Darlington, on Monday.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. E. S. Willard and his company devoted, as usual, the first Thursday in November to theatrical charities, and have forwarded a cheque for the substantial sum of £72 4s. 9d. to the trustees of Actors' Day. The amount is made up of the salaries of the various members of the company according to a clause in their contracts, which, however, as will be seen by a letter from the eminent actor which we print in another column, is purely voluntary, and could be struck out if so desired. To the credit of those chiefly interested it may be added that no contingency of this kind has ever occurred.

Mr. George Alexander has brought out a very artistic souvenir of *His House in Order*. On the outside pages of the cover are a pretty coloured picture of himself and Miss Irene Vanbrugh in the principal parts and laudatory extracts from the leading daily papers. Inside, on cerulean note-paper with the heading "Overbury Towers," is the following extract from Major Maurewarde's letters to the deceased wife:—"We have never wanted for pluck, Bel, you and I. But these past six or seven years have been hell upon earth. They have pretty well broke both of us, and all for what? For this cursed sham of respectability. Bel, dearest, as to the child; how often have I told you I don't expect you to join me without *him*. In God's name, what gives you the notion that I could bear, any more than you could, to leave our boy in Jesson's keeping?"

Mr. Edward Terry added an unqualified success to his répertoire by the revival of *Liberty Hall*, which has been warmly welcomed in the provinces. The popular comedian's present tour terminates on Dec. 8 at Oxford. Mr. Terry, who is appearing this week at the Gaiety, Dublin, has just concluded highly gratifying engagements at Belfast and Cork, Irish audiences thoroughly endorsing the verdict already pronounced in the principal towns of England and Scotland.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier will afford his London admirers an opportunity of witnessing his embodiment of Macbeth, which created such interest last week at Stratford-on-Avon, by giving special matinées of the play at the Garrick Theatre on Tuesday and Thursday, Dec. 11 and 13. Miss Violet Vanbrugh will, as on the former occasion, appear in the rôle of Lady Macbeth. These performances, it should be added, will in no way interfere with the successful run of *The Morals of Marcus*, which reaches its 100th performance on Monday next.

Mrs. D'Oyly Carte will inaugurate the Savoy opera revival on Saturday, Dec. 8, with *The Yeomen of the Guard*, which, after a five weeks' season, will be followed by *The Gondoliers* and others of the series at similar intervals. The operas will then be played as a répertoire, changes being made nightly. The cast of *The Yeomen of the Guard* will consist of Messrs. Alec Johnstone, Stuart Alexander, Overton Moyle, Henry Burnand, C. H. Workman, John Clulow, H. M. White, Frank Beckett, Leo Sheffield, and Richard Andean, and Misses Lilian Coomber, Jessie Rose, Louie René, and Marie Wilson. Mr. Gilbert will, from Monday next, personally superintend the rehearsals.

Two only of the former members of the Savoy company have been secured, one of whom is Mr. C. H. Workman, who is promoted to the part of Jack Point. He has contributed to the gaiety of the Rand as well as of London, having recently returned from the prosperous tour with the D'Oyly Carte company in South Africa, and the retention in the cast of such a capable comedian is an invaluable means of ensuring the success of the enterprise. The other Savoyard is Miss Jessie Rose, who will play Phœbe Meryll.

Mr. John Clulow, to whom is allotted the important part of Wilfred Shadbolt, was conspicuous in touring melodrama before he joined the D'Oyly Carte répertoire, and played in *The Bells of Haslemere*, *Harbour Lights*, and other of the Adelphi dramas. Miss Lilian Coomber, who will play Elsie Maynard, was formerly principal soprano of the Carl Rosa company, and excelled especially as Michaela in *Carmen* and Marguerite in *Faust*.

The Imperial Theatre was offered for sale at the Mart, Tokenhouse-yard, on Thursday, by Messrs. Marler and Marler, acting on instructions from Mrs. Langtry. Mr. Sprague, the well-known theatre architect, as well as Mr. Arthur Chudleigh and Mr. Oscar Barrett, were present. The auctioneer pointed out that the theatre was in an excellent condition, and was practically immediately available for a production. The house had been let at a yearly rental of £2,500, and the present sale concerned a seven years' lease. Bidding started at £2,000, but as no higher offer than £2,500 was made, the lease was withdrawn. Messrs. Fairbrother, Ellis, and Co. subsequently, on the same day, and at the Mart, offered the Greenwich Theatre, formerly known as Morton's, but no bids were made for the property.

"The Virgin Goddess" was the subject of a debate before a considerable body of members of the Playgoers' Club, in the rooms, on Monday evening, Mr. H. Passmore Edwards occupying the chair. Mr. Harry Hart remarked how deplorable it was that, at a time when everybody was loudly and bitterly lamenting the decadence of the British drama, there should be found but an insignificant number of playgoers to support a production so commendable in every particular as *The Virgin Goddess*. The opinions of the other speakers coincided with that of the opener of the debate, and it was decided to forward to Mr. Otho Stuart a letter conveying to him "the hearty appreciation of the members of the Club of his public-spirited production of many excellent plays, and specially of such a play as *The Virgin Goddess*, which is worthy of the applause and support of all who are genuinely interested in the welfare of the English stage."

The Savoyard dinner, under the auspices of the O.P. Club will take place on Sunday, Dec. 30, at the Hotel Cecil. The suggestion made by Mr. Carl Hentschel (the hon. treasurer of the club) that the revival of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas should be celebrated in some such way has been enthusiastically taken up. The President, Mr. Sidney Dark, will be in the chair, and Mr. W. S. Gilbert will be the guest of the evening, supported by all the available Savoyards.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier achieved a veritable triumph at Oxford last week with their exquisite representations of *The Walls of Jericho* and *The Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt*. The enthusiastic reception at the New Theatre by the undergraduates of the founder of their own University Dramatic Society was something to be remembered, and each night Mr. Bourchier had to make a speech and thank them for their extraordinary reception of his wife, himself, and his company. Mr. Bourchier was entertained at dinner by the University Dramatic Society and by the Bullingdon Club. On Sunday he met the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Mr. Warren, President of Magdalen College) at lunch at Christ Church, and on Sunday evening dined at Wytham Abbey with the Earl and Countess of Abingdon.

Mr. Luscombe Searelle, who was one of the original members of the Eccentric Club, was re-elected this week by acclamation.

The Lyric Theatre will be again devoted to grand opera in English next summer, Mr. Tom B. Davis having arranged with the Moody-Manners company to repeat the season which met with so encouraging a result this year. Mr. Lewis Waller will remain in possession of the theatre until July 13 next, when Mr. Charles Manners will begin a season of opera lasting until Sept. 7, after which Mr. Waller returns with *Robin Hood*, should its prosperity, as it seems in a fair way to do, outlast the time.

Mr. Owen Hall's scheme of turning himself into a public company is the topic of the week. The capital of "Owen Hall, Ltd.," is only £12,000. The company is not formed for the production of Mr. Hall's own pieces exclusively, though of course the primary object of the people who are finding the money is to run his musical plays. He hopes to start about February at a London theatre, with a farcical comedy with music, called *King Silly*. The directors are Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Prince Victor Dhuleep Singh, Sir James Home, Sir Theodore Brinckmann, and Mr. Hall himself.

Mr. Hall's shareholders will only be doing openly what has been done in private for years past in the case of leading actors. The system of "backing" has notoriously worked well for certain capitalists. Of course, there is an acknowledged amount of risk in investing one's money in a mere mortal; but Mr. Hall is still young, and his death by infectious disease or accident could be insured against. Uncertainty is an element of all speculation, and with such great possibilities of profit, and capital so moderate, the venture is certainly not bolder than many which have been eagerly supported by the public.

Mr. Hall, otherwise Mr. James Davis, practised as a solicitor from 1874 to 1886, and contested Dundalk in the Conservative interest in 1880 against the late Sir Charles Russell. The list of his librettos includes *A Gaiety Girl*, *An Artist's Model*, *The Geisha*, *A Greek Slave*, *Florodora*, *The Silver Slipper*, *The Girl from Kay's*, and *The Medal and the Maid*. We may hope that, with a free hand, and without trammels in the way of artists or otherwise, Mr. Hall will do for "Owen Hall Limited," some of his very best work.

Mr. Hall writes to the *Daily Mail*:—"Your analysis of my prospectus is a steam-hammer to crack a filbert. I never propounded the scheme as a sound commercial enterprise. It is a speculation, with the chances greatly in favour of the investors. If one out of two pieces proves a success, we ought to pay 50 per cent. dividend; if we have two or three consecutive failures, the capital will be lost. I have never had two failures yet, and I hope I shall not break the record under my own management."

Mr. Charles Carey will produce a new edition of *After the Ball* at Christmas, under the title of *The Pick of the Bunch*. The chorus and ballet will be greatly augmented for the spring tour, and new scenery and dresses are being prepared at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

Mr. Whitford Kane, who is about to appear for the first time in a series of leading Shakespearean parts, will be supported by a strong company, consisting of Messrs. Godfrey Tearle, Philip Gordon, F. M. Paget, Bernard Grahame, Alfred Gray, Cyril Este, J. V. Bryant, Houston Meharry, Ed. Landor, Stafford Dawson, and R. H. Stevenson, and Miss Lillian Herries, Miss Molly Malone, Miss Gertrude Gilbert, Mrs. Henry Howard, Miss Kythie Mackenzie, &c. Mr. Henry Howard will be the business-manager.

Mr. Charles Manners sang a solo in St. Michael's Church, Sheffield, on the 4th inst., by means of which a very agreeable precedent was made. A small collection having been taken, the churchwardens kindly devoted therefrom the sum of £2 6s. 6d. to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, and the vicar has sent a cheque for that amount to the secretary.

His Excellency the Chinese Minister and suite paid a visit to the New Royalty Theatre on Tuesday evening, to witness the performance of *The Electric Man*, which has earned such an enviable reputation as a laughter-creator. Mr. Charles Hannan, the author of the piece, it may be remembered, has written a novel, entitled "The Captive of Pekin," based upon personal experiences in the Far East twenty years ago, and admitted to be an accurate picture of life and thought in the celestial Empire.

Mr. Henry Dundas, the general and business-manager of the Royal Opera House, Leicester, has issued the annual *Opera Magazine* for 1906-7. It contains excellent portraits of Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton, with entertaining articles on the careers of these gentlemen, who are the present owners of the Opera House. A large fund of information and a number of portraits are also contained in the book, which is got up in admirable style.

Jacos Gordon's play, *Man and Devil*, as interpreted by the capable members of the Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company, was again presented on Monday evening at the Pavilion Theatre to a crowded house. During the week successful performances have been given of *The Bells*, *Mad for Love*, *True Luck*, *Holy Sabbath*, and *The Somnambulist*.

The stage has given to the church this week, in the person of Mr. George Trollope, until recently a member of Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, who lately became a member of the Catholic Church, and has now gone to the English College at Rome to prosecute his studies for the priesthood. Mr. Trollope, whose stage career has extended over nine years, had his first engagement in one of Mr. Ben Greet's companies playing *The Sign of the Cross*. He toured the provinces for three years, and afterwards obtained a minor part in *The Second in Command* at the Haymarket.

A more important rôle in *The Man of Honour*, at the Avenue, was followed by that of Cyril Isidore Isard in *Business is Business*, under Mr. Tree at His Majesty's. Mr. Bourchier then engaged him for a long period, and he was in the cast of *Brother Officers*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *The Fascinating Mr. Vandervelt*, afterwards going on tour with the Garrick star company. Mr. Trollope, who was very popular with his comrades of the footlights, does not leave his old calling without a feeling of keen regret, and says he will always take an interest in anything appertaining to the stage.

At the special meeting of the British Empire Shakespeare Society, to be held on Thursday afternoon at the St. James's Theatre (kindly lent by Mr. George Alexander), Her Highness Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein will distribute prizes, and dramatic readings of scenes from *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Julius Cæsar*, and *Henry VIII.* will be given. Mr. Acton Bond, Miss Hutin Britton, Mr. Lewis Casson, Mr. Walter Hampden, Mr. Matheson Lang, and Miss Edith Wynne-Matthison will be included in the cast. Mr. Laurence Irving will recite the Ode to Shakespeare, and Mr. Sidney Lee (president of the Society) will take the chair.

"Guilty Gold," a new piece, described as a psychological drama, by Dr. D. G. Callahan, of San Francisco, will be produced, for the first time in this country, at the Dalston Theatre, on Monday. Miss Italia Conti will enact the rôle of the heroine.

The *Julie Bon-Bon* company, by whose efforts it is hoped to bring life and gaiety once more to the Waldorf, arrived in London from America on Wednesday. Included in the combination are Miss Clara Lipman, the authoress of the play, and Mr. Louis Mann, who have the chief parts. As the company have been appearing in the piece for some time in the States, there is little necessity for rehearsal, and the Messrs. Schubert's newest London enterprise will, therefore, be quite ready for production on Monday.

The Royal Academy of Music will benefit appreciably by the will of the late Miss Ada Lewis-Hill, who died on Oct. 13 last. The deceased lady, whose scholarships are so keenly contested by students at the above-named institution, has bequeathed to Sir Alexander Mackenzie or other the president of the Royal Academy of Music her finest Strad violin, which was valued at £1500, for the use of the "Ada Lewis" scholars, at the discretion of the principal, and to the Royal Academy of Music certain pianos and stringed instruments, a 'cello, and the full Steinway grand for special occasions.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hemming and their little daughter were amongst the saloon passengers on the ss. Caronia, which left Liverpool on Saturday. They purpose spending the winter in America, where Mr. Hemming has gone to arrange business matters that may cause him to spend half the year in the States, and the other half at his property in the Isle of Man.

Mr. John Horgan, the energetic manager of the Cork Opera House, has secured a leading attraction in Mr. Martin Harvey, who pays his first visit to the Irish seaport on Monday, for a week's engagement in *The Only Way* and other popular plays of his répertoire. Mr. Horgan has also pencilled dates with the famous actor in each year up to 1910.

The wedding took place at Oldham on the 10th inst. of Miss Ina Hill, one of the principal artists of the Carl Rosa Opera Company, and Mr. C. H. S. Dring, the resident-manager of the Empire Theatre, Cardiff. The bride and bridegroom were attended by Mr. Julius Walther and Miss Doris Woodall, both of the Carl Rosa company. After the ceremony breakfast was served in Oldham, and subsequently Mr. and Mrs. Dring left for Manchester, for a short honeymoon, after which the bride rejoined her company at Blackburn. Mrs. Dring, who will shortly take up her residence at Cardiff, has sung Arline in *The Bohemian Girl*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, and other leading operatic rôles. When Beethoven's *Fidelio* was revived in Dublin a few weeks ago, after an interval of twenty-five years, Miss Hill was entrusted with, and fulfilled most successfully, the part of Marcellina.

Mr. Hugh Robertson's tenancy of the Cambridge Theatre, Spennymoor, had a most auspicious beginning last week when Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's production of *The Prodigal Parson* drew large audiences nightly, culminating on Saturday in a house packed to the doors. This sterling drama, with its strong cast and elaborate mounting, created a great impression. Mr. David Collins, the new acting-manager, has made several improvements in the heating arrangements of the theatre.

Mr. F. B. Woulfe is producing at the Star Theatre, Liverpool, at Christmas, a new version of *Robin Hood*, written for him by Clifford Rean. The music is to be an especial feature, and to that end Mr. Woulfe is travelling a male quartette of glee singers. Mr. Woulfe has no intention of finishing with his répertoire company, which has been more than usually successful this autumn, *Hamlet* in particular being such a draw that other Shakespearean productions are to be added.

Mr. Albert C. Duncan announces his intention of resigning his position as resident-manager of the King's Theatre, Cardiff. Mr. Duncan, who has only been in the town some six or seven months, came with excellent credentials, and during his brief sojourn has greatly improved business at the theatre and made a host of friends. His intending departure is widely regretted, but he leaves with the best of good wishes for his future prosperity. Mr. Duncan's previous record embraces some years of touring management for Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. Charles Macdona, Mr. J. F. Elliston, and other leading enterprises.

Considerable changes will shortly take place in the management of the Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, which is to be placed under the direction of the well-known managers Messrs. Murray, King, and Clarke, who have been associated with the provincial success of *Bluebell in Fairyland*, and have supplied some of the best attractions seen at the house. Various alterations and improvements are to be carried out at an early date, and it is hoped that a prosperous career awaits what is undoubtedly one of the prettiest theatres on the South Coast.

Mr. Edgar Allan Brown has been appointed acting-manager and secretary of the Devonshire Park generally. During his two and a half years' service as secretary he has made many friends, and has shown a keen business capacity in the management of the affairs of the company.

All that was left of the old Theatre Royal, Stockton, and the site whereon it stood, were offered at auction on Tuesday, but withdrawn at £2300. The property was subsequently disposed of privately for £2400 to the trustees of a Presbyterian denomination for the purposes of erecting a new church.

Mr. Cecil Kingsley has been specially engaged by Mrs. Michael Gunn to play the Vizier in *Sinbad the Sailor* at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, at Christmas.—Miss Julie Temple has been so successful on her third engagement as Bridget (*The Fatal Wedding*) with Mr. Bert Coote, that she has been re-engaged by him for Christmas and spring.—Mr. Albert Robertson has obtained his fifth re-engagement from Mr. Chas. Macdona for the tour of *A Country Girl* which opens at Aberavon at Christmas.—Miss Rose Moncrieff is touring her pantomime of *Jack in the Beanstalk* this Christmas, thus making the third year of the successful production.—Miss Tita Brand has been specially engaged by Mr. F. R. Benson to play Volumnia in *Coriolanus* at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, to-day.

The Irving Memorial Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, Mr. Cyril Maude occupying the chair, and Messrs. Laurence Grant, Lewis Casson, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary) being in attendance. It was announced that Mr. Arthur Bourchier had kindly placed the Garrick Theatre at the disposal of the committee for the purpose of holding a meeting of the profession on Friday, Dec. 14, at three o'clock. It was announced that the meeting would be presided over by Mr. John Hare, and that amongst those who had already signified their intention of being present were Mr. A. W. Pinero and Mr. George Alexander.

At the Grand Theatre, Croydon, on Monday, *The Little Stranger* will be followed by the revival of *Fogged*, which, in itself a very popular farce some years ago, is mainly a vehicle to introduce Mr. John Morris and his extraordinary mechanical contrivance for rapid change of costume in full sight of the audience. Mr. Charles Steuart is responsible for the production, and the following members of his company will play parts in the farce:—Miss Mary Allestree, Mr. George E. Bellamy, and Mr. Charles Goold.

The usual weekly meeting of the council of the Actors' Association was held on Tuesday, when there were present Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Mr. John Hare, V.P., Mr. Cyril Maude, V.P., Mesdames Carlotta Addison and Kate Phillips, Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, William Devereux, Lawrence Grant, Fewlass Llewellyn, Algernon Syms, A. B. Tapping, Spencer Trevor, Fredk. Volpe, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary).

The hon. solicitors reported progress in several matters; amongst other announcements they reported the settlement of four claims for monies due to members, and the secretary received instructions as to the division of the amount recovered between the claimants, and the payment of costs and expenses out of pocket. Two cases in connection with the present state of two provincial theatres were under consideration, and the secretary received instructions. Two former members were reinstated, matters in connection with the proposed Irving Memorial were discussed, and the secretary received instructions.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last, when there were present Mr. Acton Bond (chairman) and Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford, Lawrence Grant, C. Aubrey Smith, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). Matters in connection with the acounts of the year were considered, and the secretary received instructions.

Holloway theatregoers should be in happiest vein this Christamas, when the pantomime *Cinderella* at the Marlborough promises to be one of the finest, as well as the funniest, pantos North London has yet witnessed. Written and produced by Stanley Rogers, the prolific pantomime librettist, author of over thirty "books," it will be gorgeously mounted and costumed, and presented by a company fit to represent comic opera.

Mr. Percy H. Vernon is concluding his engagement as Talleyrand in *A Royal Divorce*, and has been engaged by Miss F. Glossop-Harris to produce all the plays in her répertoire company, starting on Dec. 31. Mr. Vernon will also play Malvolio, Mercutio, Il Dancairo in *Carmen*, and other important rôles.

Mr. C. Robt. Perkins, the lessee of the Opera House, Jersey, has let the theatre to Mr. Edward Marris. Mr. Perkins has been connected with the house for close on seven years, and his departure will be keenly regretted by his many friends on the island, with whom his business acumen and social qualities had made him a great favourite.

Mr. Arthur Collins announces the last nights of *The Bondman* with regret. Mr. Hall Caine's piece has, to all appearances, proved one of the most successful of Drury Lane autumn productions, but the theatre is required for rehearsals of the elaborate production of *Sindbad*, and *The Bondman* will perforce be withdrawn on Wednesday, Dec. 5.

Mr. T. J. Robinson, the popular acting-manager of the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, which closes its doors as a theatre on the night of Dec. 8, will have a benefit matinée on Dec. 10, the theatre having been kindly placed at his disposal by the managing-director, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett. Mr. Robinson has looked after the comfort and well-being of the patrons of the theatre with unvaried assiduity and care, and they will doubtless show their appreciation of his efforts in their behalf by rendering his benefit a substantial one.

Miss Olga Hope, a very youthful actress, has been engaged for No. 1 Claudia in Mr. A. H. Canby's *Prince Chap* company, and makes her début at Newcastle on Dec. 3. Miss Florence Somers has been engaged by Mr. E. Graham Falcon to play the title-rôle in *Bluebell in Fairyland* in his forthcoming tour, which starts at Bedford on Christmas Eve.

Mr. Sydney Tolfree, the new manager of the Hippodrome, Wakefield, comes from Grimsby, where he had been manager of the Prince of Wales Theatre for six years, and also secretary and manager of the Tivoli in the same town. He commenced his duties at Wakefield on the 12th inst., succeeding Mr. Henry Lucas.

Miss Annie Hughes, who will produce Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's new comedy, *Tommy*, at Manchester on Tuesday, will bring it to London the following week, when it will be given at the Camden. Tommy will be played by Miss Hughes, who will be supported by Messrs. Evelyn Vernon, William Calvert, A. E. Benedict, and Rupert Lister; and Miss Moyra Creegan and Miss Ida Richardson. The action takes place on the second floor of a house in Gough-square, E.C., during its occupancy by two successive tenants.

The jubilee performance to Mr. Charles Santley, which Lord Kilmorey is inaugurating, will be commemorative of his London début, the eminent vocalist having made his actual first appearance in his native town of Liverpool fifty-three years ago. He was a member of a musical society, and the first song he sang was Benedict's "Rage, thou angry storm." The event which it is proposed to celebrate is that of his appearance in St. Martin's Hall, London, when he sang the part of Adam in *The Creation*.

The eminent baritone is not among those who consider that the English language does not lend itself to musical treatment. "If people will only pronounce the words properly," says the singer, "English is as musical as most other languages, and is quite as easy to sing. I have sung in French, Italian, and German; Spanish I know, but I do not know its songs. My favourite for musical expression is Italian, most unquestionably."

"Robin Hood" made his appearance within the precincts of Windsor Castle on the 16th inst., when Mr. Lewis Waller and his company from the Lyric Theatre performed before the King and Queen of England and their Majesties of Norway. The cast of the "command" performance included, in addition to Mr. Waller, Messrs. Philip Cunningham, William Devereux, S. B. Brereton, Frank Woolfe, H. Viner, Herbert Vyvyan, H. J. Carvill, Shiel Barry, R. C. Smith, Frank Cochrane, Herbert Jarman, A. E. George, Owen Roughwood, Cecil Cameron, I. H. Irvine, Cecil McGuinness, P. Digan, and Lewis Waller, and Misses Helen Leyton, Dorothy Minto, Georgie Esmond, Gertrude Ayre, and Evelyn Millard. Supper for the principal performers was afterwards served in the Presence Chamber, while the rest of the company were entertained in other rooms of the Castle.

Miss Christine Silver, who has just concluded a tour as Shirley Rossmore with *The Lion and the Mouse*, will play the leading parts in Mr. Walter Maxwell's répertoire company at Christmas.

Mr. Hugh Fleming, who concludes to-night an eight years' engagement with the George Musgrove *Belle of New York* and *Prince of Pilsen* companies as advance director, will, after a fortnight's rest, join Baron Harries's *Prince of Pilsen* company in the same capacity for a tour extending over three years.

The numerous friends of Miss Dot Stephens will be glad to hear that the little lady is still progressing favourably. News from the specialist is to the effect that he hopes, by the aid of surgical appliances, that Miss Stephens will be able to walk once more

Miss Marie Studholme will appear in the title-rôle of *Alice in Wonderland*, which will be revived at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 19. Mr. Seymour Hicks will resume his merry performance of the Mad Hatter, and the cast will further comprise Messrs. Tom Graves, J. C. Buckstone, Harry Ulph, Julian Cross, Arthur Borrett, and H. H. H. Cameron, and Misses Florrie Arnold, Alice Barth, Florence Lloyd, and Rigaro.

Mr. C. W. Somerset will give *The Jungle* its first performance at the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, on Monday, Dec. 21. The new production will have the benefit of scenery by leading scenic artists, and special music will be composed by Denham Harrison. In the rôle of the mad Doctor Mr. Somerset will have a character filled with weird intensity and giving the greatest scope to his well-known powers of delineation. The company has been specially chosen, and Mr. Edward Russell has been entrusted with the business management of the tour.

Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, which finally closes its doors on Saturday, will next week have a powerful attraction in Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company with *Cousin Kate* and *A Country Mouse*, in which Miss Lilias Earle takes the chief parts. The historic playhouse of the North will therefore resound during the last week it will be open to the laughter and cheers of delighted audiences.

Miss Mabel Ormonde, who is on tour with Mr. Mark Blow's *Under Two Flags* company, has written an article on "Naval Plate of the Seventeenth Century," which has been published in the November number of *The Connoisseur* magazine.

Miss May Harley is to be congratulated on her success in the two distinct parts of Mary Grey and Lottie Mayday in *Lady Kinton's Necklace*, the interesting play in which the illusions of Servais Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco figure so remarkably. Miss Harley is an ambitious young lady, and her future gives every promise.

"Mizpah," the poetical play founded on the Hebraic narrative of Esther, by Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Luscombe Searelle, shortly to be produced in London, has appealed very strongly to the Jewish community in America. Congregations at the synagogues have been urged from the pulpit to witness the play, which they were assured was almost the only drama produced on the English-speaking stage which portrayed the true dignity of the race, instead of holding it up to scorn and ridicule. At the first performance of the drama in New York, at the close of a speech where Mordecai, invoking Jehovah's aid to succour his persecuted race, a tall, distinguished-looking Jew rose from the stalls and thundered out, "Send that message to Russia."

The market for Mr. Arthur Jefferson's plays has lately been given a decided impulse. *The Orphan Heiress* figured as Messrs. Melville's attraction at the Terriss last week, and is to be followed by *The World's Verdict*. The latter play is chosen by Mr. Samuel James this week for the Lyric, Hammersmith, where *The Orphan Heiress* will be shortly put on; while next week will witness *London by Day and Night* at the Elephant, which is later to welcome *The Orphan Heiress* and *The World's Verdict*.

Mr. L. F. Chapuy, the esteemed Professor of Elocution at the Guildhall School of Music, will have the deepest sympathy of all in the loss he has sustained by the death of his son, who passed away on the 16th inst. in his forty-second year. The deceased, who had suffered from paralysis for five years, was for twelve years superintendent of Carnegie Hall, New York, and was held in the highest respect.

A remarkable instance of the smallness of this world occurred last week at Newport. Mr. Cooper, the lessee of the Lyceum, introduced Mr. Richard F. Symons, the manager of *The Duchess of Dantzic* company, to a local doctor, neither gentleman having heard each other's name before. In the course of conversation the doctor said: "I had a patient of last week's company, *When It Was Dark*, who will very soon be at the top of the tree. She puts her whole heart and soul into her work, and her voice is one of the very finest. I was called in on account of throat trouble, and I examined her throat, and I assure you that she has for speaking the exact copy of Mme. Melba's singing voice, the vocal cords being identical. She has undoubtedly a very great asset in her voice. She is quite young, too, only twenty-five, and she has been playing star parts for some time. She is very good-looking, full of animation and spirits. Her eyes, her hair, in fact, her whole personality is perfect, and all the audience thought so, too, for she carries conviction in all she does and says. I am," he added, "speaking of Miss Eva Moss, who was the star of last week's company. Do you know her?" "Yes," was the quiet reply, "she is my wife."

Miss Ida Bowman, who is delighting provincial audiences with her captivating performance of Nellie Wagner in the George Musgrove *Prince of Pilsen* company, has a vivid remembrance of being at Louisville, U.S.A., as a mere child, during the great cyclone in 1894. With the exception of the theatre, scarcely a building was left standing. Mr. Richard Mansfield, with whom she was then travelling, considering the terrible havoc and loss of life, had never dreamt of playing that night, but the homeless citizens threatened to tear him out of his special travelling saloon train if he refused. "We played," says Miss Bowman, "to one of the best audiences of the town. The poor, homeless people had made up their minds to 'dope' their misery with theatrical pleasure. It was sad, though just a little unpleasant, to play the gorgeous banquet scene in *A Parisian Romance* to an audience of hungry people. Mr. Mansfield was always very realistic, and insisted on real food and real champgne being provided on the stage."

Miss Stella Brereton (Mrs. S. Brereton Douglas) will present her pupils at a dramatic and musical recital, given under the patronage of Mrs. Kendal, at the Queen's Small Hall on Monday, Dec. 3, at three o'clock. Mrs. Brereton, herself an adept in the art of elocution and deportment, trains up her protégées to follow faithfully in her footsteps, and their efforts are sure to result in an interesting afternoon.

Miss Minnie Rayner (Mrs. Frederic Jacques) has been engaged by Mr. Maurice Bandmann for his Mediterranean and India tour to play Miss Connie Ediss's parts and other characters in *Mr. Popple*, *Beauty of Bath*, *The Dairymaids*, &c. She sails for Bombay on Friday next per s.s. Persia from Tilbury Docks.

Miss Florence Smithers concludes on Saturday next another successful tour as Jane—her original part—in Mr. Edward Marris's *The Dandy Doctor* company, having been with the piece over six and a half years. On the following Monday she starts a tour with her sketch company, being booked by Mr. Oswald Stoll for Birmingham, Liverpool, and other important towns.

A donation of one guinea has been forwarded for the Dot Stephens' Fund as the proceeds of the sale of the first edition of the *P.O.P.*, published and edited by Albert Vernon, musical director, contributed to by the members of *The Prince of Pilsen* company, and raffled by Miss Sophie Harris

DINNER TO MR. T. P. O'CONNOR.

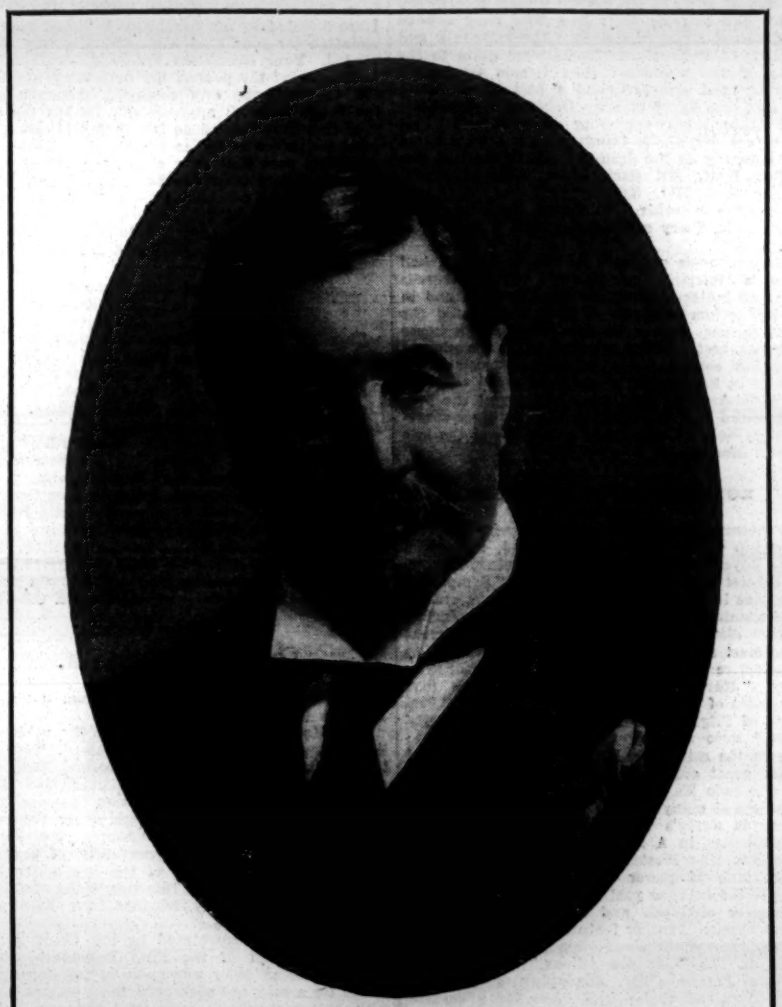
The proceedings at the complimentary dinner given at the Hotel Cecil by the musical profession in honour of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., were characterised by whole-hearted enthusiasm. It was recognised by everyone present that the Musical Copyright Act of 1906, to the introduction and passing into law of which Mr. O'Connor had so strenuously applied his energies, had righted a great wrong, and that the disabilities, in regard to the piracy of musical compositions, under which everybody connected with the music industry had suffered, were now, in the opinion of those best qualified to speak upon the subject, for ever removed. The general note of the meeting was one, we might say, of joyous congratulation—congratulation to the man who had for so many months, and almost single-handed, fought for a just cause, and succeeded in the fight; and mutual congratulation among those engaged in the various branches of the music trade, who could now look forward with hopefulness to the future. Mr. O'Connor's description of how he ran the gauntlet with his Bill against opposition in the House of Commons, and contrived to slip it into the Lords, was full of that good humour and embellished with those sudden flashes of genial witticism which have marked his utterances in the past.

The chair was occupied by the Duke of Argyll, and on the right of His Grace sat the guest of the evening. Among those present were eminent representatives of music, art, literature, medicine, and politics, as the following list will evidence:—

Lord Monkswell, M.P., Right Hon. Sir Edward H. Carson, P.C., K.C., M.P., Mr. T. E. Scrutton, K.C., Mr. F. Thomasson, M.P., Mr. T. H. Sloan, M.P., Mr. J. Redmond, M.P., Sir A. C. Mackenzie, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Hamish McCunn, Mr. George Edwardes, Signor F. Paolo Tosti, Mr. T. S. Chappell, Mr. H. J. Chinnery, Hon. Harry W. Lawson, Mr. William Boosey, Mr. J. T. Agg-Gardner, J.P., Mr. J. W. Crombie, M.P., Mr. Arthur Boosey, Mr. R. D. Muir, Mr. Alfred Littleton, Mr. Alberto Randegger, Mr. J. Comyns Carr, Mr. Edward German, Right Hon. C. B. Stuart-Wortley, P.C., K.C., M.P., Sir C. V. Stanford, Mr. David Day, Mr. Frank Forty, Mr. W. Pritchard, Mr. Charles Warren, Mr. F. W. Leigh, Mr. C. Wilmott, Mr. H. E. Pether, Mr. J. S. Rubinstein, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Signor C. Pavone, Signor Tito Mattei, Signor Marchisio, Mr. H. L. Mocatta, Mr. B. Feldman, Mr. J. H. Bird, Mr. Leslie Stuart, Colonel Henry Mapleson, Mr. J. Coudurier, Mr. W. Ganz, Mr. J. M. Tusky, Mr. Harry Dacre, Mr. C. Mudie, Mr. A. Preston, Mr. J. Jennings, Mr. H. W. Reynolds, Mr. J. H. Larway, Mr. Walter Reynolds, Mr. Collard Moutrie, Mr. Herbert Carr, Mr. T. J. Condon, M.P., Mr. J. Sarjeant, Ascherberg, Hopwood, and Crew, Mr. J. C. Lockhart, Mr. H. House, Mr. Frank Ashdown, Mr. C. E. D. Willcocks, Mr. Thos. White, Mr. G. F. Jefferys, Mr. Bennett Scott, Mr. E. Morton, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. Paul A. Rubens, Mr. F. E. Tours, Mr. Sidney Jones, Mr. E. Goodman, Mr. C. V. Young, Keith, Prowse, and Co., Mr. G. Muir Wood, Mr. Hy. Parker, Mr. W. Saville, Mr. E. Donajowski, Mr. H. Mullen, Mr. Theo. Wendt, Mr. W. Slaughter, Hon. R. H. Lyttelton, Mr. Bernard Rolt, Mr. J. E. Strong, Mr. C. Donkin, Mr. R. J. Hawkins, Mr. H. King, Mr. H. W. Harston, Mr. C. F. East, Mr. W. H. Squire, Mr. A. Visetti, Sir E. Cornwall, Mr. E. Browne, Mr. E. Teschemacher, Mr. E. J. Marjetson, Mr. A. Healey Foster, Mr. W. W. Hedgcock, Mr. C. Copland, Dr. Wallace, Dr. Blake, Dr. R. Hayes, Mr. E. Newton, Mr. S. F. Blakeston, Mr. Harold Wilde, Mr. Percy Greenbank, Mr. Howard Talbot, Signor Albanesi, Sir George Power, Mr. C. Willeby, Mr. Allen Gill, Mr. A. van Biene, Mr. J. Pocock, Mr. A. Ives, Mr. Herman Finck, Mr. F. Lambert, Mr. L. Bantock, Dr. G. Bantock, Sir J. Herbert Marshall, J.P., Dr. Hugo Felix, Sir Clifton Robinson, Mr. H. A. Scott, Mr. N. Lambelet, Mr. F. Böhr, Mr. Louis Hillier, Mr. Henry Beaumont, Mr. C. Lederer, Mr. Orlando Powell, Mr. Stuart Cumberland, Mr. Fredk. Norton, Mr. E. W. Shackell, J.P., Signor F. Leoni, Mr. P. Cunningham, Signor Mario Costa, Mr. H. Percy Becher, Mr. Hermann Löhr, Mr. H. Houston, jun., Mr. John Lane, Mr. R. Coningsby Clarke, Mr. A. Somervell, Mr. J. Stevenson, Mr. W. Hassell, Mr. F. Egerton Smith, Mr. P. W. Carey, J.P., Mr. C. Blackett, Mr. Ivan Caryll, Mr. Alex. Wood, Sir Ernest Clarke, Mr. R. H. Walthew, Mr. Landon Ronald, Mr. W. Reynolds, Mr. C. Volkert, Mr. D. L. Straker, Mr. G. H. Clutsam, Mr. Waddington Cooke, Mr. Geo. Dixey, Mr. W. Hollick, Mr. H. Buchanan, Mr. Fredk. Cliffe, Mr. A. Ramsden, Mr. C. D. Vallance, Mr. W. Watts, Mr. Kennerley Rumford, Mr. Ian Malcolm, Dr. Milsom Rees, Mr. J. Collard, Mr. A. Murray, J.P., Mr. G. Chater, Dr. B. Ryley, Mr. F. Corder, Mr. R. Somerville, Mr. F. Howard, Dr. Cathcart, Mr. S. C. Blackett, and Mr. H. H. Riley Smith.

The CHAIRMAN, rising to propose the toast of "T. P. O'Connor, Esq., M.P.," said:—I come at once with your permission to the chief business of the evening, after being told that we are to have no music. There are so many musicians here that it will be probably a relief to them to know that there will be no music. Well, the chief business is the health of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, whom we recognise as the successful champion of the cause which we believe to be just, and, at all events, to be triumphant. I believe that all over the country the fruits of a man's brain in the matter of music have now received adequate protection, but that had not been so until very late in the year. I think it is only about eighteen months since we met at the Queen's Hall to protest and to bring before the notice of the Government of the day—I was happy to see a continuity of policy—the grievances of those men whose talent enabled them to write music, and the fruit of whose labours had been filched away by irresponsible persons. The protest was made by so many different shades of opinion in other matters that it could not but arrest the attention of the Government, and since then attempts have been made to pass an Act which should adequately do justice to those able to supply us with that great and human blessing—good music. As you are aware, we in England are perhaps not quite so good in the production of music as our friends on the Continent. We can, however, I think, congratulate ourselves upon the fact that, through the efforts of our friends, we may in England encourage men of British birth to put forth their best powers to compete with their foreign friends, and to increase that promising school of British composers which we happily already have among us. I hope that will be the first fruits of the success of Mr. T. P. O'Connor and his friends in this matter. A few years hence we shall wonder that there should have been any doubt about, or that there should have been any opposition to, these proposals; but there always is a certain class of our countrymen who indulge in misplaced sentiment. I am indebted for my part in this matter—because I hardly know one note of music from another, and Mr. O'Connor has confessed the same to me just now—to my friend, Mr. Hamish McCunn. Mr. O'Connor, whom I shall now introduce to you, has just crossed the ocean, and has been enlarging or playing upon the Irish harp, or, what we call in Scotland the *clairshach*. I hope he will give us a performance this evening. In any case, we are very happy to see him here. We recognise the exceedingly good work he has done in this matter, a good work we believe he is likely to extend to America, because I believe that the American composers also have their grievances, and what he has said about the work going on here has met with considerable approval in the States. We hope that he will have more power to his elbow, and that his shadow will never grow less. Here's to Mr. T. P. O'Connor and long life to him!

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR, before being allowed to respond, was made the object of a wildly enthusiastic ovation, and he was for some seconds on his feet awaiting the opportunity to give vent to the thoughts he wished to express. When the cheering had at last subsided, he quietly and unassumingly opened his address. "Your Grace, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—I think any man might very well be proud at having such a gathering before him as that I now address, presided over by a gentleman who has so many claims to distinction as our friend the chairman. I was reading the other day in a review of a distinguished man of letters who has recently died, Sir Leslie Stephen, who was described as a very modest man, which at once establishes the analogy between him and me. And one of the proofs of his modesty was that he always regarded himself as something of an impostor, and that he was going to be found out sooner or later. By the cordiality, not to say enthusiasm, with which that observation has been received, I gather that the analogy is quite complete. But, your Grace, I do feel something of an impostor here to-night, for I have reaped where others have sown. It is always the case that somebody comes at the end of a long task, and is able to put the little completing touch to a work of which the greater and more difficult part has been done by his predecessors, who have not reaped the glory or seen the consummation of their efforts. I always think in connection with these affairs, of which I have seen many examples in my political life—as I have never been in office you can quite understand that I have a certain detached view—I have always thought of the steeplejack, who, when the great architect has conceived the design, and the great builder has built up the temple, and thousands of workmen for many years have contributed their share—I think of the steeplejack, who, at the last moment, puts the cross on top of the great steeple, and I am inclined to believe that those who finally carry a Bill into an Act of Parliament deserve no more recognition than the steeplejack who puts the cross on the summit of a building which had taken the



T. P. O'CONNOR, ESQ., M.P.

labour of many better men than himself through years, perhaps generations. Now, what was the evil with which we had to deal? The copyright in music was theoretically under the same protection as copyright in every other form of intellectual effort. But it was found that the protection was theoretical, not real. Men and women, who have composed pieces of music, which were the delight and joy of thousands and millions of homes, found that their music could be stolen, and that the law gave them no relief. As to the trade of music, it was passing through a serious, I might almost say, a tremendous crisis. In many parts of the country men engaged in the selling of music were becoming bankrupt, the composers of music were deprived of a large portion, some of them of all their income, and many a tragic story is known of men and women who were actually face to face with starvation, some of whom actually died of worry and starvation, because the law of the land refused to protect the product of their brain. Now this was the evil with which we had to deal. There was another evil to which I will not allude beyond the mere mention of it, and that was the great national loss which must come to a people when one of its great artistic and spiritual interests was prejudiced.

Application was made to Parliament over and over again, and in 1902 Parliament listened, and the Bill was introduced. The Bill was sent to a committee upstairs. That very often means to send the Bill downstairs into a grave from which there is no resurrection, and one of the pieces of advice which were given to me in the course of the struggle for my particular Bill was to send the Bill upstairs. I am very glad I resisted the temptation, for the Bill would probably be in its grave at this moment if I had not. The Bill for 1902 was sent upstairs. It was amended, with the result that the evil which was a dwarf before the amended Bill passed into law suddenly became a giant, and this Bill, which was actually brought in to put down musical piracy, had the effect of augmenting musical piracy, so that it became worse than ever. This is the effect of amending a Bill! Well, you know when you pass a measure in the House of Commons, you are expected to be satisfied for a considerable period afterwards. You are regarded as a somewhat importunate and impertinent person if you ask that assembly to reopen a question which it has closed. The Act of 1902 was an injury to the musical profession. It increased the evil it was intended to remove, and it closed the ear and the door of Parliament for some years. One of the resolutions I made in my own mind was that whether the Bill was carried or not, I would never be a party to the passing of a bad Bill. In 1905 the Bill was introduced. I think I was partly responsible for the introduction of the Bill. I spoke to the Prime Minister of the period, who is one of the most ardent admirers of music. My prayer to him to take up the question was backed by the two gentlemen who were mainly responsible for the introduction of such a Bill—the late Attorney-General, and my friend and countryman, the late Solicitor-General, Sir Edward Carson—and I am bound to say that if zeal and enthusiasm in the cause of the Bill on the part of the law officers and the Prime Minister could have completed the work, the Bill would have passed into law. But they were confronted by many obstacles, and the result was that the Bill was not passed into law. When the new Government came into office, I immediately set to work again upon the Bill. On almost the first day of the session I asked Mr. Herbert Gladstone whether the Government intended to introduce a Bill to deal with musical copyright. When in opposition every member of the present Government was a friend of musical copyright, and Mr. Gladstone gave me a soft answer. It turned away my wrath for the time being; but, gentlemen, I know something about Governments. I have sometimes had to use pressure upon Governments, and I asked again when the Government intended to bring in the Bill for musical copyright. I saw many members of the Government on the question, and from all I got the same soft answer, and if I had not been an old hand, I would really have taken these answers as meaning that a Bill was going to be immediately introduced and immediately passed into law. And when a Minister says to you, "My dear T. P.," in soft and dulcet tones, why, you will have to be a little harder-hearted than I am not for the moment to be impressed; and, gentlemen, week after week, and month after month, I lived in the hope that the Government would bring in the Bill. Now, I knew then that no Bill could be carried which had not at its back the support of the Government of the day, and that even with the support of the Government of the day it would require a good deal of effort to get the Bill considered and passed. There have been several pioneers before me in this undertaking. One of them, Mr. Ian Malcolm, is present, some of them are absent like Mr. Galloway and Lord Balcarres, and I am bound to say that the generosity of these men who have supported me is very much to the credit of them and the public life. When I look at the welter of legislation which is now occupying the attention of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, I congratulate myself that I got my little Bill passed. I rejoice that my little Private Bill did not have to wait for the Armageddon conflicts of to-day in Parliament, and if it had been in opposition to the Land Tenure Bill it would have stood no chance whatever. But I had not the slightest idea that the Bill would be so severely opposed. I thought I had good ground for being more sanguine than subsequent events justified. The Bill was backed by the strongest sponsorship that ever was behind a Bill in the House of Commons. It had at its back the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Balfour; the leader of a party who sometimes stood in the way of legislation—I need scarcely say I think always bad legislation—my friend and leader, Mr. Redmond. It had at its back the leader of the Welsh party, Sir Alfred Thomas, the leader of the Scottish party, and Mr. Keir Hardie, the leader of the Labour Party. And in order that it might be complete I got the support of my friend, Mr. T. H. Sloan, the Orange Member for West Belfast, whose party at present seems to consist only of himself. Well, gentlemen, with such a backing, and with the Government favouring the Bill, you can quite understand that I started out on my journey in the best of spirits, and when I saw the blocking notice against the second reading I really could scarcely believe my eyes. There was a discussion between Mr. Balfour and the Prime Minister, the latter describing it as one of the most non-contentious Bills. I stated that it was one of those little, simple, innocent, non-contentious Bills which had in its favour practically the whole of the House of Commons. But a Bill that has in its favour nine-tenths of the House of Commons does not cease to become a contentious Bill. Why should the House of Commons allow a tiny minority, sometimes three or four, somtimes only one man, to stand between an important class and the removal of its grievances, and to stand against the judgment of the House of Commons? The Bill was one in favour of which its author never made a speech. I dwell upon the fact because I belong to a country where speech is supposed to be rather more difficult than silence; but though I made no speeches on the Bill in the House of Commons, it was not that I was not occasionally tempted to do so. I have always understood that you never know what a scoundrel you are until you write a play. These two gentlemen, Mr. Beerbohm Tree and Mr. Alexander, will tell you that if anything could destroy the friendship which has existed between them and me for so many years, it would be the announcement on my part that I am going to write a play. But, gentlemen, I never knew the depths of scoundrelism to which I had descended until I introduced a Private Bill. Some attacks were made upon the Bill, and some were even made upon me. But it rather upset my sense of humour when a man got up in the House of Commons, and, defending the rights of the kerbstone thief, appealed to the Englishmen there to remember the liberties for which their countrymen had fought! I have heard of the greatness of England placed upon many foundations, but I had never heard before that the Atlas who bore upon his shoulder all the magnitude of the weight of Empire was a kerbstone thief. There was not a concession which we made in the last days of the struggle which we were not willing to make in the early days as well. One gentleman opposed the Bill because there was a ring or a trust of music publishers or musical composers. Well, if there had been, you would not have had to wait so long for the redressing of your grievances. Another gentleman was extremely anxious to give cheap music to the people. I ventured to say that although cheapness was an excellent thing, it was not a thing which should be purchased by robbers. The third objection was that this was a Bill in favour of the publishers and not of the composers. Well, I confess I have no abstract love of the publisher, but I ventured to answer this gentleman that it was rather difficult to understand how, if the publishers were wrong, the composer could be benefited. All this kind of objection was foolish enough, but it did not exasperate me quite so much as another form of objection to the Bill, and that was the argument that copyright was a privilege, something that Parliament gave grudgingly, unwillingly, and almost against the public interest. To lay down that the work of a man's hand or the work of a man's capital or enterprise was more entitled to protection than the work of the soul or the brain, means that the nation is in its spiritual and intellectual decadence. These islands have produced great statesmen, great soldiers, great inventors, great conquerors; but put all the work of statesmanship, of arms, of commerce together into the balance, and Shakespeare into the other scale, and Shakespeare could outdo them all. I have not told you all the objections. I told you that I made no speech on the floor of the House, but if ever a volume of my speeches should be produced, I pity the publisher who is going to face the inevitable loss of such a production; but I would like him to add to the volume the speeches I made in the corridors and lobbies of the House of Commons. When I wanted someone *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re*, I fell back upon my friend, Lord Beauchamp; when I wanted the truly Mark Tapley spirit of optimism I always looked to my friend, Mr. Boosey. Let me tell you, gentlemen, that but for Mr. William Boosey the Musical Copyright Act would never have come into law. We have here a gentleman learned in the law, Mr. Muir. He was my coach, and if it had not been for the insight he gave me into the vagaries of the piracy people, possibly I should never have understood the question as well as I did. I went down to the House at eleven o'clock every night to propose the Bill for the purpose of creating an atmosphere, a thing that Mr. Tree and Mr. Alexander know all about. I also wanted to expose to the House of Commons the smallness of the numbers of those who opposed the Bill. That was not quite a pleasant task. My friend, Sir Edward Carson, was also down every night at eleven o'clock. He said it was an instruction in Parliamentary methods to watch the performance. But night after night some gentleman got up and objected, and the worst of it was that when I had squared one, another immediately succeeded to his place. In spite of the support of the Government, the Bill was still opposed by the small minority. Gradually the closing days of the session were at hand. I was afraid that my Bill was doomed. However, I went on, and the result of it was that at last the Bill was starred by the Government. My work at this stage was enormously helped by Mr. Herbert Gladstone, the Home Secretary, and Mr. Samuel, the Under-Secretary, who applied his powers of persuasion to some supporters of the Government whom I could not reach. We got the Bill taken up by the Government. We had two all-night sittings over the Bill, and we got through the two all-night sittings. We got it through the House of Commons, and then came the House of Lords. It is not often that the House of Lords has a special sitting for a private member and a private Bill; but I went to Lord Beauchamp, who had charge of the Bill in the Upper House, and I asked him if could have a private and special sitting of the House of Lords to get one stage of the Bill passed. He referred me to the Lord Chancellor, who was a friend of the Bill. The Lord Chancellor referred me to Lord Ripon, who was a friend of the Bill and of myself, and the result of it was that within a few moments of the Bill passing through the House of Commons there was an assembly of the House of Lords. One noble lord occupied the chair and two others occupied the benches. There was another in the shape of Lord Beauchamp, the sponsor of the Bill. The Bill was put through the Woolsack, and it was carried without a dissentient voice. In order to frank the amendments I got the printers to sit up all night, and it was not until I saw the clerks in possession of the amendments that I realised the Bill was safe. The Bill was to come up and to pass through several stages at once. The House of Lords is a very practical assembly, an observation in which I find I am in entire agreement with the Marquis of Salisbury and Sir Edward Carson. Just as I was standing at the Bar of the House waiting for my Bill to come up, I suddenly saw the empty room begin to fill. Lord Halsbury, the Lord Chancellor, made his appearance, then came Lord Armstrong, then came a number of Irish peers, who are notorious for their love of personal liberty, and a number of English peers who are not indifferent to the rights of property. Well, on the Saturday that I went into the gallery of the House of Lords I heard the Royal assent given to many Bills, and until I heard "Musical Copyright Bill," and saw the two clerks make four genuflexions, and the Lord Chancellor lift his hat—until that moment I did not believe that the Bill was safe. I am glad that the Bill did not have to wait for the Armageddon conflicts of to-day in Parliament, and when I see the Land Tenure Bill, the Education Bill, the Merchant Shipping Bill, the Trades Disputes Bill, and all the other Bills contending for the attention of Parliament, I can still scarcely believe that the Musical Copyright Bill has become part of the law of the nation. It is extremely gratifying to be able to say that, according to the reports which have been given to me, this is an effective Act of Parliament. Musical piracy already has practically disappeared. Now, in trying to pass this Bill into law, I had more than one motive. One of my first and main motives was a certain vanity in trying to do a job which badly wanted doing, and which had not yet been done. I thought I would show Sir Edward Carnmore and the other youngsters in the House of Commons how the thing should be done. But I had other reasons. I regard music as one of the greatest of arts, one of the highest, one of the noblest, one of the proudest possessions of any nation. I believe that one of the great problems that every reflecting man has to put to himself is to afford to our people a choice between the higher and lower forms of amusement and recreation. In Ireland we have a saying, "You must fight the divil with fire." A great agency of civilisation and popular education is to be found in the parks or on the Embankment. Finally, I was inspired by the thought that many men and women who have given to us hours of pleasure and exaltation, which are perhaps the most enjoyable hours of our life, should no longer be suffering under an intolerable grievance. And the composers of the land, long after I have passed away, will feel that they owe some little debt of gratitude to me for the protection of the children of their genius, and it will be a compensation and consolation to me to my latest day.

MR. IAN MALCOLM, M.P., in the absence through illness of Mr. J. Comyns Carr, proposed the toast of "Music." He was exceedingly sorry that illness should have prevented Mr. Carr from taking his place among them that evening. He thought, however, that the committee, as some slight solatium to the pirates, should have arranged that the toast of "Music" be proposed by the Pirate King, and responded to by Mr. Caldwell. For three years he had tried to persuade the Government to give support to the Bill. He was delighted that the honest followers of an honest profession are coming at last into their own. The law of copyright was at last vindicated in the land. He considered music in the domestic sense to be a very fine example of home rule. They toasted music because it was now possible for music to hold up its head, and it was one of the professions which the State, at least, was delighted to honour. We were proud of our British music and musicians. We needed them and could not live in a world without music.

SIR CHARLES VILLIERS STANFORD, responding for the "Drama," said:—The range of the term "music" is so great that I must perforce choose some small section of it to return thanks for. Shall it be Irish music, in honour of my countryman who is your guest to-night? I have been, all my life, always giving thanks for Irish music. Or shall it be that music which recently fell among thieves, and was rescued by him and his friends? Here I must speak vicariously, for I have not had the good-fortune, or ill-fortune (which is it?), to hit the taste or to reach the heart of the pirate. But I am deeply grateful to Mr. O'Connor and to those associated with him for accomplishing their task. They have safeguarded property and the commercial honour of this country; they have warded off the danger that threatened that hardly-won cause, international copyright; and they have secured the safety of those works which produce the quickest returns and the largest profits, and so once more raised the hope that some small portion of those profits will be devoted to the publishing of music which appeals to a smaller, but an earnest, circle of music-lovers.

LORD MONKSWELL, in proposing "The Sister Arts," remarked that there was present a distinguished representative of the drama, whom they would all be delighted to hear. He was informed that the three sister arts were Literature, the Fine Arts, and the Drama. He had the greatest pleasure in proposing the toast, coupling with it the name of Mr. Beerbohm Tree.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE, in response, said:—Your Grace, my Lords and Gentlemen,—I presume it is because the drama is the most comprehensive of all the arts that an actor has been asked to respond to this toast. It is precisely because the theatre seeks and obtains the aids of all the other arts that its appeal is so universal. Like Cleopatra, or, shall I say like Mr. T. P. O'Connor, the drama is all-embracing. You have heard much to-night as to the many-sidedness of our honoured guest, but you have not heard all. Not only is he the lightning and enlightening editor of most of our journals, but he is also the master of the art of oratory—not only of oratory, but of song, for he has sung "The Wearing of the Green" with such a sweet and moving tenor that I am told he has brought the nebular hypothesis of Home Rule within the precincts of practical politics. It is thought that his eloquent advocacy of Musical Copyright has been inspired only by an enlightened altruism, but within the rose of altruism there lurks the utilitarian caterpillar. And I believe that the announcement will shortly be made public that the author of the Musical Copyright Bill has lately been engaged, during the leisure which is afforded to him during the all-night sittings in the House of Commons, in composing a symphony cycle which will companion him with Wagner and with Strauss, and will necessitate the massed orchestras of Villiers Stanford, Richter, and Henry J. Wood. Woe be to the barrel-organs! Nay, more, he is about to eclipse the Bacon-Shakespeare controversy, for, after elaborate study, I have arrived at the startling conclusion that the magic initials, "T. P. O.," are cryptogrammatically interchangeable with those of "G. B. S.," and that our guest is consequently the real author of those masterpieces which have been hitherto popularly attributed to that plodding Socialist, Mr. George Bernard Shaw.

And so an actor must have a smattering of universality—without a certain affinity towards literature, music, and painting, he cannot hope to have a place in the modern art of the theatre. Like other possessions, this universality, this wide sympathy, has its penalties. I remember a Scotchman once visited me after a performance of *Twelfth Night*. He complimented me with the most glowadjectives which it is given to a Scotchman to conjure up on the excellence of my company, on the dresses, the scenery, and the music, but said never a word about my own efforts. He left me, and I despaired of his intelligence, but, returning, he said:—"Mr. Tree, I read an article of yours in the *Fortnightly Review*, and all I can say is, I think you've mistaken your vocation." So you see, my Lords and Gentlemen, why I am competent to respond for Literature. Some time ago I produced Du Maurier's *Trilby* on the stage, and in this music was freely employed. I had to play the piano—it was a dummy, and the pianist played off. In praising the presentation highly, a great lady said, "The part of the performance I most admired was Svengali's wonderful mastery of the piano." This is a further justification of my replying for the sister arts.

Again, we are sometimes told that the modern theatre is lamentably dependent on scene-painting. Only within the last few days I have been interested in reading Mr. Sidney Lee's new book, in which he deals drastically with modern methods of the production of Shakespeare. To him the method of Charles Kean and Sir Henry Irving is to be condemned. According to Mr. Lee, Shakespeare's plays should only be presented in an archaic manner, and with an abandonment of the modern advantages of production which our generation gives us. In my belief Shakespeare, as a practical stage-manager and dramatist, would have bent all the arts to his will, just as Wagner of the great moderns has done, in his music dramas. The strong man is always of his generation. It is the best accomplishment of the manager to present the master works of the language in such a manner as to commend them to the multitude. Everything that the sister arts can do to add to the glory of Shakespeare is admissible—everything, that is, that tends to aid the imagination and to help the spectator to a better understanding and a deeper love of the poet. The theatre is not for middle-aged epicures; it is, after all, a better achievement to fill the theatre with an appreciative paying public, drawn from all classes of the community, than to cater only for the self-elect who stay away.

But I go further than Mr. Lee on his own lines. I maintain it is better not to represent Shakespeare at all than to present him with adequate in-

adequacy, for one can read him with pleasure and profit in the study, whereas a dull presentation is calculated to make one turn from the further contemplation of his works. Shakespeare himself, who was a practical man, would, I am sure, not have objected to the best acting, the best scenery, the best costumes, and the best audiences he could get.

In these days of stirring controversy one cannot open one's paper in the morning without reading some diatribe, not only against the production of great dramas, but as to the decadence of the modern drama. Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's successes, and especially his recent great success in America, should, one would think, have put him in an optimistic frame of mind; but, speaking at a dinner in New York on Thursday, he gave vent to the most pessimistic utterances on the English drama. Well, gentlemen, with all respect to Mr. Jones, I feel that on this subject he talks arrant nonsense. Mr. Jones speaks of the present-day drama as though we had retrograded severely during the last two generations. If Mr. Henry Arthur Jones could devote some of the wondrous energy which he expends at present in attacking his contemporaries to writing a new play, I feel that it would outshine all his previous masterpieces, and prove the most enormous success of the contemporary drama. In truth, the theatre is suffering from its physicians, who are pulling long faces, and the watching public is deceived by them, and imagines that the drama is in an unhealthy state. I notice that Mr. Jones takes a less desponding view of the position on the other side of the Atlantic; but then he is on the other side of the Atlantic, and there is always a temptation to unfurl the star-spangled banner. Perhaps, in a way, we compare unfavourably with the American public. The United States is a country of eighty million inhabitants—mostly playgoers; the United Kingdom is a country of forty millions—mostly football players. And, certainly, if we may judge by the newspaper columns, the subjects most engrossing to the British public are football—and, of course, mixed bathing. Be that as it may, there is on this side of the water a splendid minority—a minority, growing from season to season—who care for the art of the theatre, and who are making possible the growth of a genuine revival of the English drama.

In these days of country pageants, of village plays, of Court theatres, and of young and striving dramatists, to bewail the decadence of the drama seems to me a vain imagining and a mischievous indiscretion. Let us leave Mediæval curmudgeons and literary dry-as-dustmen to their own devices. It may be that our drama is still hampered by the conventions of hypocrisy—it is a pity, perhaps, that dramatists do not permit themselves to hold the mirror up to nature—and that the truth can only be whispered among us. On the stage, as elsewhere, a man is allowed to think, but not aloud. But the tide always creeps up again, and the revelation of truth through art is ever recurrent as is the tide. Science is always progressing, flowing like a river; new facts are daily discovered. Science never attains perfection. But art is like the sea, flowing from imperfection to the perfection of the ideal, and ebbing back again to imperfection. No sculpture can excel that of the ancient Greeks; no literature can excel that of Shakespeare, no painting that of Rembrandt and Velasquez. Let us hope that we are moving towards the ideal once more, for by hope, not by despair, do we advance. It is by encouragement that we gain strength; it is by such opimtism as our guest of to-night always preaches that we are encouraged to effort; it is by the aid of the sister arts that the drama is able to fulfil its highest flights, and to the sister arts I return the thanks of the Stage.

Mr. William Boosey, in a few well-chosen phrases, proposed "The Press," and the Hon. Harry Lawson responded in a bright and amusing fashion.

Mr. Hamish McCunn, in proposing the health of and a vote of thanks to the chairman, commented on the universal satisfaction which was felt when his Grace the Duke of Argyll presided over the Queen's Hall meeting some time ago, and what great pleasure it gave them to see him on an occasion of rejoicing like the present.

The proceedings then came to an end, and the company separated.

Among the letters and telegrams expressing regret at the absence of the senders, and offering congratulations to Mr. O'Connor, was a brief note from Sir Squire Bancroft, who was unable to attend the dinner in consequence of his recent bereavement; and others came from Mr. Franklin Thomasson, M.P., Mr. W. L. Courtney, Mr. Raymond Roze, Mr. Denis O'Sullivan, and Mr. Charles Willeby.

PANTOMIME SONGS.

Messrs. Charles Sheard and Co., the popular music publishers of Shaftesbury-avenue, are entirely up to date in publishing the latest pantomime successes, and not only do they chronicle the "hits" of the present season, but they refer to some remarkable songs of the past. One of these is "The Blue Moon," sung by Mr. Walter Passmore in the Drury Lane pantomime, *Cinderella*. The composer was Mr. Walter Davidson, and the authors of the words were Messrs. Davenport and Wimperis, who have got out of the subject all the eccentric suggestions possible. Among the new songs which are likely to please the pantomime visitors during the coming Christmas we may mention "The blow almost killed father," whose adventures are sufficiently absurd, as when he purchases an ostrich, who swallows some gunpowder, and we are told that the bird "lays a box of squibs." "One of the Upper Ten" is bound to be a favourite, and "Tickle me" is certain to evoke hearty laughter. Sometimes old proverbs serve as a title; for example, the great benefit of help as compared with pity. Nor is sentiment wanting. "I'm wearing my heart away for you" is sure to find a host of admirers. "Roses, roses everywhere" will be warmly welcomed, even on Boxing night, and the nautical flavour of "Sailors three," with its echo of "Poll was true to me," will commend it to any British audience. This song is published in another key to suit lower voices. It may be safely affirmed that Messrs. Charles Sheard and Co. have hit the mark in their collection of pantomime ditties, and have appealed to every taste, whether sentimental, comic, or grotesque, and we anticipate a rapturous reception will be given to many of these melodies and choruses when sung by the stars of the pantomimes. The firm, always famous for its lively musical productions, is here represented at its very best, and a large sale is the certain result of their enterprise.

BARRING CLAUSE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I have pleasure in stating that, with reference to my previous letter, I have seen Mr. Walter Gibbons, and we have come to an amicable arrangement.

I find now that it was a misunderstanding which prompted me to insert the letter in question.—Yours faithfully, W. J. GRIMES.

Empress, Brixton, Nov. 21.

The great asphalt roller skating rink in the North Transept of the Crystal Palace opens today at 2.30. At four o'clock there will be the Lancers on skates, followed by an exhibition of fancy trick skating by Mr. Albert T. C. Bridge. In the evening an interesting item is provided by rink hockey, Selborne *v.* Sydenham (First League match), and an exciting Rugby football match on skates, Alexandra Palace *v.* Crystal Palace, will also be decided. The first gymkhana of the season is fixed for Dec. 15.

COPYRIGHT CONVICTIONS.

Arthur Long, 27, a powerful fellow, was charged at Old-street on Monday with being in possession of eighty-five copies of pirated music, and further with assault. Mr. Houston, barrister, prosecuted for the Music Publishers' Association, and called evidence to show that the prisoner was watched on Sunday morning by a constable of the E Division, employed for the purpose, leaving his home in Boundary-street, Shoreditch, with something under his coat. When stopped, the parcel was found to be pirated music, and the agent of the publishers gave prisoner in charge. The man became very violent, and kicked and fought, the agent getting a blow in the face and a kick on the shin. Prisoner was fined £5 for the music, and for the assault was remanded.

The prisoner was brought up on remand on Wednesday.

On the charge of assault Mr. Margetts now defended, and cross-examined to show that the kick on the shin which the prosecutor complained of was accidental. The witness insisted that the prisoner, a powerful fellow, made a determined resistance, and used words when kicking which showed deliberate intention. The agent asserted that the prisoner well knew him as employed to detect the sellers of pirated music.

The prisoner, in giving evidence on his own behalf, admitted that he had long been dealing in it, and that he knew when stopped he had done what was wrong.

Mr. Margetts asked him if the agent did not act in an overbearing way towards him.

Mr. Cluer: Overbearing! If a man steals my watch and I say, "You rascal, give that back," am I to be described as overbearing? This man is engaged in a fraud. Can one act overbearingly to a thief?

The magistrate decided to fine the prisoner an additional £4 for the assault, and the prisoner, protesting that he was a poor man and would appeal, was taken out of court, but quickly paid the £9, and was released.

A case of considerable interest to music dealers and the public generally was heard on the 16th inst. in the Belfast Custody Court, before Mr. F. G. Hodder, R.M., when a young man named David Berman, was charged on remand by Constable Thomas Armstrong with having in his possession for sale ninety-four copies of pirated music, contrary to the Musical Copyright Act.

Mr. A. J. Lewis prosecuted for the police, Mr. R. B. Crymble represented the Music Publishers' Association, and Mr. N. Tughan defended the prisoner.

The depositions already made in the case were read over. Prisoner was found selling the songs in Royal-avenue and Berry-street.

Mr. Lewis said a point had been raised by Mr. Tughan that the authority for arrest addressed to the head of the police was not in writing. He now produced the original document.

The charge was then proved against the prisoner with reference to "The Holy City" (Adams), the copyright of which was vested in Messrs. Boosey and Co., 295, Regent-street, London.

Mr. Crymble produced the certificate of the registration at Stationers' Hall of the copyright of "The Holy City."

Mr. Lewis said from one standpoint the case was not of very much importance. If the man was improperly arrested it was at the risk of the owners of the copyright.

His Worship did not think there would be any question about that.

Mr. Tughan said there was not. He would show that the prisoner was imposed upon in the matter.

His Worship was not disposed to take a very serious view of the case.

Mr. Tughan said the owners of copyright had been largely imposed upon prior to the Act of Parliament, which now protected them. His client was imposed upon by a Manchester firm, which sent him certain pieces of music, and told him that it was not pirated. There were some genuine pieces amongst the number. Mr. Tughan thought that was the first prosecution under the Act.

His Worship thought it was quite possible that the Act of Parliament might not have come under the notice of the prisoner. If he was quite satisfied that the prisoner intended to break the law he would impose the full penalty.

Mr. Lewis did not press for a heavy penalty in that particular case, but if a similar case came up it would be his duty to press for a heavy penalty. A pirated piece of music did not bear on the face of it the name of the publisher, whereas every genuine piece did; so that "he who runs may read."

His Worship imposed a fine of 5s. and costs. The genuine pieces of music were returned to Berman.

The penalty under the Act for the offence complained of is a fine not exceeding £5 on the first occasion, and on a second or subsequent conviction imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding two months, or to a fine not exceeding £10.

"THE YELLOW FANG."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I noticed in *The Era* of last week that a sketch by John G. Brandon was to be produced this week entitled *The Yellow Fang*, a dramatic episode of an opium hell in Chinatown, San Francisco. It is alluded to as being quite new to the stage. In 1895 I wrote and produced a sketch entitled *The Opium Den*, for which I now hold, on behalf of Mr. Chas. E. Machin, the entire copyright, and it is also legally protected. The main incident of my story occurred in an opium den in San Francisco, and as the production of the sketch met with great success, it is now included in Mr. Chas. E. Machin's répertoire of pieces, all of which are legally protected.—Yours faithfully,

CHAS. M. DALY.
Manager, Author, and Producer for Mr. Chas. E. Machin's companies.
Avenue Opera House, Sunderland, Nov. 19.

A shocking discovery was made early on Friday, the 16th inst., by the hall porter at the South London. Making his inspection of the hall, he found the body of the night fireman, a man named Samuel Harmer, suspended by a rope attached to the bars of the gallery. The body was cut down immediately. At the inquest at Southwark on Tuesday the deceased's mother said she could in no way account for the tragedy. Four years ago her son was in the Royal Fusiliers, and while stationed at Woolwich was kicked by a horse on the knee. He was invalided out of the Army, and there had been some talk of his probably having to have his leg off, and this might have troubled him, as he was about to get married. The jury returned a verdict of suicide while insane.

The regular convocation of the Wanderers' Chapter was held at the Freemasons' Hall on Tuesday, under the presidency of Mr. C. G. Wetzlar, M.E.Z., C. Coop, H., E. A. Hubbard, J., E. Romain, S.E. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, the M.E.Z. exalted the following members of the dramatic and vandeville professions:—Messrs. C. J. Doughty, G. H. Dyball, Harry Bawn, Attas, Burnetti, Frank Hardie, Graham, and F. H. Pedgrift. There was a large attendance, the visitors including Albert Le Fre, Serpentello, W. S. Lyon, A. Hitch, and Dr. Ramsden, honorary physician to the Chelsea Palace.

Mr. Frederic Jacques has been engaged by Mr. Robert Arthur for his production of *Cinderella* at the Camden Theatre.

THE CANTERBURY ANNIVERSARY.

Full well they laughed and applauded at the Canterbury on Thursday evening, when a couple of thousand or so of pilgrims from the suburbs south of the Thames assembled to celebrate the fifty-fourth anniversary of the famous and historic house; and apparently there was no thought of impending trouble with the licensing body in the minds of those seated in every part of a fine auditorium to enjoy to the full the admirable programme that Mr. Fred Miller, the popular manager, aided by his chief of staff behind the stage—Mr. David Cowis—set before them. There were old friends and new friends of the management in front; and Mr. George Adney Payne (looking hearty and well in spite of a catering career for thirty years or so) and Mrs. G. A. Payne, Mr. Horace Marriott, with his accomplished daughter, Miss Helena Millais, Mr. Joseph Wilson, who ran over from the Tivoli, Messrs. Tom Pacey, Ernest De Vere, Alan Macey, Theo. Dunkley, and a host of other friends of the management came to congratulate and to talk of the changes and chances of variety.

One of the most interesting events of the night was the appearance on the stage of Miss Henriquette Maude, a New Zealand girl, who has been working her way round the world as a reciter and entertainer. She has been two years on her journey, and arrived in London in September. In America she entered an elocution competition, and, as one of five hundred competitors, secured a gold medal, personally presented to her by President Roosevelt for her delivery of Mr. Frank Desprez's fine poem of the prairies, "Lasca." It was this selection that she gave on Thursday to the Canterburians, and her success was undoubted. Miss Maude is about the pluckiest piece of humanity in petticoats that we have met for some time, and she truly deserves any good fortune that may come her way. She is highly intelligent, evidently well-informed, musically trained, and, with her excellent elocutionary powers and a voice that vibrates with sympathy, she should do well on the variety stage.

A very hearty reception was accorded to Miss Victoria Monks, a great favourite across the bridge; charming Lily Burnand introduced a new song on the picture post-card craze; My Fancy danced herself into the hearts of the audience; Lieut. Travis voiced his puppets in the same skilful way as of yore; Mr. George Mozart entertained in his own original way; Miss Edie King showed us different styles of dancing; the cross-talk and dancing of Sanford and Lyons were quite to the taste of the audience; Miss Gracie Grahame's coquetry and comedy found a host of admirers; the soft shoe dance of Billy Hobbs was very neat; and other turns appearing included Mr. Bert Brantford, Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, Mr. Fred Eustace and company in the dramatic sketch entitled *The* Walter Hast, Mr. Sam Mayo, Miss Constance Walter Host, Mr. Sam Mayo, Miss Constance Moxon, the Poluskis, Mr. Harry Rogerson, Miss Amy Savile, Terry and Bentley, and a number of others.

The cavernous approach of the great hall had quite a fairylike appearance with numerous Japanese lanterns hanging from the roof; and in the auditorium bouquets of flowers decorated the boxes, giving quite a carnival aspect to a house that may be truthfully referred to as the pioneer of variety entertainments as we now know them. It is to be hoped that no such untoward event as the withdrawal of the licence will arrest the brilliant record of a hall that stands now as a monument to the forethought and enterprise of the late Charles Morton.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

An interesting orchestral concert, under the conductorship of Sir Charles V. Stanford, was given at the Royal College on Thursday evening, Nov. 15. The concert began with Dvorak's fine "Symphonic Variations in C major," in which the young orchestral students, led by their accomplished conductor, greatly distinguished themselves, while great praise must also be awarded for their painstaking and effective rendering of Berlioz's beautiful symphony, "Harold in Italy," in which the four movements of "Harold in the Mountains," "Procession of Pilgrims," "Serenade," and "Brigands' Orgies," were skilfully played by the orchestra; while in the solo viola Mr. Ernest Tomlinson did himself great credit. A very youthful performer, Miss Gertrude Mustard, received most enthusiastic applause and many recalls for her really brilliant playing in Greig's "Greig's Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in A minor." In all technical requirements Miss Mustard is well equipped, and a certain lack of power is, without doubt, only owing to the extreme youth of the performer, as in the matter of touch and expression the clever student excels. Another feature of the concert was the excellence of the vocal items given. Miss Jane Fyans, in the "Air des Adieux," from Tschaikowsky's *Jeanne d'Arc*, displaying a beautiful and well-trained voice; while, but for a certain want of dramatic style, Miss Dorothy Kershaw and Mr. W. Spencer Thomas's singing of the duet from Verdi's *Aïda*, "L'abborrita rivale," was eminently successful, and evoked loud applause from the huge audience.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

On Wednesday evening, at Covent Garden, a new Carmen, in the person of Miss Maria Gay, appeared with undoubted success. In many respects Miss Gay's Carmen is founded slightly on that of Mme. Calvé's, but with an individuality all her own, and making the gipsy cigarette-maker a fascinating and impulsive creation. The newcomer's voice, though not of any great power, is rich in quality, while her acting is dramatic and convincing; praise must also be awarded to her really clever and characteristic dancing, so truly Spanish, and to her artistic costume and graceful action. Seldom has any new Carmen at Covent Garden achieved so instant a success. Signor Fazzini was moderately successful in the character of Don José, and the rest of the cast was the same as that given on former occasions. Signor Mugnone conducted.

WILLIAM MORGAN JUBILEE TESTIMONIAL.

Further list of subscriptions:—	£	s.	d.
Geo. Padley	1	1	0
J. W. Rowley	1	1	0
J. N. Maskelyne	1	1	0
Mrs. D'Oyly Carte	1	1	0
T Bickerstaffe	1	1	0
F. A. Badman	1	1	0
Rd. Warner	1	1	0
Mme. Levante	1	1	0
Fred Ash	1	1	0
J. Fattorini	1	1	0
A. C. Baines	1	1	0
S. Padley	1	1	0
J. W. Whitbread	1	1	0
A. Voorzanger	0	10	6
Kahn and Dunning	0	10	6
S. C. Platts	0	10	6

Henry James Samuel Taylor, a trombone player in the Empire Theatre orchestra, Southend, on reaching home at one o'clock on Sunday morning, found his wife lying dead at the foot of the stairs. The carpet was loose and unnailed, and it is thought that in descending to get something for the children she fell. At the inquest yesterday Dr. Silva Jones declined to certify the cause of death, and the inquiry was adjourned for a post-mortem examination to be made.

THE M.H.A.R.A. AND CHARITY.

We have very great pleasure in inserting in our columns the following letters, the contents of which constitute a glowing testimonial to the charity of the variety profession—always united, at any rate, in benevolent work:—

General Manager's Office,
Midland Railway,
Derby.

Dear Sir,—I thank you very much for your letter of the 14th inst. enclosing a cheque for £105, which the Music Hall Artists Railway Association have been good enough to apportion out of its profits in aid of the funds of the Railway Servants' Orphanage.—Yours faithfully,

GUY GRANET.

General Manager's Office,
Great Western Railway,
Paddington Station.

Dear Sir,—I duly received your favour of the 14th inst., enclosing a cheque for 100 guineas on behalf of the funds of the Railway Benevolent Institution, and am much obliged to you for making me the medium of the Association's handsome donation.—Yours faithfully,

J. C. INGLIS.

Railway Servants' Orphanage,
Derby.

Dear Sir,—I have this morning received from Mr. W. Guy Granet, General Manager of the Midland Railway, the munificent cheque for 100 guineas, which you have sent to him as a further donation to the funds of this Orphanage. Permit me on behalf of our Treasurer, Lord Claud J Hamilton, and the Orphanage Committee to express our most grateful thanks for this additional generous help, and I should be glad if you would take some means of conveying to the members of your Association this expression of thanks.

I enclose a receipt and also certificate for 21 life-votes in the election of children, to which the donation entitles you, and am, your faithful servant,

ALBERT DEAN,
Secretary.
Music Hall Benevolent Fund,
18, Adam-street, W.C.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter of yesterday's date containing cheque for 100 guineas, as a donation to this fund from the Music Hall Artists Railway Association. I am directed by my committee to thank your Association for your kind help, which is very sorely needed. Your committee are fully aware of the necessities of the poor of the profession, and their aid to meet the ever-increasing demands upon the funds is much appreciated. During the past year they investigated no less than 1580 cases, and gave assistance as far as their funds would allow. They feel sure that your committee will continue to bring before their members the necessity of individually and collectively doing all they can to help the funds to assist their less fortunate brother and sister artists.—Very faithfully yours,

HORACE MARRIOTT,
Secretary.
Music Hall Home Fund,
31, Wilson-road,
Camberwell, S.E.

Dear Mr. Stuart,—I have much pleasure to enclose receipt for cheque value £105 and at the same time to express my committee's sincerest thanks for such a munificent donation. Will you kindly convey the same to your Committee. With kind regards.—Yours sincerely,

J. J. FRUIN,
Secretary.
Music Hall Ladies' Guild,
69, Primrose Mansions,
Battersea Park.

Dear Mr. Stuart,—I have much pleasure in acknowledging the splendid donation of £105 from the M.H.A.R.A. I will write you more fully after Thursday's meeting.—I am, faithfully yours,

ANNA DE GREY.

LONDON COLISEUM.

We have received the following from the Moss' Empires (Limited):

"On May 10 last a resolution for the voluntary liquidation of the Coliseum was passed. Liquidators, with a committee of inspection, were appointed. Since that time these gentlemen have devoted much time and thought to the consideration of the possibility of resuscitating the company upon a sound basis, whereby the shareholders might have an opportunity of making good at any rate a part of the loss which has been sustained, and with this view many meetings have been held. Many schemes have been proposed and considered.

"Mr. Stoll was appointed by the Court as receiver on behalf of the First Debenture stockholders, and an order was made in the debenture action for a sale, and such order must be proceeded with unless a scheme is carried through. Mr. Stoll has offered that if a scheme is accepted by the various parties interested he will invest £35,000 in the new concern.

"The committee consider that this offer from Mr. Stoll places the scheme upon such a footing that it can be satisfactorily carried through. It will be borne in mind that the difficulties of the company were largely caused by sufficient capital not having been provided at the outset to build and equip the property, the shortage being due mainly to an excess of expenditure over estimates.

"Mr. Stoll has been in communication with a very well-known theatrical manager, and there is very little doubt that he will join the board of the new company if the present scheme is carried through.

"It is also proposed to make Mr. Frank Allen, of Moss' Empires, a director, together with Alderman Carey, of Cardiff, and two other gentlemen to be appointed by the committee.

"The scheme for the reconstruction of the Coliseum sets out that a new company be formed, under the name of the New Coliseum (Limited), with a capital of £214,965, divided into 39,200 Ordinary shares of £5 each, and 3793 Six per cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £5 each.

"The sum of £80,000, payable by the new company in cash, is to be allocated in paying to the 1st Mortgage Debenture-stockholders the interest due to them respectively; in paying to the holders of 2nd Debentures of the present company a composition of 7s. 6d. in the pound upon the amount of principal owing to them respectively; in paying a composition of 4s. in the pound to all the other creditors of the present company who shall have proved their debts within one month of the approval by the Court of this scheme.

"The proposed new directors are of opinion that a minimum profit of over £20,000 per annum can be earned, sufficient to pay 5 per cent. dividend to the Ordinary shareholders.

"All along the committee had been aware that Mr. Stoll would agree to sink a sum of £35,000 in any new flotation that might be made. He further intimated to the committee that he was prepared to work gratis for the new company until a 5 per cent. dividend at least had been paid to Ordinary shareholders. Consequently any remuneration he hoped to obtain would depend entirely upon dividends.

"Debenture-holders have received an offer for the building of about £200,000, but the committee point out that if this is accepted the existing Debenture issues and charges will swallow up the entire sum, leaving no benefit for Ordinary shareholders. It is the committee and Mr. Stoll's desire to protect the interests of and obtain as much as possible for the Ordinary shareholders."

ON THE ROAD, NOV. 26.

All-of-a-Sudden Peggy.—O. H., Cork.
Are You a Mason (Macdona).—Glasgow.
As Midnight Chimes.—T. R., Bristol.
Assassin.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
At Cripple Creek.—Grand T., Luton.
At Duty's Call.—Colosseum, Oldham.
Beast and the Beauty.—T. R., Smethwick.
Beautiful Fiend.—Grand T., Mansfield.
Belle of Mayfair.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—T. R., Dewsbury.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—Penzance and Falmouth.
Benson, Mr. & Mrs., & Co.—Royalty T., Chester.
Between Two Women.—T. R., Jarrow.
Bound to Win.—T. R., Sunderland.
Breed of the Treshams.—Ashton-under-Lyne.
Bulmer, Mr.—Grand T., Brighton.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Catch of the Season (No. 1).—Bristol.
Charley's Aunt.—Kennington Theatre.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona).—North District.
Christian, The (Croke).—T. R., Blackburn.
City of Sin.—T. R., Croydon.
Claudian.—Queen's T., Leeds.
Coal King.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Country Girl (Macdona).—Midlands.
Dairymaids, The.—T. R., Manchester.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Chesterfield.
D'Oyly Carte.—New T., Oxford.
Driven from Home.—T. R., Windsor.
Duchess of Danteig (N.).—Brighton.
Earl and the Girl (M.).—Nottingham.
Earl and the Girl (W.).—West Bromwich.
Earl and the Girl (N.).—Swindon.
Executioner's Daughter.—Alexandra, Widnes.
Face at the Window.—Grand T., Byker.
Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt.—O. H., Leicester.
Faust Up-to-Date.—Grand T., Leeds.
For Life and After.—T. R., South Shields.
Four Just Men.—Queen's T., Manchester.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Crown T., Peckham.
French Spy.—Merthyr Tydfil.
Golden Ladder.—Theatre Royal, Blyth.
Great Awakening.—T. R., Norwich.
Heart's Desire.—Kilmarnock and Ayr.
Held Apart.—T. R., Exeter.
Her Fatal Past.—Cambridge Theatre, Spennymoor.
Her Luck in London.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Her Lost Self.—King's Theatre, Gainsborough.
Her One Great Sin.—T. R., Dover.
His House in Order (N.).—O. H., Southport.
His House in Order (S.).—County T., Kingston.
Hour of Her Triumph.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor
Hutchison Repertoire.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Indian Mutiny.—T. R. Rotherham.
Kitty Grey.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Taunton and Yeovil.
Lady Kinton's Necklace.—Queen's T., Longton.
Lady Madcap (S.).—Wolverhampton.
La Poupee (Levilly).—Grand T., Birmingham.
La Poupee (Ralland).—Motherwell and Coatbridge.
Life of a Showman.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
Lights of London.—Empire T., Southend.
Little Breadwinner.—Lowestoft.
Little Michus (Edwardes).—Grand T., Hull.
Love of Women.—T. R., Hebburn.
Love that Women Desire.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Lucky Durham.—T. R., Birkenhead.
Manxman.—Lyceum T., Eccles.
Marriage of Kitty.—Grand T., Blackpool.
Midnight Mail.—Pleasure Gardens, Folkestone.
Midnight Wedding.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Monte Cristo.—Halifax.
Moody-Manners (A).—T. R., Bolton.
Moody-Manners (B.).—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Mr. Hopkinson.—Cheltenham.
Mr. Popple.—T. R., Birmingham.
My Sweetheart.—Camden Theatre, N.W.
Napoleon the Great.—T. R., Stratford.
Norman V. Norman.—Grand T., Southampton.
On the Stroke of Twelve.—New T., Consett.
Otto the Outcast.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
Power of Gold.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Prince of Pilsen (Harris).—T. R., Stockport.
Prince of Pilsen (Musgrove).—P. O. W., Birmingham.
Private Secretary.—Marlborough T., Holloway.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., York.
Prodigal Son.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Proof.—Corporation T., Chesterfield.
Public Opinion.—O. H., Torquay.
Raffles.—King's Theatre, Glasgow.
Revenge.—Prince's T., Preston.
Royal Divorce.—T. R., St. Helens.
Sailors of the King.—Winter Gdns. T., Blackpool.
Saints and Sinners.—T. R., Perth.
Shadow of a Crime.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
Sherlock Holmes.—Avenue T., Sunderland.
Shulamite.—T. R., Cardiff.
Sign of the Cross.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Silver King (Polini) (N.).—Lyceum T., Newport.
Silver King (Polini (S.).—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Sin of Her Childhood.—Pontypridd.
Soldier's Honour.—T. R., Sunderland.
Spider and the Fly.—O. H., Coventry.
Still Alarm.—Kirkcaldy and Falkirk.
Temptress, The.—Junction T., Manchester.
Terry, Edward.—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Three Little Maids (N.) (Macdona).—Crystal P.
Throne of Terror.—Cowdenbeath & Dunfermline.
Toreador (Macdona).—Midlands.
Traitor.—Grand T., Nelson.
Two Hussars.—Muncaster T., Bootle.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—County T., Bedford.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—T. R., Rochdale.
Two Little Vagabonds (M.).—Brynmawr and Abercarne.
Two Little Vagabonds (N.).—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—T. R., Hyde.
Ugliest Woman on Earth.—Alex. T., Sheffield.
Under the Russian Flag.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Batley.
'Varsity Belle.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Village Blacksmith.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Walls of Jericho (N.).—T. R., Huddersfield.
Walls of Jericho (S.).—T. R., Bournemouth.
Warner, Miss Grace.—Prince's T., Llandudno.
Warning to Women.—Gaiety T., Leith.
Way of the World.—T. R., Rugby.
Wearin' o' the Green.—H. M. T., Barrow.
What the Butler Saw.—A. T., Stoke Newington.
When London Sleeps.—T. R., Leicester.
When Women Hates.—Grand T., Brighton.
White Chrysanthemum (Curzon).—Prince's Theatre, Manchester.
White Chrysanthemum (Macdona).—Greenock.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Pleasure Gdns., Folkestone.
Worst Woman in London.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Youngest of Three.—O. H., King's Lynn.
£1000 Reward.—Gaiety T., Dundee.
10.30 Down Express.—St. James's T., Manchester

THE VAUDEVILLE CLUB.

In the presence of an immense audience the members of the Vaudeville Club gave a performance of Hubert Henry Davies's comedy, *Cousin Kate*, at the King's Hall Theatre, Covent Garden, on Thursday night, Nov. 15. The comedy, produced under the direction of Mr. Frank Harding, was the 183rd dramatic performance of a club which does the greatest credit to its president, Mr. George Alexander. The performance on Thursday was of all-round excellence. Mr. Harry Peach proved a manly and effective representative of the artist, Heath Desmond, who so neglects the old adage, how well it is to be "off with the old love before on with the new"; and Miss Marguerite Paxton played Kate Curtis (Cousin Kate) in quite the right comedy spirit, the occasional touches of sentiment being well introduced. Miss Paxton's acting and clever comedy business in the second act, the scene of which is an empty house called Owlscot (because there are no owls), deserved great praise. Mr. Peach also most ably seconded her efforts, and was in this scene at his best. Miss Marjorie Chamberlin did all that was possible for the character of Amy Spencer, a young lady not quite certain whether she will have for a husband Heath Desmond, the artist, or the clergyman, the Rev. Jas. Bartlett, a part capitally impersonated by Mr. John C. Mason, who gave the clerical voice and manner in a most amusing, but not exaggerated style. Mrs. Spencer, the mother, who would prefer her daughter to marry the rich artist instead of the poor parson, was cleverly undertaken by Mrs. Herbert Ford; while the smaller parts of Bobby Spencer and Jane the servant were skilfully performed by Mr. Norman Galloway and Mrs. W. Simmonds. The scenery, painted by J. T Buh and Son, and wigs by C. H. Fox, were effective, and the stage-manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehead, deserved praise for his realistic thunderstorm in the second act. During the evening an excellent selection of music was given by the orchestra under the direction of Mr. Frank Harrington, and the Vaudeville Club are to be congratulated on a highly successful entertainment.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

Notice to Subscribers.

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Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Address,
The PUBLISHER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington Street)
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephone, 4747, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ARTHUR WILLIAMS.—(1) Wyllard's Weird, *produced at the Criterion Theatre on Dec. 29, 1887. Cast—In the prologue: Gustave Georges, Mr. Henry Neville; Baron de Maucroix, Mr. M. P. Berton; Marie Prevol, Miss Janet Achurch; Barbe Girôt, Mrs. Juliet Anderson. In the drama: Julian Wyllard, Mr. H. Neville; Edward Heathcote, Mr. C. Charrington; Bothwell Graham, Mr. Scott Buist; Tibbins, Mr. Ferrand; Dora Dalmaine, Miss Janet Achurch; Hilda Heathcote, Miss Annie Hughes; Leonie Lemarque, Miss Maude Millett; Theresa Myerstein, Mrs. Juilet Anderson.* (2) The Cloven Foot, *produced at the Theatre Royal, Blackburn, on Jan. 27, 1890. Cast: John Treverton, Mr. Chas. Elton; Antoine Desrolles, Mr. Chas. Herbert; Edward Clare, Mr. Hamilton Piffard; Jos. Lemuel, Mr. Henry Herne; Smolendo, Mr. Berkeley Perkins; Dr. Gerard, Mr. Augustin Knight; Trimmer, Mr. Claremont Gaskell; Mr. Sampson, Mr. Haldane Crichton; Laura Treverton and La Chicot, Miss Janette Steer; Elizabeth Sampson, Miss Marie D'Alvera; Mrs. Evitt, Mrs. C. A. Clarke; Celia Clare, Miss Herbert.*

W. G. PARRY.—(1) Trilby *was originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on Sept. 7, 1895.* (2) *An act may possibly have been played there on some special benefit occasion, but not otherwise.*

H. GREENFIELD.—*We regret that we cannot inform you, as it is against our rule to give the age of members of the profession.*

J. HODGSON.—*If you can give us the exact date of the competition we may be able to supply you with the information.*

TYRO.—(1) *It all depends on his arrangement with the manager.* (2) *Yes; it is the usual custom.*

G. W. GERALD.—*We regret that we could not publish your letter concerning the Society to which you refer.*

NORMAN MCKINNEL.—"*Modern Opera Houses and Theatres,*" *by Edwin O. Sachs.*

E. CHESTER.—*Miss May Yohé appeared in the title-part in* Dandy Dick Whittington, *by G. R. Sims and Ivan Caryll, produced at the Avenue Theatre on March 2, 1895.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

The charge for a notice of **Marriage**, not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

LONGFORD. — Thursday, Nov. 15, at 213, Fairfield-road, Droylsden, Manchester, the wife of Austin H. Longford, of a daughter.

LONGFORD.—Thursday, Nov. 15, at 213, Fairfield-road, Droylsden, Manchester, the wife of Austin H. Longford of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE.

STUDT—DOONER.—The marriage is announced to take place, at St. Mary's Church, Southampton, on Wednesday, Dec. 5, of Jacob Studt, jun., eldest son of Jacob Studt, amusement caterer, of the Victoria Hall, Southampton, to Mary Ann Dooner, eldest daughter of Richard Dooner (of R. Dooner and Son, bioscope exhibition proprietors), of Bristol.

DEATHS.

CHAPUY.—On Nov. 16, at Lyndhurst-drive, Leyton, Leonard Louis Chapuy, aged 41, late of Carnegie Hall, New York.

CHAPUY.—Leonard Louis Chapuy, late of Carnegie Hall, New York, who succumbed to paralysis at Leyton Drive, November 15, aged 41.

COOKE (COURTE).—On Nov. 7, 1906, at 30, Partridge-road, Cardiff, Louisa Cooke (Courte), aged 82, actress for many years at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow. Deeply mourned by her son.

GEORGE.—Nov. 19, at 42, Brunswick-street, Stamford-street, S.E., Alf George, music hall comedian.

GOURLAY.—On Nov. 15, John (Johnnie) Gourlay. Interred at Wandsworth Cemetery Nov. 21. American and Australian papers please copy.

HUMBERSTONE.—Saturday, Nov. 17, at his residence, the Three Horse Shoes Hotel, Sheffield, Henry Humberstone, in his forty-seventh year.

MILLS.—Nov. 15, at 122, City-rd., Bristol, after a lingering illness, Martha Norman, mother of Tom Norman Mills, manager for Dr. Walford Bodie, in the 79th year of her age. Australian papers please copy.

IN MEMORIAM.

BASSANO.—In very loving memory of Nance Bassano (Nancie James), Nov. 21, 1904. FRANK BASSANO.

PREECE.—In loving memory of Edie, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Terriss (Emily Stevens), who passed away at Malta Nov. 24, 1899. Never forgotten.

READ.—In ever-loving memory of our dear father, Henry Read, late partner of Messrs. H. and T. Read and F. Bailey, World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall, London, who passed away Nov. 21, 1898. More than missed by his loving wife and children.

AT the Curzon Hall, Birmingham, on the 15th inst., Mr. Waller Jeffs took his annual benefit. Among the special items of the programme was a series of living tableaux by Birmingham military veterans. Mr. Jeffs made a speech from the stage, on which were assembled the heads of the various departments, and took occasion to thank the various members of his staff, the veterans, the artists, and all concerned. On Saturday, after the last performance, Mr. and Mrs. Jeffs gave a supper to the whole of the members of the staff and the curators of the hall, at which more than sixty were present.

A PLEASANT recognition of the services of Mr. Neddy Vokes at the recent concert of the Edinburgh Postal Club has been given by the members in the form of a present as a memento of the occasion. Mr. Vokes, by kind permission of Mr. John Henry Cooke, rendered a selection from his musical act, and aroused much enthusiasm.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

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Daunton, Mr. Geo.
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Dene, Miss Hetty
Derina, Miss Addie
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Field, Mr. W.
Fitzgerald, Mrs. Tom
Fontaine, Mr. V.
Foster, Mr. Chas.
Foster, Mr. B. S.
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Gates, Mr. Bob
George, Miss Marie
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Gilbert, Mr. Louis
Gillent, Mr. Frisky
Gordon, Miss Millie
Goutis, Mr. Henry
Gratton, Miss Emilie
Green, Mr.
Gregory, Mr. E. G.
Gribben, Mrs. Harry A
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Hallet, Mr. Wilson
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Hastings, Mr. Wm.
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Heam, Mr. Thomas
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Henriot, Mr. Walter
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Hill, Mr. Hamilton
Hill, Mr Leonard
Hodges, Mr. Horace
Holloway, Mr. Abe
Holman, Sisters
Holt, Prof
Iveson, Mr. Tony
Jones, Mr. J.
Kenny, Mr. Chas.
Kenyon, Mr. Neil
King, Miss Hetty
Kioto, Mr. N. T.
Kirby, Mr.
Kisbey, Mr. H. J.
Klein, Mr. W. H.
Knick-Knacks, The
Lang, Mr. M.
Lauder, Mr. Harry
Lauri, Madame
Le Hay, Miss Daisy
Leigh and Armitage
Lemoine, Miss Rose
Leslie, Miss Fannie
Leslie, Mr. Alfred
Lewis, Mrs. Alwyn
Lewis, Mr. Gilbert
Leyton, Mr. Geo.
Lincoln, Mr. L.
Lingard, Mr. H.
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Marjutti, Mlle.
Marsh, Mr. Albert
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Mc Calla, Miss D.
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Napier, Miss B.
Neildon, Mr. Tommy
Newton, Mr. Cecil
Norman, Mr. A. W.
Novell, Mr. W.
O'Gorman, Miss Lill
Ollive, Mr. M.
Osborne, Miss N.
Pardo, Mrs.
Patti, Madame A.
Pattison, Mr. Bart
Pauline, Princess
Phydora, Mr. H.
Pierri, Mr. Antonio
Pillans, Miss Helen
Platt, Mr. J. H.
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Power, Mr. John
Proctor, Mr. John
Prye, Miss Maggie
Rawschle, Mr.
Rayburn, Miss Kittie
Reckitts, Miss Edie
Ree, Miss Molly
Rees, Mr. Leonard
Reeves, Miss Marie
Rennie, Miss Maggie
Restall, Mr. John
Revett, Miss Daisy
Rio, Mr. Otto
Roberts, Mr. H. R.
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Roulette, Miss L.
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Sampson, Mr. C. A.
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St. George, Miss Zana
Sutherd, Mr. D.
Tasker, Mr. Ernest
Taylor, Miss Evelyn
Tearle, Mr. Edmund
Temple, Mr. F.
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Toy, Mr.
Trench, Miss Bertha
Tyrrell, Miss Florence
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Vane, Miss Ivy
Varney Miss Gladys
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Vassar, Dr. Carl
Voce, Prof.
Vokes, Mr. W.
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Wardroper, Mr. Henry
Warren, Miss Lillian
Wells, Mr. Rhodes
White, Mr. Claude
White, Mr. Will
Williams, Miss Cora
Williams, Miss Jessie
Wills, Mr. Chas.
Wilson, Mr.
Yorke, Mr. Nansen
Young, Mr. Alan W.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Marie Loftus—Saturday, Nov. 24.
Nellie Lauraine—Saturday, Nov. 24.
Rosie Kearns—Saturday, Nov. 24.
Arthur St. John—Saturday, Nov. 24.
Augustin Symonds—Saturday, Nov. 24.
Nellie Wilson—Saturday, Nov. 24.
Beatrice Parke—Sunday, Nov. 25.
G. W. Anson—Sunday, Nov. 25.
H. F. Maltby—Sunday, Nov. 25.
Wyn Weaver—Sunday, Nov. 25.
H. E. Ray—Sunday, Nov. 25.
W. W. Walton—Sunday, Nov. 25.
Wyn Weaver—Sunday, Nov. 25.
Louie Freear—Monday, Nov. 26.
John F. Lambe—Monday, Nov. 26.
Vesta Victoria—Monday, Nov. 26.
Jesse Sparrow—Monday, Nov. 26.
Acton Bond—Tuesday, Nov. 27.
Edwin T. Kisby—Tuesday, Nov. 27.
F. Stuart Willson—Tuesday, Nov. 27.
Lottie Stratton—Tuesday, Nov. 27.
Philip F. Howley—Wednesday, Nov. 28.
Sir Francis Burnand—Thursday, Nov. 29.
Surtees Corne—Thursday, Nov. 29.
Kate Kilpack—Thursday, Nov. 29.
Ada Watson—Thursday, Nov. 29.
Joe Elvin—Thursday, Nov. 29.
Lydia Dreams—Thursday, Nov. 29.
Hiram Henton—Thursday, Nov. 29.
Clarissa Talbot—Thursday, Nov. 29.
T. E. Worth—Thursday, Nov. 29.
Lelia Zillwood—Thursday, Nov. 29.
H. V. Esmond—Friday, Nov. 30.
John Glendinning—Friday, Nov. 30.
Ben Brown—Friday, Nov. 30.
Maud Hobson—Friday, Nov. 30.
Mary Stuart—Friday, Nov. 30.

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THE SCENIC ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION.
TUESDAY NEXT, NOV. 27,
COMMITTEE MEETING, at 7.30,
Dinner at 8, at Adelphi Hotel,
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Members generally are specially invited to attend Committee Meeting for purposes of making arrangements for Benevolent Fund Dinner in January next, and to elect four members to fill up vacancies on Committee. Members willing to serve are requested to send their names beforehand.
Dinner tickets must be applied for to-day by letter, with remittance to
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IN the C. J. LIVERMORE, Deceased.
Pursuant to the Statute 22nd and 23rd Victoria, Chapter 35, intituled, "An Act to further amend the law of property and to relieve Trustees," Notice is hereby given that all Creditors and other persons having any debts, claims, or demands against the Estate of Lechmere Charles John Livermore, formerly of 53a, Shaftesbury-avenue, in the County of London, but late of "Fairview," 17, Hillbury-road, Upper Tooting, in the County of Surrey, Theatrical Manager and Director of Public Companies (who died on the 6th day of October, 1906, and whose Will was proved in the Principal Registry of the Probate Division of His Majesty's High Court of Justice on the 7th day of November 1906, by Ada Matilda Livermore and Herbert Sutton Syrett, two of the Executors therein named), are hereby required to send particulars in writing of their debts, claims, or demands, to us, the undersigned, as solicitors to the said Executors on or before the 31st day of December, 1906, after which date the said Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the debts, claims, and demands of which they shall then have had notice, and that they will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose debt, claim, or demand they shall not then have had notice.
Dated this 20th day of November, 1906.
SYRETT and SONS,
45, Finsbury-pavement, E.C.
Solicitors for the said Executors.

I HEREBY ADMIT that I Have wrongfully and without any authority or license performed the play entitled "TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS," belonging to Miss MAGGIE MORTON, at the Palace Theatre of Varieties, Dolphin Meadow, Hitchin-street, Biggleswade, and elsewhere.
I regret having so infringed her rights, and apologise for the loss and annoyance which I have caused.
I hereby undertake that I will not in future perform or cause to be performed the said play or any substantial parts thereof without Miss Maggie Morton's consent, and will not use in connection with any plays announced or represented the title, "Two Little Drummer Boys," in such a way as to be calculated to deceive persons into the belief that the play so announced or represented is Miss Maggie Morton's play.
I also undertake to pay the cost of publicly advertising this apology and undertaking.
Dated this 27th day of October, 1906.
FRANK LANGLEY.
Witness,
S. WICKINS, 9, Quality-court, Chancery-lane, W.C., Solicitor.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1906.

THE MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL.

The glorious gathering at the Hotel Cecil on Sunday, at the dinner offered to Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR as a tribute to his splendid services in connection with the Musical Copyright Act of 1906, was one of those jubilant celebrations which are permissible after a great victory. It was not only an expression of satisfaction on the part of a reassured and relieved industry; it was a demonstration of delight, in all directions, at the triumph of right over wrong, of honesty over dishonesty, of persevering effort over callous, and perhaps cynical, obstruction. We are now enabled to appreciate the unwearied perseverance, the dogged tenacity, and the happy spirit of adaptation which have gone to the passing of the Musical Copyright Bill of 1906. Mr. O'CONNOR'S tale of his trials and troubles in connection with the measure is an astonishing picture of prejudice, obstinacy, and density. The Bill was one of those upon which, one would have thought, there could be no two opinions. If there is anything that can be considered to be a man's personal, private, and inalienable property it is the product of his brains and talent. As Mr. O'CONNOR said, "To lay down that the work of a man's hand or the work of a man's capital or enterprise is more entitled to protection than the work of the soul or brain means that the nation is in its spiritual and intellectual decadence." Mr. O'CONNOR, with the excellent backing which, by painstaking persuasion and personal popularity, he had secured, had high hopes of the prompt passing of the Bill; one of those "little, simple, innocent, non-contentious" ones which had in its favour practically the whole of the House of Commons. It must have been indeed a shock to him, a terrible though only temporary "damper," when he saw the blocking notice against the second reading. Mr. O'CONNOR never made a speech in favour of the Bill. He probably felt that the battle was not to be won by oratory, but by steady, indefatigable "pegging away" at individuals. It is almost incredible, but the fact of his supporting this Bill—a spotlessly virtuous one if there ever was such a measure—led to attacks upon Mr. O'CONNOR'S character. And he had to oppose the wildest and most extravagant reasons for opposition. One Member appealed to the House to "remember the liberties for which their countrymen had fought"; another objected to the Bill because there was a "ring or trust of musical publishers or musical composers"; a third was anxious, at the expense of honesty, to "give cheap music to the people." It was to meet and combat arguments like these that Mr. O'CONNOR pleaded and persuaded night after night. But the objectors resembled the classical Hydra; when one had been overcome, another arose, until Mr. O'CONNOR'S task seemed hopeless and endless. And the Session still kept creeping on; the closing days were at hand; and he saw, looming in the near distance, the doom of the Bill upon which he had spent so much energy and eloquence. But help was at hand. There were certain supporters of the Government who were out of Mr. O'CONNOR'S reach. To these Mr. SAMUEL, the Under-Secretary to the Home Office, applied his powers of persuasion. Then the Government took up the Bill. With two all-night sittings, and "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together," the Musical Copyright Bill was passed through the Commons. But it was no time for Mr. O'CONNOR to rest on his oars. The House of Lords still remained. Mr. O'CONNOR went to Lord BEAUCHAMP, and by obliging and sympathetic co-operation a special sitting was arranged for the Bill; so that it went straight from the Lower House to the Upper, by which it was passed without a dissentient voice. On a certain memorable Saturday Mr. O'CONNOR went into the gallery of the House of Lords. He heard the words "Musical Copyright Bill"; he saw two clerks make four genuflexions, and the Lord Chancellor lift his hat. The victory was gained; the long struggle was over; the Bill had become law.

With characteristic generosity, Mr. O'CONNOR, in his speech on Sunday, acknowledged his indebtedness to the assistance of Mr. WILLIAM BOOSEY, but for whom this happy result would never have been attained; but Mr. BOOSEY would be the first to acknowledge that all extra-Parliamentary effort would have been vain without the experience of the House, the persuasive eloquence, and the delicate tact and judgment of "T. P."

The wildly enthusiastic reception which Mr. O'CONNOR met with on rising to respond at the Hotel Cecil was the tribute which Englishmen are always ready to give to generous and disinterested effort. Mr. O'CONNOR had no "axe to grind" in his support of the good cause. As he said in the peroration of his speech on Sunday: "I regard music as one of the greatest of arts, one of the highest, one of the noblest, one of the proudest possessions of any nation. I believe that one of the great problems that every reflecting man has to put to himself is to afford to our people a choice between the higher and lower forms of amusement and recreation. I was inspired by the thought that many men and women who have given to us hours of pleasure and exaltation, which are perhaps the most enjoyable hours of our life, should no longer be suffering under an intolerable grievance. And the composers of the land, long after I have passed away, will feel that they owe some little debt of gratitude to me for the protection of the children of their genius, and it will be a compensation and consolation to me to my latest day."

MR. DEANE TRIBUNE has been entrusted by Moss' Empires to invent and stage a pantomime for them that shall play for exactly thirty minutes. The story selected is that of *Bo-Peep*, and its treatment will be quite exceptional and novel. For instance, £45 alone has been spent on the roses that will be used in the Palace scene. There will be a military chorus and a surprise march, and the great comedy scene will be when Simple Simon (Mr. Deane Tribune) has to take a bath. Miss Stella Tribune is to be the Boy Blue, and Miss Ethie Lonsdale should make a charming Bo-Peep. Starting at Newport on Dec. 17, the pantomime will be played in Moss-Stoll halls until Easter.

DEANE TRIBUNE, who is really Willie Cowan Reid, was born in Glasgow "some little time ago," as he puts it. Before he took to the stage he was employed as a butcher in Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow, but afterwards got a job in Govan, and from there went to Dunoon. At that time he was doing some trick cycling, and at Mexican Joe's, now the Zoo, Glasgow, he played in sketches and showed a couple of spot ponies in the ring. Then he journeyed to London, but the trip was a dire failure. It was then that he turned his attention to the knockabout business, and achieved some degree of success with a companion. *The Cheerful Idiot* sketch then brought him to the front, and he has played it for ten years now. His hobby is fly-fishing, and nothing pleases him more than to get away to the North of Ireland and visit all the little villages, live in the country houses, and fish in the streams that abound so plentifully there. Motoring, too, he enjoys, and many a thousand miles has he gone on his little speed car.

A TREATISE might be written on the subject of "What a song will do for a singer," and apropos of this Miss Dora Lyric is by way of becoming a new star. Miss Lyric has a fine voice and a charming presence; and a really "big" song has been the one thing needed to place her in the front rank. This she is fortunate to have found in Messrs. Castling and Scott's domestic ballad, "All that glitters is not gold," which has done the trick for her. It will shortly be issued in Francis and Day's "Sixpenny Pops."

ON Monday night at the Royal Standard Music Hall, Pimlico, a very pretty show was presented by the Harmony Two, which was immediately booked by a West End manager. The lady is Miss May Clifton, a well-known musical comedy artist, and a pupil of the late Theodor Distin. The gentleman is Howard Hartman, one of the original Ordway Brothers, and an old favourite of the New York Roof Gardens.

MUNICIPAL theatre audiences are evidently to be kept well in check at Toulon, the Mayor of which town has issued an order prohibiting hissing and other signs of disapproval at the local municipal theatre. Thus the edict runs: "No one will be allowed to hiss, make audible remarks, applaud ironically, yawn noisily, use bad language, or otherwise disturb the dignified calm necessary to the proper enjoyment of the drama." A breach of the rule laid down is to be punished by immediate expulsion, and any complaint which members of the audience have to make are to be written in a book provided for the purpose.

"THE LOST CHORD," a play by Sutton Vane and Arthur Carlton, was produced for copyright purposes yesterday (Friday) at the Theatre Royal, Worcester.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY IN DUBLIN.

Mr. Martin Harvey's three weeks' season will terminate to-night, when he will present *The Only Way* in the presence of their Excellencies the Lord Lieutenant and Countess of Aberdeen.

The season has proved more successful than any previous one, and Mr. Martin Harvey's extraordinary popularity in Dublin seems to have increased, if such a thing were possible.

As the Lord Lieutenant and Countess of Aberdeen gave their patronage to the first night of the season, when *The Corsican Brothers* was played, their Excellencies will have been present both at the initial and final performances of the season.

The first week was given up entirely to *The Corsican Brothers*, the second week's programme was filled by *The Breed of the Treshams* and *Hamlet*, and the third week by a night of a triple bill (*Rouget de L'Isle, Ib and Little Christina*, and *The Spell*), *The Only Way*, and *A Cigarette-maker's Romance*.

Besides the performances in the theatre, Mr. Harvey's time was very much filled by social engagements and by giving personal help to various charitable functions. But the most important event was the lecture which he delivered at the invitation of the Provost and Fellows of Trinity College. This was altogether a unique occasion in the history of the College, for it was the first time that the University had entertained an actor and been honoured by the presence of the Lord Lieutenant. It was on Wednesday, Nov. 14, that Mr. Harvey delivered his lecture in the Examination Hall of Trinity College on "Reflections upon the Art of Acting." Much interest attached to the lecture, which was attended by a very large and appreciative audience, and many who sought to gain admittance were seriously disappointed in being obliged to turn away.

At four o'clock the Provost, preceded by the mace-bearer and accompanied by his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, entered the hall, and proceeded to the platform, the occupants of the gallery meanwhile singing the National Anthem. The Provost presided, having on his right the Lord Lieutenant, the seat on his left being reserved for the lecturer. Amongst those present were Dr. Tyrrell, S.F.T.C.; Mr. Williamson, S.F.T.C.; Mr. Fred Purser, F.T.C.; Mr. William Kennedy, F.T.C.; Mr. Justice Barton, the Rev. Dr. Clarke, and Mr. Fry, F.T.C.

The Provost introduced Mr. Martin Harvey, who thereupon delivered his lecture, which was listened to with the greatest attention throughout.

Dr. Tyrrell, in conveying the thanks of the meeting to the lecturer, said they had had a most charming treat, and they were the recipients of a great favour from Mr. Harvey. It was no small favour for a great actor who was every night interpreting to overflowing houses those great impersonations with which his name was so closely wedded—it was no small favour for such an artist to come before them and give them of his best, his most energetic and enthusiastic criticism for nearly an hour, which to his audience seemed all too short. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Harvey had come before a highly-sympathetic and favouring audience. (Hear, hear.) If they were to be judged by the comments made, he (Dr. Tyrrell) supposed by the undergraduates, he would say that they had at least showed an intimate acquaintance with the works which Mr. Harvey had put before them during the past week. (Hear, hear.) To those who lived at the uttermost end of Rathmines, and had not, perhaps, seen *The Breed of the Treshams*, there must have been something criptic in the frequent allusion to "rats"—(laughter)—but those comments and words Mr. Harvey would understand to be only tokens of sympathy and goodwill. (Applause.) What the Provost had said of Mr. Harvey's Hamlet seemed to him (Dr. Tyrrell) to be perfectly true. The lecture, which was full of humour, good criticism, and other high qualities, was also marked by eloquence. There was one underlying thought running through it all which struck him as particularly profound, and, as far as he knew, it was original. It was this: that the interpreter of a great character did not sit down and say "How shall I interpret this character to my audience?" No; on the contrary, the character ran away with him. (Applause.) That University had always taken a deep interest in the actor's art, and he wished to express the desire that it might continue to associate itself with the delightful, instructive, and elevating art of the actor. (Applause.)

His Excellency, in thanking the Provost for presiding, said they all felt indebted to him for having originated or promoted that gathering. They had reason to be indebted to him for the lecture to which they had listened, and which had been very gracefully commented on by the proposer of the vote of thanks. They all felt that the Provost had struck a true note when he alluded, in introducing the lecturer, to his appreciation of his illustrious master, Sir Henry Irving. (Applause.) The manner in which that allusion had been responded to throughout the lecture must have been felt by all. (Hear, hear.) The lecture would have the effect of promoting recognition of the true position of the drama, and would help to remove the heresy which would represent the theatre as something of a merely light and frivolous nature. As one who had had the privilege of watching Mr. Harvey during his rendering of some of the great characters, he found himself frequently thinking of Sir Henry Irving. (Applause.)

Mr. Harvey and the Provost having each acknowledged the compliments, the proceedings terminated.

When Mr. Harvey left the hall and got into his motor, the undergraduates surrounded him, and in their enthusiasm they took him out and carried him shoulder high around the quadrangle. The popular actor's silk hat got smashed and his tie-pin was lost; but, despite the events of the afternoon, he found no difficulty in presenting his study of Beresby the Rat in *The Breed of the Treshams* that evening.

MR. W. S. GILBERT has no recollection whatever of his piece, *Topsyturveydom*, which was produced at the Criterion Theatre on March 21, 1874; in fact, his mind is a "blank on the matter." The play, the music of which was by Alfred Cellier, was stage-managed by H. J. Byron. In the cast were J. Clarke as a bewildered M.P., Messrs. Dewar and Garden, and Miss Hughes. The ladies created a striking impression with "hair to match the colour of their dresses."

MR. BERNARD SHAW writes to point out an error into which the critic of a daily paper has fallen in substituting for the Duberdat's words in *The Doctor's Dilemma* "I believe in Michael Angelo, Velasquez, and Rembrandt" the phrase "Velasquez, the father of Whistler." "This creed," says Mr. Shaw, "was openly borrowed with gratitude and admiration by me from Richard Wagner's well-known story, dated 1841, and translated under the title 'An End in Paris' by Mr. Ashton Ellis, in which the dying musician cries, 'I believe in God, Mozart, and Beethoven.'" And were not Turner's last words "The Sun is God"? It should be noticed, however, that Mr. Shaw's Duberdat leaves the Deity out entirely.

MR. HARRY ATHOL and Mr. Tom English will shortly produce a new realistic sketch, *A Trip to the North Pole*, with novel scenic effects and funny situations.

MR. AND MRS. HARRY GROVINE have produced successfully their new act, in the name of the Groves, at the Ealing Hippodrome.

"THE ISLE OF OOMA."

An Eastern Episode, Written and Composed by E. W. Rogers, Albert E. Ellis, and Wal Pink.
Produced at the Richmond Theatre, on Monday, Nov. 19.

Emperor of Ooma ..... MR. GEORGE POWER
Vizier ..... MR. LAWRENCE TURNEY
Lord D'Arcy ..... MR. CHAS. F. HOWARD
Twigg ..... MR. ARTHUR RIGBY
Mrs. Twigg ..... MISS DORA SELBY
Princess ..... MISS RITA EVERARD

Mr. Arthur Rigby, whose company is presenting this piece, gives us an entertaining musical comedy in miniature in *The Isle of Ooma*. We are not told what part of the world is occupied by the State of Ooma, but, judging by the extremely picturesque scene set before our eyes on the stage, we imagine that it must in all verity be a land of enchantment. The Emperor of Ooma is an Englishman who has found it convenient to fly his own country, and his vizier has done the same. Between them they have contrived to impose upon the inhabitants of this delightful Eastern dominion to the extent of securing all regal rights. Another personage, one Twigg, is making a sojourn at the Court to escape from his wife, who turns up, and ultimately claims the Emperor as her first husband. The Emperor's daughter, the Princess of Ooma, is in love with Lord D'Arcy, but the Vizier is endeavouring, by threats and offers of cash, to force the girl's father to give her to him in marriage. Twigg, who is an ingenious sort of individual, arranges that Lord D'Arcy shall make a present to the Emperor in the shape of a box, in which Twigg, attired and disguised to represent the Emperor's deserted wife, is secreted. When the box is opened, the bogus wife terrifies the Emperor by threatening to expose him, and eventually, after a very amusing scene, gets the Emperor's promise to allow Lord D'Arcy to marry the Princess. Later, the real wife comes upon the scene. Twigg is released from his former, and, so far as he is concerned, undesired, relationship with her, by reason of the existence and immediate presence of the lady's first husband. Mr. Arthur Rigby, with his comical mannerisms and absurd antics, is intensely ludicrous as Twigg, and is, so far as the fun-making goes, the soul of the piece. Miss Rita Everard quite takes one's fancy as the Princess, and she gives a very pretty rendering of the song, "Simple as A B C," and is also heard to advantage, along with Mr. Charles F. Howard as Lord D'Arcy, in the duet, "Princess of Ooma." Mention should also be made of the amusing rendering of "I haven't made my fortune yet," by Mr. Rigby. As the Emperor of Ooma, Mr. George Power gives us much to laugh at. Particularly ridiculous is the scene in which he makes affectionate advances to Mr. Rigby, dressed as a more or less charming dancing girl. Mr. Chas. F. Howard has a fairly "straight" part in that of Lord D'Arcy, and he treats us to an appropriately lover-like study. The rôles of the Vizier and Mrs. Twigg are in the capable hands of Mr. Lawrence Turney and Miss Dora Selby respectively. *The Isle of Ooma* is a praiseworthy production; it is superbly dressed and mounted, and, as we have already indicated, efficiently acted throughout. The piece is produced under the capable supervision of Mr. Michael Ring.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The programme of the concert given on Wednesday evening commenced with a piano solo of Raff's "Tambourin," carefully played by Miss Amy L. Parsons. In Gounod's song, "Spring," Miss Stella Ulph, through slight nervousness, hardly did full justice to her vocal abilities. Miss Edith K. Eldridge gave Bohm's violin solo, "Legende," with considerable success, and Miss Ethel Richardson was much applauded in her piano solo, "Fantasia," by Beethoven. Batten's song, "Living Poems," was sung by Miss Catherine Baker, and Mr. Walter J. Wilder displayed a musical tenor voice in Lehmann's song, "Oh moon of my delight." Variety to the concert was afforded by two recitations, "The Victim," by Tennyson, and "A Surprise," given by Miss M. Amory, a most promising pupil of Mr. L. Cairns James. In Guy d'Hardelot's song, "I think," Miss Dorothy Freeman sang with good expression; while Miss Cressy Robinson displayed great freedom of execution in her piano solo of "Rondeau en Polonaise," by Bennett. Mr. H. T. Edney has a pleasing voice, but was hardly well suited in Sullivan's song, "I would I were a king." Miss Winifred Isabel Norman won hearty applause for her most skilful rendering of Rode's violin solo, "Adagio and Rondo" from Concerto in A minor. Two of Grieg's songs, "I love thee" and "A Vision," were intelligently sung by Miss Florrie Miller, and the concert concluded with Hummel's piano solo, "Rondo" from Concerto in A, played by Miss Dorothy Ellis, the second pianoforte part being taken by Mr. Mischa Levin.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The programme of the concert given by the students of the Royal Academy of Music commenced with a movement from Beethoven's "Sep tet in E flat," played by Miss Jessie Bowater (violin), Mr. Thomas Morgan (viola), Mr. Edgar Fawcett (violoncello), Mr. C. Winterbottom (double bass), Mr. Herbert Stutely (clarionet), Mr. John Alexandra (bassoon), and Mr. Oskar H. Boredorf (horn). In Mr. B. J. Dale's "Variations from Sonata in D minor for Pianoforte," which were written in 1905, and gained the 20-guinea prize offered by Mr. Mark Hambourg, Miss Myra Hess proved herself a most skilful executant, being at the close rewarded with loud and long-continued applause, and a strong attempt at a recall, though it is expressly printed in the programme that "no recall of a performer is allowed at these concerts." Miss Caroline Hatchard sang two songs of Liszt's, "Wo weilt er" and "Comment, disaient ils," with considerable power and dramatic effect; and Miss Marie Isabelle Wadia gave an artistic rendering of three songs composed by a student of the Academy, Mr. Ambrose Coviello. These were "When passion's trance," "To the Queen of my heart," and "I arise from dreams of thee," the last-named proving the most attractive. Sinigaglia's "Rapsodia Piemontese," for the violin, was brilliantly played by Miss Elsie W. Owen; and Miss Myra Hess was associated with Mr. B. Walton O'Donnell in his "Concertante Variations on an Original Irish Air for Pianoforte and Violoncello," a pleasing work, introducing a lively Irish jig and an elaborate cadenza for the 'cello, which was much applauded. An andante and allegro for strings (MS. by Miss F. Margaret Bennett, granddaughter of the late Sir W. Sterndale Bennett, had some interesting features, and was admirably played by the Ensemble Class. F. Curshmann's lovely terzettino, "Ti prego, o Madre pia," was sung with capital intonation and expression by Miss Nellie Franklin, Miss Edith Kirk, and Mr. Thomas Gibbs; and Mr. David Evans displayed a fine baritone voice in Gounod's cavatina, "Even bravest hearts may swell," from *Faust*. The last item in the programme was Mr. York Bowen's clever "Miniature Suite—Humoresque, Nocturne, Finale," for the pianoforte, excellently executed by Master Frank Hutchens.

MR. G. H. CHIROWIN writes:—"Allow me to contradict your correspondent at Hounslow. I am known as the White-eyed Kaffir, not One-eyed Kaffir, and I play the one-string Jap. fiddle, not the one-string banjo."

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The French Government have very graciously recognised Mr. George Scott's services in connection with the reception given to the French Fleet at the Alhambra in 1905, and also in connection with the Courrières Colliery Disaster Fund, by conferring on him, through the Ambassador yesterday, the decoration of Officier d'Académie.

We are glad to hear that there is some improvement in Miss Marie Lloyd's condition, and that she hopes soon to return to her numerous engagements.

Miss Ada Reeve was naturally very much distressed by the outrageous incident that occurred at the Regent Theatre, Salford, on Monday, and had to see a Manchester doctor on Tuesday morning as she was very nervous and ill. He (the doctor) strongly advised her not to play for a few days, as he feared a nervous breakdown; but Miss Reeve, anxious, as always, not to disappoint the public and the management, went to the theatre and played the matinée.

On her return to the hotel at about 4.30, she found a wire awaiting her with the sad news that her father was ill and could not possibly recover. This naturally, coming immediately on top of her other trouble, completely upset her. She went straight to her father, who has since died. On Thursday morning she went to Brighton, where she has been ordered by her own London medical adviser.

The Music Hall Ladies' Guild charity matinée at the Canterbury on Tuesday afternoon next is shaping well, and promises to be a most interesting function. For once affairs behind the footlights are to be swayed by the tempestuous petticoat. There may possibly be a little cherub sitting up aloft in the shape of a limelight man surveying this Adamless Eden; but the officials generally are to be of the softer sex.

Miss Constance Moxon, one of the stewards of the Guild, will stage-manage; Misses Edie and Lizzie Slater will change the numbers; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Miss Lil Hawthorn, Mrs. and Miss Katie Butler, are all coming long journeys in order to be present; and little Miss Shaw, aged five years, is travelling from Hull to entertain. Ladies who are appearing for the matinée are kindly requested to send on at once their private addresses to Miss Anna de Grey, the secretary, at 69, Primrose-mansions, Prince of Wales's-road, Battersea Park, S.W., in order that she may forward to them tickets of admission by the stage-door. The band call is two o'clock.

Among those who have volunteered their services for the occasion are Miss Victoria Monks, Miss Lily Burnand, Miss Constance Moxon, Miss Katie Lawrence, Miss Alice Mayduo, Miss Marie Dainton, Miss Marie Loftus, Miss Kate Carney, Miss Lil Hawthorne, Miss Topsy Sinden, Miss Clarice Heney, and Miss Empsie Bowman. Not a single male performer will appear, and even the orchestra will consist of ladies, directed by Mme. E. H. Angless. It is doubtful at the time of writing whether Miss Marie Lloyd will be able to appear.

At the forthcoming Canterbury matinée in aid of the funds of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild a novel feature will be the singing by Miss Constance Moxon (with all the ladies of the committee as chorus) of a new song, by Richard Elton and Denham Harrison, entitled "Do all the good that you can." The song is a gift from these well-known writers for the benefit of the Guild. Denham Harrison, by the way, has been commissioned by Mr. C. W. Somerset to write the incidental music to his new piece, *The Jungle*, which starts on tour at Liverpool on Monday.

Mr. Albert Gilmer, late the manager of the Oxford, will find a new sphere for his energy and ability at the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, which is now endowed with a music and dancing licence, and will shortly open as a variety house under his direction. It will be run on the twice-nightly plan, and will be called the Palace, Stoke Newington.

We have announced during the past few weeks the deaths of Mr. Harry Hunter, a founder of the Mohawk Minstrels, and Mr. Lechmere C. J. Livermore, one of the three Brothers Livermore, proprietors of the Court Minstrels. Now another pioneer of minstrelsy has joined the great majority in the person of Mr. W. H. Matthews, who died on Nov. 5, in the seventy-first year of his age. He was one of the three original Brothers Matthews, of Matthews's C.C.C. Minstrels, of St. James's Hall, in the 'sixties, prior to the establishment of the Moore and Crocker Troupe in Piccadilly. A full account of the deceased gentleman's career will be found in another column.

Mr. George Mozart will follow the example of other English variety comedians, and go to America, where large salaries rule. It is to be hoped that his character-studies and thumb-nail sketches of life in London will meet with as much appreciation in New York as they do on this side. He will sail on Dec. 12 on board the Majestic.

The Council meet as a body on Friday next to consider the preliminary decisions of their Theatres and Music Halls Committee. A great deal of interest will be imparted to the proceedings by the discussion that will arise out of the recommendation of the Licensing Committee not to renew the licence of the Canterbury. Last June the Council issued requisitions to Mr. G. A. Payne and the directorate that practically amounted to a reconstruction of the house. As the lease has but a short time to run, it was decided by the management that it was impossible to comply with the Council's demands.

Then an alternative scheme, whereby the number in balcony and gallery were to be restricted to 500. Such a restriction did not provide a way out of the difficulty, as its acceptance would have prevented the management running the house at a profit. Negotiations are in progress for an amicable settlement, and it is to be hoped that all difficulties will vanish.

The Metropolitan will celebrate its ninth anniversary under the present management on Thursday, Dec. 13. It can boast of a record possessed by no other hall in London. Mr. Handley, the pianist in the orchestra, has occupied that position from the opening night, and can give many interesting reminiscences of the different managements.

Mr. Henry Tozer presided at the second annual meeting of the Variety Theatres Consolidated, Ltd., held on Tuesday at their offices in Durham House-street, Strand. In moving the adoption of the report, which recommended a dividend of 8 per cent. for the year, the chairman said their profits were slightly higher than last year, and they were enabled to carry forward a slightly larger balance. They had not yet formed a reserve, but in these early days it was premature to speak of that. Although the takings had shown a slight diminution, that had been more than counterbalanced by the savings they had effected in almost every item of the expenditure. Owing to the prolonged summer, the receipts had suffered, but since Sept. 30 they were a large amount to the good in their net receipts as compared with the previous year. Therefore he thought they might consider that their earning power was not only firm, but it showed a tendency to increase. Mr. G. Adney Payne seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The conversion of the Derry Opera House into a Hippodrome for a month's season has proved so successful that Mr. Payne-Seddon has arranged to run the New Royal, Loughboro', on the same lines for the month of February with two performances nightly.

The Assembly Rooms, Leigh, have been taken on a six months' lease from Dec. 3, and will be known as the Palace Theatre of Varieties.

The Lyceum Theatre, Stafford, on Monday became a variety house, and is now known as the Stafford Empire and Lyceum. The lessee and manager, Mr. James Elphinstone, is running it on the two-performances-nightly plan.

Mr. Walter de Frece's project to open a new music hall in Birmingham will, we are informed on that gentleman's own authority, be realised in less than twelve months. Mr. de Frece has been very busy looking over Birmingham, and has succeeded in securing a site which he is confident will suit him admirably, albeit at present he is not prepared to disclose the actual spot thereof. Nevertheless, and meanwhile, Birmingham chorties "Let 'em all come!"

The death, from bronchitis, is announced of Mr. Albert Ernest Colmer, formerly a solicitor, who recently became assistant-manager to his brother-in-law, Mr. Fred Leighton, at the Hippodrome, Sheerness. He passed away on the 15th inst., and the funeral took place on Tuesday, the staff of the Hippodrome acting as pall-bearers.

A quiet, but interesting, wedding was recently solemnised at Oldham, the contracting parties being Mr. C. H. S. Dring, the manager of the Empire, Cardiff, and Miss Ina Hill, one of the principal artists in the Carl Rosa Opera Co. The wedding, which was known only to the immediate friends of the bride and bridegroom, was attended by Mr. Julius Walther and Miss Doris Woodall, of the Carl Rosa Company. After the ceremony breakfast was served in Oldham, and subsequently Mr. and Mrs. Dring left for Manchester, where a short honeymoon was spent, Miss Ina Hill subsequently rejoining her company at Blackburn.

Miss Ina Hill has filled such leading rôles as Arline in *The Bohemian Girl*, Marguerite in *Faust*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, the shepherd boy in *Tannhäuser*, Countess Ceprano in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and Frasquita in *Carmen*. When Beethoven's *Fidelio* was revived in Dublin a few weeks ago, after an interval of twenty-five years, Miss Hill was entrusted with, and fulfilled most successfully, the part of Marcellina, and she is to take the leading lady's rôle in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, to be produced for the first time in English in Manchester a month hence.

Mrs. Barrasford, the proprietress of the Devil's Dyke Hotel, was summoned at Hove on Monday for keeping the hotel open during prohibited hours on a Sunday afternoon. The Dyke is about five miles from Brighton, and the defence was that precautions were taken to serve only bonâ-fide travellers. The case was dismissed.

A case of considerable interest to agents and artists, which had been remitted from the High Court, was heard this week at Stockton County Court before his Honour Judge Templer, when Leo Fritz, agent, London, claimed £33 16s. 4d. from Messrs. G. and R. A. Nicholson, of the Hippodrome, Stockton, for commission on engagements. The plaintiff, in his evidence, said when he saw Mr. R. A. Nicholson and Mr. Ainsworth at Stockton in November, 1905, nothing was said about the 10 per cent. commission being divided, and nothing was heard of any claim by defendants to any commission until the account was sent in in September, 1906.

Mr. R. A. Nicholson, one of the proprietors of the Hippodrome, called for the defence, said when the arrangements were made with Mr. Leo Fritz it was on the distinct understanding that the commission should be divided between them. His Honour said the defendants had not made it clear to him that there was an agreement that this commission should be divided, and he therefore gave judgment for the plaintiff, with costs.

Mr. James Johnson, the proprietor of the King's, Gateshead, gave a matinée on Wednesday for the benefit of the widows and orphans who lost their bread-winners in the disastrous explosion at Wingate Colliery. There was a good attendance.

Mr. Edwin Croueste's complimentary smoking concert, given in his honour by his Leicester friends, previous to his departure for the Antipodes, took place on Thursday, Nov. 15, at hte Fish and Quart Hotel, Churchgate, Leicester. In addition to a substantial cheque, presented to him by the president on behalf of the committee, Mr. Croueste was the recipient of several souvenirs of their esteem by private friends. A very pleasant evening was spent, Mr. Croueste being in the best of form in his spirited recitations and humorous stories. Apart from his Leicester friends, Mr. Croueste wishes to publicly thank through *The Era* Mr. Harry Rickards, J. C. Boswell, John Leopold, H. Stelling, Albert De Breean, Arthur Powell, and St. John Pinder for their subscriptions and kindly expressions. He anticipates sailing for Australia early next month.

Dr. Walford Bodie, author of "The Bodie Book," has just published a small volume, entitled "What is a Miracle? or, Thousands Buried Alive Annually." Although only published on Monday, the sale has been enormous. Close upon 50,000 have already been disposed of. A copy will be sent post free to anyone sending two penny stamps and address to the Manager, the Bodie Publishing Company, 163, Blackfriars-road, S.E.

That the popularity of minstrelsy did not entirely die with the demolition of St. James's Hall has been proved by Mr. Charles Dare, whose Ethiopian troupe is winning golden opinions everywhere. The principal artists were members of the far-famed Moore and Burgess crowd.

In the list of the new committee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, sent to us officially, the name of Mr. Bob Hutt, who scored 308 votes, was omitted, and the total number of votes obtained by Mr. Fred McNaughton should have been 489, not 498.

The shareholders' committee of the London Coliseum has agreed upon the reconstruction scheme, under which £42,000 would be raised by ordinary and preference shareholders, and £65,000 second mortgage debentures would be issued. Mr. Oswald Stoll, who would be retained as managing director, is prepared to become responsible for £5,000 of the second mortgage bonds, if shareholders take up the amount mentioned.

The Haverleys, illustrated song artists, at the termination of their engagement to-day at the Palace, Cork, bring to a conclusion a highly successful seventeen weeks' continuous tour. The act is high-class and popular.

"A Case for Rescission," written and produced by Miss Edith Grenfell, will be played at Collins's next week. Since the production the sketch has been much improved.

Mr. Frank Weir, who has been playing Barry, in *A Country Girl*, has had a tempting offer for re-engagement by Mr. Chas. Macdona, but has been secured at a big salary by Mr. Bannister Howard, to play Wishee-Washee at the Crystal Palace, in *Aladdin*.

Mr. Arthur Rigby has certainly struck oil with his production at Richmond of *The Isle of Ooma*, which we shall no doubt see shortly at a West End hall. Mr. Rigby has aimed high in this pretty scena, with its Oriental setting, its perfection of detail, and its comedy of a most exhilarating kind. In the chief part Mr. Rigby, too, is able to let himself go, and to display that resourcefulness which makes him such an excellent pantomime comedian. Congratulations have been showered upon him, *The Isle of Ooma* being generally recognised as a charming and dainty production.

Miss Daphne de Rohan, who has been so long away from London, has returned, and will probably remain for a considerable time. Her many friends will be sorry to hear of her long and severe illness; but, judging from the encomiums lavished upon her on her first appearance since her recovery, there is every hope that her many and varied accomplishments will soon be again enjoyed by the public.

It is characteristic of Miss Daphne de Rohan, who recently was decorated with the Special Jewel of the French Life-Saving Society, that her first appearance after her illness should be devoted to providing enjoyment to "young England," as typified by the clever children whose swimming performances have gained them so much credit and also so many prizes.

Miss Henriquette Maude, who made an interesting appearance at the Canterbury anniversary on Thursday evening, has been travelling for two years round the world, maintaining herself by work on the stage and by singing and reciting on steamers. She won a medal in America for her elocution, and has recited "Lasca" in all parts of the world. During her delivery of this well-known poem, from the pen of Mr. Frank Desprez, she wears a picturesque cowboy costume. She is an excellent mimic.

Mr. David Day will take the chair on the occasion of the annual concert and dinner in aid of the funds of the Music Publishers' and Concert Assistants' Benevolent Society, which will take place on Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Crown (adjoining the London Hippodrome).

Mr. Bransby Williams, on his return from the States, found his little son Eric very ill. He immediately called in two doctors, who decided to take the opinion of a specialist, and a severe operation was performed on Wednesday. The little fellow is going on as well as can be expected; and one can sympathise with the loving parents in their deep anxiety.

It is with much regret that we learn the news of the death of Mr. James Henry Jee, father of the James Henry Jee family, who succumbed on Saturday last, at the age of fifty-seven, to the after effects of a severe operation. Much sympathy will be extended by the profession to his sons, Mr. James Jee and Mr. Charlene Jee, in their sad loss. The funeral took place on Thursday.

The members of the Urban African Expedition, whose purpose is to traverse the great continent from Cape Town to Cairo, taking pictorial records of life in Portuguese East Africa, Nyassaland, the Congo, British and German East Africa, and Uganda, sailed on the Walmer Castle from Southampton on Saturday.

Mr. Alfred Butt, whilst on his recent tour in America, discovered an equine curiosity—a horse capable of thinking independent of collusion with the trainer. Princess Trixie made her appearance at the Palace on Friday (yesterday) afternoon, before an audience composed of the Press, zoologists, and those interested in animal training, and spelt words suggested by the audience, did simple addition and subtraction sums, and picked out from a heap of pieces of silk any colour asked for. Princess Trixie is endowed with wonderful discrimination.

In France the claque is an institution; but in London, with two exceptions, it is almost unknown. When singing in Paris, Mr. Harry Fragson, who is still appearing at the Tivoli, objected to being blackmailed by the *chef de claque*, and invented mechanical plaudits, which were worked by a spring by the stage-manager. For a time all went well, the automatic hand-clapping being a great success. As, however, the stage-manager derived no profit from the operation, he, in turn, invented an automatic machine which sent off a tremendous hiss, like a steam launch syren, and he had to be paid as to which of these mechanical appliances he would turn on. In the result, the artist had to return to the old system.

At a meeting of the Metropolitan District Committee of the Essex County Council, held at Stratford on the 16th inst., Mr. F. A. S. Stern, solicitor, applied for a dramatic licence for the East Ham Palace Theatre, High-street, East Ham, which is in course of erection. The East Ham Palace immediately adjoins East Ham railway station, and its cost will exceed £20,000. It will accommodate 1800 persons, will have no fewer than twelve exits, and be handsomely appointed. It will be a two-houses-a-night hall. The committee said the licence would be granted on receipt of the certificate of the county architect that the plans deposited had been carried out.

Mr. J. J. Fruin, secretary of the Music Hall Home, and Mr. Horace Marriott, secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, have each received a cheque for £105 voted from their funds by the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association. Mr. Marriott also desires to acknowledge the sum of £17 1s. 1d. from Mr. Joe O'Gorman as the result of his efforts on behalf of the Fund during his voyage from South Africa on board the Briton. £3 15s. 7d. has been collected by Mr. William Payne, who is carrying on at the South London the good work initiated by the lamented Frank Weeks. Other pence-box collections in aid of the M.H.B.F. include the sum of £5 from Mr. A. W. Matcham, of the Empire, Birmingham; and £2 18s. 5d. from Mr. Fred Miller, manager of the Canterbury. Mr. E. H. Lucas has sent £1 as proceeds of his sale of picture postcards while journeying homeward from South Africa; and Mr. J. Christie, of the Hackney Empire, sends £6 5s.

Mr. Christie's method of collecting is described in a letter to Mr. Frank Allen, which we have permission to quote. Says the Hackney manager: "My method of disposing of the tickets in aid of the Fund is that everyone (Press and billorders excepted) entering this theatre on the free list must take a ticket from my doorsman." Were this plan adopted by all the halls throughout the country the Music Hall Benevolent Fund would be placed on a financial basis that would go far to relieve the constant anxiety of a committee struggling to relieve acute cases of distress with insufficient funds.

Dr. Walford Bodie's instructions to us to divide his cheque for £20 between the Music Hall Home and the Music Hall Benevolent Fund have been duly carried out, and drafts for £10 each have been forwarded to Messrs. J. J. Fruin and Horace Marriott, the respective secretaries of those excellent institutions, who have acknowledged the donations with many thanks. It is Dr. Bodie's intention to give Sunday lectures throughout the country, and to devote any profits therefrom to music-hall charities.

Commissioner of Income-tax to variety comedian who is appealing against his assessment: "But I see you have put down here no less than £50 for grease paint. That seems to be an immense sum for such a purpose. Last year you charged £25." "Quite so, but you must remember that now I have to play *two houses a night!*" Claim allowed.

Mr. Wilkie Bard has been secured by Mr. Joseph Wilson for a special week at the Tivoli, previous to his departure for pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, his native town, where he is to play the Baron in *The Babes in the Wood*. This is to be the only pantomime in Cottonopolis, the other dramatic houses running musical comedy. Mr. Bard's newest songs are "You, you, you" and "Incidents."

The new sketch, founded on a phase of Russian terrorism, which is to be produced at the Cambridge on Monday, is entitled *The Woman with the Red Hair*. It is a shortened English version of a play written by the revolutionary Paul Kosakin in the fortress of Kief, while awaiting his execution, and was only completed the night before his tragic end. His memorable speech to the soldiers of the firing party is introduced into the translation of the play. Miss Minnie Sadler and Mr. Webster Lawson are to play the two leading characters.

The libel action, Dagmar v. Lee, came before Mr. Justice Grantham and a special jury, in the King's Bench Division, on Friday, the 16th. The libel complained of appeared in *The Encore*, and was contained in the translation, with comments, of an alleged news paragraph from *Das Programm*, in which Miss Alexandra Dagmar's name was wrongly associated with a theatrical venture in Calcutta. Mr. Justice Grantham, in summing up, said the libel was about as gross as could have been written about any lady in the plaintiff's profession, and the question for the jury was the amount of damages. The jury, without leaving the box, found a verdict for Miss Alexandra Dagmar, assessing the damages at £250. On Monday an unsuccessful application was made for a stay of execution.

Mr. Bransby Williams, who goes to Glasgow to play Fitzwarren, has been presented with the full dress worn by the late Mr. Toole as Caleb Plummer, and has also been fortunate enough to purchase the model of the Maypole Inn at the Toole sale. The following passage is taken from the "Reminiscences of J. L. Toole," by Joseph Hatton:—"Let us glance at a large model of the Maypole Inn, immortalised by Dickens in the novel of 'Barnaby Rudge.' It is a clever realisation of the picturesque inn, with models of the leading characters of the novel grouped in front of it, the whole under a glass case. 'It was a feature of the dining-room of the Hen and Chickens, at Birmingham,' says my host. "Dickens saw it there, and greatly admired it. I tried to buy it, but the proprietor would not sell it at any price. When he retired from the Hen and Chickens he sent it to me. Unfortunately, Dickens was dead when the model came, and my chief purpose in desiring to buy it was frustrated; I wanted to give it to the Author of "Barnaby Rudge."'"

Among the engagements made by Mr. G. Brydon Phillips for the forthcoming pantomime season will be found the name of Messrs. Maitland Marler, Chas. Dillon, Esmonde and Verona, Henry De Solla, G. W. Taylor, R. Kitchen, Billee Taylor, Dan Whitley, the Maples, and Mesdames Belle Harcourt, Kitty Malone, Mamie Iris, Marie Beaufort, Edie Anderson, Lucy Coventry, Snow and Farron, Mlle. Onra; also the favourite West London clown, Harry Ewins. *Sinbad* opens on Christmas Eve at the West London Theatre, and *Red Riding Hood* on Boxing Day at Chester, afterwards visiting Dalston.

The 498th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Wednesday afternoon, when the following were present:—Messrs. Albert Le Fre (vice-president), Fred M'Naughton, George H. Smythson, Geo. A. Booker, Albert Voyce, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The minutes having been read and confirmed, several matters concerning refunds and insurances were dealt with. Dr. A. Graham, of 23, Hanover Buildings, Southampton, was appointed hon. medical officer in that town. The weekly statement of receipts and expenditure submitted showed the amount received during the week to be £36 13s. 6d. Several accounts were passed, and the meeting then terminated. The weekly meeting of the Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. will be held next week on Wednesday at one o'clock, when all members in town are particularly requested to attend.

Committed to a policy of constant change, the "Urbanora" exhibit of animated pictures at the Alhambra will, from Monday next, include the first records ever secured of the scaling, from base to summit, of many of the most difficult peaks in the Austrian Alps. The progress of the roped guides up the almost perpendicular sides and seemingly impassable "chimneys" of the Croda da Lago, is followed closely and minutely, and the stimulating sensation produced upon the spectator is that of sharing the climbers' peril. This series will be followed by a cinematographic minor melodrama, called "True to His Trust."

A matinée is to be given at the Stratford Empire, by permission of Moss' Empires, Ltd., on Thursday next, in aid of the Extension Fund of the West Ham Hospital. Mr. T. S. Mayne has worthily followed in Mr. S. Gething's footsteps in making a great success of the annual matinée in aid of this very deserving local charity, and as he has been promised the services of many prominent performers now in town, in addition to the support of the artists working at the Stoll London theatres, he will be able to submit a fine programme.

La Belle Otero will, in the course of the next week, marry a wealthy Englishman named René Webb, who has consented to allow her to appear on the stage on the condition that she appears under the name of Mme. René Webb. Mr. Webb is stated to have bought for his bride a fine mansion in the Rue Fortuny, and to have settled £20,000 upon her. The marriage will take place at the Madeleine.

The Dunedin Troupe of Cyclists, on tour in America with the Ringling, Forepaugh, and Sells Bros.' combined shows, are now finishing a successful engagement, and are re-engaged for next year. They have travelled 16,788 miles, visited twenty-nine States and territories, and played in 177 towns, the average number of miles travelled every night being ninety-six. Papa Dunedin says he intends to settle in New York this Christmas.

After a successful tour on the Continent, the Dayton Family are returning to Old England, where they will be very welcome. They will shortly produce a new act, entitled *Le Rendezvous*.

Carl and Carr, refined comedians, are playing Captain and Mate in the production of *Dick Whittington* at the Metropole Theatre, Devonport. This will be their third season with Mr. Arthur Carlton.

Miss Ethel Ra Leslie concludes to-night her London season, which has been an uninterrupted one of twenty-nine weeks, and has been the recipient of many floral offerings. The huge bouquet presented to her on Saturday night consisted of prize chrysanthemums from the Crystal Palace. Miss Ra Leslie commences a twenty-five weeks' tour on Monday at Birkenhead.

Mme. Ada Colley's rendering of Bishop's "Lo! here the gentle lark" (with flute obbligato), has been received with such marked favour by public and Press at the Tivoli, that the famous Australian "diva" has been prompted to include in her répertoire another song of the same type, viz., Sir Julius Benedict's "The Bird that came in spring."

Mr. Charles Collette recommences a tour of some months with his farce, *Tea for Two*, at the Canterbury on Monday. As before, he will be supported by Miss Joan Derry, a clever young actress, who has been most successful in the piece. After visiting several leading London halls, Mr. Collette goes into the provinces, returning to his old quarters at the London Pavilion early next year.

To the present generation of music hall frequenters the name of Alf George is unknown, but with their fathers in the 'seventies he was a very popular personage. He was always associated with a lady partner in duologues which were generally funny and invariably well acted. He was associated during his career with Miss Ruby Lee, Miss Nellie Griffiths, and Miss Lily Grey, the last-mentioned being the wife of Mr. Teddy Solomons, the well-known composer of "The Vicar of Bray." The deceased gentleman died suddenly on Monday.

Mr. Maurice H. Hoffman and Miss Ethel King produced, at the Middlesex on Wednesday evening, a new duologue, entitled *The Sleeping-Car*. The plot revolves round a couple of lovers who, by an extraordinary coincidence, are fellow travellers in a sleeping-car on a trip to Edinburgh. Of course, each was ignorant of the other taking the journey, and amusing situations eventuate. Though the gentlemen changes into pyjamas, and the lady removes her dress, the proprieties are never imperilled. The early comers to the Drury-lane house on Wednesday received the sketch with laughter.

Miss Lily Tiso, a charming singer and expert dancer, who is at the Stratford Empire this week, rejoins the Moss-Stoll circuit after her twelfth tour of Russian cities. Nowadays the ordinary person would rather avoid than seek anything Russian. Not so Miss Tiso. "Things are made out to be so much worse than they really are," she told the writer last week. "They are bad, of course, but I like the Russian people and Russian audiences; and, as I speak French as well as Russian, I never experience any difficulty. My last engagement at St. Petersburg was from Oct. 1, 1905, till Jan. 20, 1906. On last New Year's Eve I was having supper with friends at a restaurant, situate on the Nevsky Prospect. At midnight, everybody in the place, except one student, rose up and sang the National Anthem. An officer went up to him and asked why he remained seated. A few words passed, and the student smacked the officer's face, whereupon the officer drew his revolver and shot the student dead.

"I was taking a walk on the Nevsky Prospect when two hundred were shot down. The police ordered every shop to be shut during five days, and we had to provision for that time. My landlady—we lived opposite the big prison of St. Peter—hid two Jews in our flat, much to our alarm, for had they been discovered we should most certainly all have been massacred. At nights all the streets were picketed with soldiers. Nevertheless, I used to slip out and sup at one of the big restaurants.

"Fourteen Anarchist students were one morning arrested in the flat above ours. At the Aquarium, where I was engaged, two hundred soldiers were hidden about the establishment, ready to shoot down the audience if it became at all noisy. In Moscow no bread has been obtainable from the bakers for months. All who can afford to do so make their own bread. I took a turn at bread-making each morning during my stay."

M. Henri Coy, the giant, who naturally takes lofty views of his responsibilities, long since made it known that he was desirous of wedlock. He stipulated that the future sharer of his lot should have a good constitution, be of average height, and possess prettiness, gentleness, and modesty. Recently, like another Claude Melnotte, he was among the "ladies of Lyons," where he had tea, and his gaze rested on a fair Phyllis hailing from the northern heights. But it was not to be. Henri has since, however, seen no less than 301 girls willing to marry him, and at last he has proposed to and been accepted by Miss Faraday, of the Coach and Horses, Notting Hill Gate. He will appear at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Monday

Mr. Harry Wright, one of the first dozen Terriers, has been elected on the committee every year since the fraternity was founded. He has been re-elected on the M.H.A.R.A. Committee each year since its formation. He was also on the provisional committee of the V.A.F., and rejoices in the honour of being elected on the permanent committee for three years.

The forty-fourth anniversary of Collins's is to take place on Thursday, Dec. 6. There will be an exceptional array of talent this year, and two performances, the first commencing at six o'clock and the second at nine. There will be extra attractions at each.

The latest quotations of music halls are as follow:—Alhambra 14, Canterbury 2, Empire (15s. pd.) 1½, Do. (10s. pd.) 1, London Pav. Ord. 4⅜, Do. Pref. 4⅞, Lon. Coliseum ¼, Metropolitan ⅛, Moss Empire 4⅜, Do. 5 p.c. Pref. 3⅝, Oxford 6⅜, Palace 11/-, Tivoli 6½, Var. Cons. Theas. 15/-.

Mr. Frederick Wilson, who has been appointed stage-manager at the Holloway Empire, entered on his duties this week. For seven years he was assistant stage-manager at the Alhambra, and during a very great part of the time was acting under his father, Mr. Chas. Wilson, who is now in America engaged in the production of operas. Mr. Wilson, jun., was also in the Land of the Stars and Stripes for five years, and possesses the undoubted advantage of being a practical stage carpenter.

Mr. Alfred Butt is making quite a number of changes in the Palace Theatre programme next week. Mr. Nelson Jackson, the well-known raconteur at the piano, will make his first appearance, and another turn of note is D'Arc's marionettes. These differ very considerably from the ordinary type. The figures are made to represent well-known variety artists, whose voice, figure, and gestures are reproduced. Aided by some novel lighting effects, a tabloid music-hall programme is represented on a miniature stage, only in this case the artists are all "stars."

Dunning and Kahn and Kahn, with their illusory and ventriloquial acts, have just finished a portion of the Moss-Stoll tour. After playing four weeks with Messrs. Edwardes and Elliston, they recommence their tour at Shepherd's Bush. Owing to their success, Mr. Stoll has rebooked them for 1907 and 1908.

At the meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday, the Building Act Committee reported that on July 30 last they, acting on behalf of the Council, refused an application under section 22 of the London Building Act, 1894, for consent to the retention of a structure in front of the Palace and directed the solicitor to take proceedings to secure its removal. At the adjourned hearing on the 30th ult., the magistrate gave judgment, upholding the Council's contention that the structure came within the provisions of section 22 of the London Building Act, 1894, and made an order for its demolition. The Palace will appeal.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

THE American branch of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's business is working double tides owing to the great success of Leslie Stuart's *Belle of Mayfair* with Transatlantic music-lovers. Mr. Fred Day reports that no fewer than six numbers in the work go with as much enthusiasm nightly as did the never-to-be-forgotten "Tell me, pretty maiden" in *Florodora*.

MESSRS. FRANCIS AND DAY have this week acquired the publishing rights of a charming descriptive ballad, entitled "Mizpah, I'll dream of you," by John Francis Lambe and Kenneth Lyle. This number was originally accepted by Mr. Oswald Stoll for the Coliseum, and, had it not been for unforeseen circumstances, it would have been produced there. Mr. Stoll has been kind enough to comply with the request of the writers to give them an opportunity of placing the song elsewhere, and it will be sung at a very early date by one of the most accomplished actor-vocalists on the variety boards.

THE latest purchases of Messrs. Francis and Day include, among other works, the following: "Come to the tree-tops," by Josh Bowie and George Burnley, a song which will be featured in Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's Christmas productions; "I've got a girl," written, composed, and shortly to be sung by Mr. Ernest Shand; "I'm coming back, love" (Miss Kate Carney), by George Collins; "Alliance" waltz, by J. Shaw and L. Smith; "Woodland Nymph" waltz, by Gertrude Hancorne James and Clement Harris; "Our summer holidays" (Will Bentley), by Fred Frampton; "Two baby hands," by Fred Harrington; "Grandmamma's glasses," by St. John Hammond and Sydney Shaw; "Sincerity" waltz, by Theo. Ward; "What more can I do, little girlie?" by A. E. Sydney Davis and H. E. Darewski, jun.; and Miss Vesta Victoria's "Oh! Amelia!" by Murray and Hilbury.

MISS ETHEL RA-LESLIE has accepted a song entitled "Nana," written and composed by J. Robson, which will be published by Shapiro, Von Tilzer, and Co. Another, entitled "I can see red roses blooming," which is issued by Francis and Day, is also a big success.

PRODUCERS and artists who are in want of a "pretty" song should lose no time in securing Joseph Tabrar's latest success, "Just a tiny little portrait of my mother." Among others, Mr. J. F. Elliston is featuring it in all his productions. Free permissions for a few towns can be obtained from Lowther and Co., 4, Station-road, Finsbury Park, London, N.

MISS MILLIE HYLTON, who is at the Holloway Empire this week, gives a most charming rendering of the popular song, "By the side of the Zuyder Zee." Miss Hylton has been singing this number to our provincial cousins for the past four or five months with unfailing success.

MISS ROSE HARVEY has been scoring with Mills and Scott's march song, "The Boys' Brigade." Assisted by local contingents of boys, she has made a decided hit, the chorus being whistled and sung all over the towns she has visited.

THE Star Music Publishing Co., Ltd., have in the press some excellent numbers by Messrs. C. W. Murphy, Harry Castling, Maurice Scott, R. P. Weston, Albert Perry, and other well-known writers. The company's first three numbers—"Sailing in my balloon," "Nelson from his monument," and "Will you dance with me, Marie?"—are in greater demand than ever.

A. J. MILLS and Bennett Scott's charming ballad, "Snowflakes," published by Francis, Day, and Hunter, will figure prominently in the first pantomimes of the season at Aberdeen and Glasgow, where some novel and beautiful effects are promised.

MR. DENNIS DREW will be heard shortly in Kenneth Lyle's stirring military song, dedicated to Mr. Oswald Stoll, and named "The beat of the drum." Messrs. Francis and Day have published the song.

MESSRS. MELLOR, LAWRENCE, AND GIFFORD have five big songs on the market that bid fair to become even more popular in 1907 than their "Bamboo bungalow" is for the present year, and the respective publishing houses who have acquired the same are to be congratulated. The songs are "Châteaux on the Rhine" (free), "Maid in Madras" (free), "Castle in Spain" (Lil Hawthorne's), "Rickshaw Queen" (free), and "Sailing home" (free).

"I'VE BUILT A BAMBOO BUNGALOW FOR YOU," by Lawrance and Mellor, looks like being the hit bit of every pantomime this coming season. One hundred and three theatres have already decided to make it their "big" number, and it is being ordered in piles by the English in Berlin, Buda-Pesth, and other cities abroad.

NUMEROUS applications from pantomime producers have again been received this week by The Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., for "Take me back to London Town," "Sweet Saturday night," "Moonbeam," "Little girl," and "Capt. Reg. D'Arcy of the Guards."

THE Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have in the press Mr. Geo. A. Stevens's song "Oh, matrimony," which Miss Florrie Forde will feature this week at several halls and also during her forthcoming pantomime engagement. This promising pantomime song for principal boys is a very suitable song.

THE Monte Carlo selection (No. 1) of popular songs will be issued at the end of the month, being No. 51 of the "Sixpenny Successes" series. It has been specially arranged by the well-known composer, Mr. Jas. W. Tate, and will include such popular favourites as "Bamboo Bungalow," "Remember me to mother dear," "Rosie is waiting," "Tiny firefly," "Sweet Eileen," "Widow Doolin," "Queen of Old Samara," &c. The price will be the hitherto unprecedentedly low one, for a pianoforte selection of popular music, of sixpence. Full orchestral parts will be issued simultaneously. This week the firm have issued no less than six new "Sixpenny Successes" to the trade.

THE "song-placers" of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co., Messrs. Harrington and Tate, have specially kept back their own composition, "Old Chisholm," for some time past; but, in some unaccountable manner, the fame of this tuneful march-time number has reached the profession, and now principal boys and girls in scores, to say nothing of baritone singers, are applying daily for permission to sing it both in pantomimes and on the variety boards. The permissions for the latter, however, are restricted to a very small number of artists at present.

NEVER before, perhaps, has a song become so universally in demand for pantomime production in such record time as Mr. J. F. Lambe's "Queen of Old Samara," which dainty Miss Alice Lloyd is making so popular at all her London engagements. Flattering letters from pantomime managers in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Bradford, Hull, and other principal towns, record the desire of the writers to specially "feature" this Monte Carlo "winner" in their respective productions.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

LONDON PAVILION.

A year or so since London capitulated to the piquancy and spirit of a new dance known as "The Mattchiche," which was presented on the stage of one of our principal theatres by a Continental celebrity, with a chic and fascination quite Parisian. Now we have "La Kraquette," the latest sensation of the boulevards. Its production at the London Pavilion on Monday is due to the enterprise of Mr. Frank Glenister, who has secured the services of Mr. Tod Cams, the original producer of "La Mattchiche." The music, which is in march time, is by Justin Clérice, and is animated by much gaiety. Being a catchy melody, too, that sets the feet a-moving, we anticipate that it will be heard everywhere. A special setting is given to "La Kraquette" at the Piccadilly-circus house, and just a few sentences of dialogue by way of introduction are spoken by the partners—Mr. Tod Cams, who represents a Frenchman, inspired by the gallantry of a *boulevardier*, to make warm protestations of affection to an Anglo-Saxon beauty in short skirts—none other than pretty Miss Mignon Tremaine. Though in some slight degree embarrassed by the warmth of his declarations, she is not altogether averse to them, as may be noted in the dance, which he invites her to share. It commences with a variant of the cake-walk movement, quickens at times into a polka, then slows down into stateliness. It was received on Monday evening with marked favour.

The other novelty of the Pavilion bill is also terpsichorean, and has been written and produced by Mr. Albert Le Fre, who has given it the title of *The Professor*. Though at the head of a school of calisthenics, he is in the main a teacher of dancing, and exhibits to his lady pupils the power of the *pas bondissant*, and the piquancy of the pirouette. For the purpose of discovering how his pupils pass their time during their absence, monsieur le maitre de danse disguises himself as a masher, and returning, is thought to be good fun by the girls. Their mirth is soon checked, however, when he removes his wig, and gives them a little lecture, which is followed by a well-written song, "The journey's end," which bears a topical complexion. Mr. Albert Le Fre, a capital comedian and a fine dancer, makes the very most of his chances, but he has not been over-indulgent to himself in providing them. He might with advantage have a few more verses tacked on to his song. He is capably assisted by the Pavilion Girls, who are smart and attractive in their gymnasium dresses.

Mr. Arthur Slater, the "whistling man in white," gets out of the rut followed by gentlemen in his "line of business," by whistling the well-known overture to *Poet and Peasant*, which he renders with much musical feeling and surprising facility. Nipper Lupino Lane does credit in song and dance to two names celebrated in the annals of the theatre. Mr. Marriott Edgar, too, comes of a good old theatrical stock, and is the exponent of an original comedy method that is broadening perceptibly. Miss José Collins reminds one in voice and feature of her celebrated mother, and looks as pretty as a picture in pink. She sings very artistically, and knows how to use her voice. Miss Marie Dainton, in her mimicry of Miss Edna May, sings a verse having reference to the Belle of New York, throwing up her recent engagement at the Vaudeville in *The Belle of Mayfair* on account of the conspicuous position given in the bills to Miss Camille Clifford, who the lady mimic also counterfeits in the song, "Why do they call me a Gibson girl?" Mr. Malcolm Scott arrives nightly "from the Embankment," in the scythe-wheeled chariot of Boadicea, and talks very cleverly of men and things in general, being thoroughly up to date.

Mlle. Renée, a member of a musical family, plays the piano, the ocarina, and the cornet with equal facility, providing a musical turn that is heartily appreciated. Miss Nellie Coleman is an interesting exponent of male character; Mr. Tom Leamore supplies amusing patter with his droll songs; Miss Bertha Pertina has established a high reputation as a toe dancer, which she worthily sustains; the Fitzroys, gymnasts, are responsible for a graceful drawing-room act; and other contributors to the bill are Miss Alma Gray, Mr. George Mozart, Mr. Wilbar Hill, and Miss Willette Whitaker, Foreman and Fannan, and Dome.

THE EUSTON.

The question of the unemployed is one that engages the attention of politicians to a considerable extent at the present time. Mr. Gus Elen, who has received a hearty welcome at the Euston this week, has chosen to treat the all-important question from a humorous point of view, much to the satisfaction of the patrons of the popular variety theatre at King's Cross. Mr. Elen, in his latest song-scena, is amusing at the expense of that particular type of "working man" who prefers to take it easy, and has a decided disinclination to seek for a job. In his own vernacular he waits "till the work comes raund"; and one cannot dispute the truth of his statement that while a man is not in work "he cannot get the sack." And so this hardy and philosophic son of toil moves from his bed to a comfortable armchair, and smokes his pipe contentedly, with an occasional "pull" at the glass of liquid in front of him. By the way, shouldn't it at least look like beer? He shudders at the picture on the wall of a bricklayer actively engaged at work, while the illustration of a workman who is only looking for a job commands his admiration. The scena affords Mr. Elen opportunities of introducing some clever little bits of acting, amusingly illustrative of the personage represented. Indeed, it is one of the most carefully finished as it is one of the most successful character-studies that the popular comedian has ever presented on the variety stage.

Miss Lileth Leyton and Mr. J. Spurling are here in their lively little sketch, *The Order of the Bath*, and continue to make much fun out of the extremely embarrassing position of a lady and gentleman who find themselves locked in a bath-room, and whose plans for escape therefrom are found not to work when put to the test, until at length the lady discovers how to manipulate the lock of the door, and so render egress possible. The sketch is very well received. Another couple that find favour are Talbot and Pierce, who appear as "the spider and the fly" in a pretty song-scena. Both the lady and gentleman possess excellent voices, and do ample justice to the high-class music. Miss Venie Clements is a refined comedienne and a dainty dancer. She introduces clever imitative studies of a French girl, a Scotch lassie in the national costume, and a little girl with a doll and a toy donkey that moves its ears and brays at the same time. The little girl pretends to recognise "Aunt Fanny" in the balcony, and also has something to say to the conductor. Miss Clements is deservedly greeted with much applause. So, too, are Mr. Macdonald and Miss Huntingdon, in their singing and dancing act. The gentleman represents a New York newsboy making love to his sweetheart, the duet between the two being a very acceptable contribution. Miss Huntingdon also makes a hit in her clever imitation of an American soubrette. Mr. Nat Clifford, comedian, continues to do well with his ditty, "The Grand Hotel," in which he introduces much comical business and patter. Mr. Billy French scores with his remarkably nimble dancing; and Miss Gracie Merton, described as "the genuine street singer," renders a popular ballad in admirable style. In the current bill are also Mr. Dan Crawley, a favourite comedian; and the Three Laurels, in their original speciality on the ping-pong table. A special attraction is Georges Hackenschmidt, whose wrestling matches with various well-known exponents of the art have again aroused an immense amount of interest. The pictures on Ruffell's Bioscope include "A Slippery Customer" and "Following in Father's Footsteps," both humorous subjects. Mr. Fred McAvoy, the manager here, has had the pleasure of welcoming crowded houses throughout the week; and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Victor Opferman, deserves a word of praise.

SADLER'S WELLS.

Among the London acquisitions of the Macnaghten Vaudeville Circuit none need wish to enjoy greater prosperity than the historic house which looks out upon Rosebery-avenue. A dozen stage items figure in this week's bill, and to these is added an extra instalment of Raymond's Biotableaux. The pictures include a fine view of the recent Grand Prix Motor Races in France, and great interest is excited in the representation of the race along the high roads and through villages, the way in which awkward corners are skilfully turned by the competitors being greatly cheered. The second part of the picture show is a truly comic display of "A Tramp's Free Ride," in which a man goes to sleep in an empty barrel, which is started rolling down a hill. It continues its way furiously down precipitous slopes, and comes to a standstill on the edge of a railway bridge, whence it is pushed over into the street below, eventually finding its way into the river. The film is cleverly conceived and skilfully executed, and gains rapturous applause.

The sketch of the week is *Pedlar Sam*, played by Mr. Frank Hardie and company. Its main incident consists in the search made by an old pedlar named Sam to seek out his son's murderer, who has joined a mining party in California. The father tracks the villain to his lair, and engages him in an exciting duel with daggers. Sam disarms his opponent, but the latter's disreputable associates rush in and overpower the old pedlar. They go into the hut for the purpose of stealing some money, but meanwhile the heroine appears and releases the pedlar, who quickly disposes of the miscreants with a revolver, not, however, before the hut has been set on fire. Mr. Hardie, in the part of Pedlar Sam, has scope for his comedy as well as his dramatic powers, and scores accordingly, the scene in which he portrays the death of his son being specially commendable. Miss Irene Carlton acts in sympathetic style as the heroine, whose husband is played in vigorous fashion by Mr. George Grahame. Mr. A. Collins makes a sinister villain; and Mr. S. Phillips completes the cast.

A lady protean artist is found in Miss Addie Dorina, who, in a duologue entitled *How It Was Done*, impersonates six different characters. The story is that of a man who has read an account of a wife completely deceiving her husband by impersonating various people. He ventures to doubt the possibility of the occurrence, and his wife, in order to convince him, goes out on a pretended visit to the dentist. Immediately the husband receives a visit in quick succession of a gossiping old maid, a garrulous washerwoman, the mother-in-law, a "slavey," and an American belle, who all have a story to tell the master of the house with regard to his wife's relations with a certain sergeant-major. When the wife returns, she is taxed with her folly by her husband, but eventually the lady explains that it was she herself in different disguises, and all doubts are removed. Miss Dorina executes her changes with marvellous rapidity, and, in addition, acts each part cleverly. She is heartily applauded, and takes her call in yet another change of costume. Mr. Pat Waddock lends able support, and adds in an important degree to the humour of the sketch.

Ballads are tunefully sung by Miss Dora Lyric, who puts feeling and power into her rendering of "Somebody cares for you" and "All that glitters is not gold," both of which so appeal to the audience that they are moved irresistibly to join in the chorus. Galletti's pantomime monkeys cause an agreeable diversion with their eccentricities, which are many and various. Their pranks in a barber's shop, with a monkey as a hairdresser and shaver, are very comical, and grow still more hilarious when objection is taken to the rough usage received, and both customer and operator take off their coats to fight. Mr. Bert Danson gets all possible humour out of his song, "If it wasn't for the girls," and his subsequent patter, in which he administers a severe reproof to designing members of the fair sex, is well delivered, and listened to with real amusement. An American baritone and a Scotch comedian are to hand in Mr. Percy Hannon and Mr. Robbie Roy, who both do well in their respective rôles; and Miss Mignonette Kokin, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Harry Cotton, comedian; and Mr. Russell Carr, ventriloquist, are also included in the varied bill. Mr. Frederic Baugh is the general-manager of the hall, of which Mr. Pete Murray is in all respects "on the spot" as acting-manager.

CHELSEA PALACE.

The portals of the Palace at Chelsea are nightly thronged with eager crowds, and though Mr. J. Norman Berlin, the acting-manager, who is in command during the continued absence of Mr. Edward Swanborough, has reluctantly to send money away, he has the satisfaction of knowing that it will turn up again in the course of the week, such are the drawing powers of the programme. An alluring item of the current bill is the sketch, *Turpin's Ride to York*, played by Mr. Fred Ginnett and company. The romance of Dick Turpin and his bonnie mare has ever a charm for the lover of the picturesque, but when it is brought before the eye in such realistic fashion as that provided by Mr. Ginnett's combination, its attractiveness is abundantly increased. Black Bess is seen in all her sable beauty, and is put through some tricks which reflect great credit on the skill of her trainer. The sketch, which runs to five scenes, is embellished by a song or two, and grows very exciting, while the death of Black Bess, at the end, creates a profound impression.

A new view of the suffragette is afforded by Miss Kittee Rayburn, who appears as a charming claimant to "woman's rights." Her candidature has nothing akin to that of the "shrieking sisterhood," but stipulates simply for the comforts of hearth and home that from time immemorial have been the heritage of the true woman. Similarly, "Cock o' the roost; or, men, men, men," Miss Rayburn's second effusion, has no resemblance to the "Oh! you men" ditty in which the serio of other days used to delight, but is a smartly-written lyric, with a vein of satire and a refrain that has a direct appeal to the audience, who render enthusiastic support. Both songs are sung with the utmost point, and give untold delight to all. Miss Gracie Taylor exercises a charm by her tuneful singing of "Stowaway," and "My Irish Bess, at the end, creates a profound impression.

A musical pot-pourri, called *Charlie's Visit*, introduces a sketch which is eminently calculated to please the modern variety audience. It is presented by Eadie and Ramsden, a young lady and gentleman, the latter of whom impersonates the title-rôle—that of a youth on a visit to his sweetheart. He adopts the most extraordinary attitudes, and his acrobatic dancing is distinguished by eccentricity of a novel kind. The young lady, who makes a prepossessing appearance in white, has an agreeable voice, and sings "Mary of Argyle" in cultured fashion. She also indulges in a pretty coon song and dance, in which she is joined by her partner, whose "backbend" is quite out of the common, and exacts a veritable storm of applause. The banjo is made very effective in the hands of Edwards and Espinosa, who alternate solos and duets on that popular instrument. The comely young lady dances a *pas seul*, and well maintains the renown attached to the family name by her exposition of the graceful art. Mr. Tom Woottwell causes unlimited laughter with his singing of "The little shirt my mother made for me," and the mirth is renewed at his appearance in the garb of a highwayman, who sings of his "First time on earth," supplemented by a droll recitation that causes the house to ring with mirth. A comedian who makes an effective contribution to the evening's amusement is found in Mr. Dan Thomas, whose costume as a sprightly lady well past her youth is alone sufficient to create laughter, while his song of "My old woman," involves another quaint get-up as a "navvy," who indulges in a dance of the oddest description. Miss Blanche De Verne, a Canadian vocalist, has a powerful and cultivated soprano, which she employs in a well-appreciated rendering of "Annie Laurie" and Ascher's "Alice, where art thou?" The orchestra, led by Mr. Angelo Asher, plays some charming excerpts, and acquits itself ably throughout.

THE BEDFORD.

A big line on the current bill at the Bedford is Dr. Karl Hermann, who is termed "the renowned hypnotist, electrician, and scientist." He is backed by a costly electrical apparatus, from which he passes 10,000 volts through his body for two minutes. He has been responsible for some years for electrical cures of paralysis, and on the evening of our visit tried his powers on a boy who had been pronounced incurable by specialists at various hospitals. The lad was brought in on a chair by attendants, and, at the conclusion of the doctor's manipulation of the arm and leg, in practice known as bloodless surgery, the patient walked with but little difficulty towards him across the stage. The conclusion of his performance was distinguished by an exhibition of his expertness as a hypnotist upon a number of cases who came on to the stage, but were not chosen from among the audience. The doctor told us that it was his desire to fill the world with laughture (*sic*), and there was certainly plenty of merriment among the Bedfordians when the mesmerised ones, in their movements and facial play, became funny.

Miss Marie Santoi and her merry Japanese maidens are responsible for an agreeable song and dance episode, with a pretty setting of a lantern-lit garden in the neighbourhood of Tokio. The source of inspiration has undoubtedly been that most successful production, *The Geisha*, as may be guessed by the stage-name of the chief lady, who, in her boy's costume, has been very indifferently served by the *couturier*. She sings with no lack of charm, but some of her notes are marred by a nasal tone, and she might with advantage give greater distinctness to her words. The ladies of the chorus sing uncommonly well, and "The Angel of my Dreams" is a most successful number, as sung by a member of the company, dressed in the uniform of an officer of the Royal Navy. The gentleman playing the Chinee is a capital acrobat. Miss Addie Spencer, "the girl from the hat shop," plays brilliantly, and among her selections submits a pianoforte version of Frank Lawton's famous whistling solo in *The Belle of New York*. As a final selection, she shortens her skirts, and gives a bright and animated song and dance in the character of an American soubrette. Miss Spencer is certainly versatile. Kisbey, the call-boy, is no stranger to the Bedford, where he is a favourite. He uses gags that have been the property of innumerable comedians, and repeats precisely the same business as he did on his last visit. Grogie is a new impersonator of the yokel, an optimist of the plough, who possesses a smile that never comes off. His song is an amusing exposition of the vacuous rustic, and he shows himself to be a comedian of some resource when he imitates the countryman taking a penn'orth of electricity into his system. In this he creates roars of laughter. The sweet singing of Miss Mary Glenn early in the evening is supplemented by the comic songs of Ted Cowan, another Bedford favourite; by the legmania business of Miss Jenny Gray; and by the songs, and especially the patter, of Foreman and Fannan, the mirthful millionaires. The Three Bostonians, in their singing and dancing act; and Mr. Alf. Levaine, are also announced on the bill, which contains also the attraction of animated pictures. Mr. A. F. Lovesy is the courteous manager for Mr. B. P. Lucas, the managing-director.

THE GRANVILLE.

At the Walham Green theatre of varieties this week Mr. Phil Ray's name appears on the programme; but, unfortunately, he is indisposed, and a substitute has had to be found. The Dandies take his place, and obtain a gratifying success. Every kind of vocal effort, from grave to gay, from serious to facetious, is given, in first-rate style. "Just you and I alone" is admirably sung by a male member of the company; "Les Anglais militaire" is rendered with great vivacity by one of the fair sex; and "Nursery rhymes," in which all the company hold up to ridicule the unfinished stories of the crèche, is greeted with roars of laughter and applause. Altogether, this is a most appreciable engagement, which is likely to be repeated in the near future. Goodfellow and Gregson give a laughable and exhilarating comedy act, and keep the house convulsed while they hold the stage. Dot Hardy, with her song "Ever since we went to Scotland," and again in "Since father joined the football club," is a prime favourite. Cruikshank, the fool of the family, is highly popular, and his songs and comedy patter are much appreciated. Kit Keen, the star coon, scores remarkably well with his songs. His "business" is well thought out and intensely funny, and he is a neat and dexterous dancer. Gwennie Hasto is a fine and fair comedienne, and her songs, "Never let the green grass grow" and "Come in my canoe," as well as her dancing, find great favour with the audience. The Sisters Geretti are truly marvellous trapezists, and cause a sensation with their wonderful acrobatic feats in the air; Phil and Netty Peters, in their American comedy act, provide an original and entertaining musical and speaking turn. Harry M. Vernon's company, in *Christmas Eve*, an episode in which a bold, bad burglar meets his match in a little girl engaged as a lizard in the Drury Lane pantomime, who melts his heart, and turns his thoughts from filthy lucre to kindly charity, is capitally acted by Mr. Jove Hayman as Jim Tubbs and little Miss Dorothy Montague as the fearless and innocent little kiddie. Another capital sketch in the lighter vein is that of Mark Melford and company, *Only a Wedding*, in which a man supposed to have died eight years ago in Omdurman returns, like an Arab warrior, to find his old friend has married his supposed widow. Mark Melford's "business" and facial play are irresistibly funny. The Vernon Bioscope is amusing and up to date as ever in the pictures, "Pay Day," "A Modern Diogenes," and "Snapshot Fiends." The Vyponds are very good in their society duologue act as the young bride and bridegroom. The Sisters Warner are daring splits dancers and somersaultists; Fred Keeton, comedian; Ross and Grayson, in comedy and melody combined; Ruth Dorris, comedienne; Mons. Anthy, equilibrist; and Harry Nelson, comedian; together with Mr. W. S. Bassett's admirable orchestra, complete a programme of which Mr. Robert W. Duce may be justly proud.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

Under the benign influence of Mr. Arthur J. Barclay, assisted by the acting-manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter, the business at this house is assuming phenomenal proportions. The present week's programme is replete with those good things that make a "dainty dish" fit to "put before a king." The most important place in this liberal programme is undoubtedly claimed by Mr. Alec Hurley and his clever company in *The Costers' Beano*, a comedy scene which, often as it has been seen, never seems to stale by repetition. Prior to the introduction of the sketch Mr. Hurley delights everyone with one of those coster ditties with which his name is associated and which have made his fame. Of the "Beano" enough has already been written to fill a goodly volume, and this week the lively piece goes with a dash that is irresistible. Where Mr. Alec Hurley has picked up his "crowd" it is not easy to say, but certainly they all look and act "as if to the manner born." Singing, dancing, shouting, and masquerading, every individual enters thoroughly into the spirit of the affair and all help materially towards the making of success. In the scene of the country lane with its stile, the hero sings his plaintive song, "My little love-bird," as sweetly as ever, the pathos of it almost bringing the tears to the eyes of the listeners. The entire production goes with undeniable success. Another coster turn is supplied by Mr. Will Bacchus, who looks to perfection and sings well. The Sisters Wingrove sing very prettily and dance with considerable grace. An extremely popular item of the programme is found in the Jackley Trio, who do wonders as acrobats, the somersaults of one of them from the top of no fewer than five piled-up tables being quite an achievement. The laughter of the audience is, however, chiefly accorded to the member of the Trio who carries on his conversation by means of whistling. This is very amusing. Mr. R. H. Douglass gives an admirable monologue performance, and excites roars of laughter by his quaint sayings and his clever quick-change, making up as a sort of amateur detective. The Lorrisons create much amusement in their singing, dancing, and acting. A great success is made by Miss Daisy Dormer, who looks as charming as ever, dresses divinely, and sings and dances exquisitely. Her rendering of the coon song "Mr. Johnstone don't want me" is nearly perfection, and the audience never seems to tire of the lady's dancing. Belrose and De Velin are immensely applauded for their really artistic singing. Both have cultivated voices, and their singing is a treat of the highest character. Their most popular achievement is their rendering of various airs—English, Scotch, Irish, and Welsh—in which one of the most legitimate successes made here for a long time is scored. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, as usual, terminates as good an evening's entertainment as the most exigent could desire. Mr. H. Petersen and his orchestra give a fine rendering of the overture, "The Grenadiers" of Emile Waldteufel.

THE EMPRESS.

The capital programme that is this week being presented at this popular hall is being nightly witnessed by houses of most gratifying proportions, who are enjoying the fare provided to the utmost. Victoria Monks is certainly, if it is possible, increasing her hold on the Brixton public, and the loud applause re-echoes through the building when her number is signalled. This artist, who seems to get the maximum of effect with the minimum of effort, gives for her first number the ever-popular "London Town," the chorus of which is heartily taken up by the whole house. For her second she chooses "I'm leaving home," and the ready way in which the refrain of this also is repeated, tends to show that it will soon be a serious menace to the popularity of her first number. Everyone is sorry when Miss Monks has finished, and she has many times to bow her acknowledgments before the curtain. Sam Mayo, another prime favourite here, renders "I'm a Chinaman" and "A scared man" in his customary immobile fashion, and roars of laughter greet the conclusion of each verse. Tom Mellor, of "Wooden hut" fame, is exploiting a new song, entitled "Grow, little mushroom, grow," which obtains considerable applause. The Three Sisters Silcott are heard to advantage in "Good-bye, Susannah," which is followed by "Three British Boys." In the latter, dressed as three midshipmen, they have a song the excellence of which the audience quickly recognise. The clever trio bring their turn to a conclusion with some neat dancing. Sanford and Lyons are, as usual, full of up-to-date patter and cross-talk, and whilst they are on the stage the fun waxes fast and furious. They conclude with a capital song about "What we do." Harry Weldon is a comedian who is nothing if not original. He has a couple of laughable songs, and his patter is of the happiest. His skit on "Turpin's Ride to York" is certainly as funny as could be imagined. If applause counts, then Mignonette Kokin as a Dutch girl must be accorded a great success. As an encore she gives "My Hindoo Man," concluding with some quaint and original dancing, which is much admired. Lieutenant Travis is delighting all with his interesting and clever ventriloquial act, and with the aid of his puppets at times fairly convulses the house. He has recently added to his stock a new figure—that of a coon—which further enables him to show his abilities to advantage. Dan Crawley has a couple of fine songs, entitled "So does father" and "They can't diddle me." The latter especially is very funny, and the droll way in which Mr. Crawley sings it adds to the general merriment. John Lawson, who is giving *Sally in Our Alley*, is always sure of a hearty welcome here, and judging by the hearty reception of this piece, its popularity is as great as ever. Mr. Lawson's powerful acting gains for him the sympathies of the house, and deafening applause awaits him on concluding. The sketch is splendidly mounted, and the principal actor gets hearty assistance from his company. Miss Jessie Preston is making one of her periodical visits to this hall, and the two numbers which she is singing are evidently to the taste of the house. An interesting turn is provided by Sterling and Love, the male member of whom proves himself to be a cornet player of no mean ability. The lady possesses a tuneful voice, and the applause bestowed is certainly well earned. Bob and Jenny Leonard are the recipients of much applause, the former's policeman song being very amusing and furnished with a catchy tune. A most enjoyable evening is brought to a conclusion with some interesting and laughable pictures on the Bioscope. The efficient orchestra, led by Mr. Guillaume Leone, is heard to advantage in the overture "Primrose." Mr. Francis Winchcombe, who is Mr. Nelson Francis's trusty assistant, is *au fait* with his duties in the front of the house.

THE ELLIOTTS AND SAVONAS IN BRADFORD.

ARTISTS OF EXTRAORDINARY VERSATILITY.

PALACE THEATRE.

Having achieved such a striking success in their first week's engagement at the Palace Theatre, the Seven Savonas have been engaged for another term, and it was quite in accordance with expectations that there should be large "houses" at both performances last night. The Savonas are artists of quite extraordinary versatility, and their unique musical entertainment is alternated with an almost equally clever performance of trick cycling. Owing to the impossibility of fixing up the costly apparatus which is employed in giving the electrical effects more than once a day, the musical act only was given last night, and was in many respects quite different from the previous performances. The "William Tell" overture has also given way to that wonderful composition, Wagner's overture to *Tannhäuser*, which was rendered with a completeness which left nothing to be desired. One rather suspects that the Savonas overstep their audience in giving attention to such classics; at any rate, quite as much, if not more, applause was forthcoming for the rendering of some simple plantation melodies. A very decided novelty was introduced in the shape of some musical lanterns, and, indeed, the whole performance shows that the Savonas possess not only musical ability of a high character, but enterprise and brains.—*Yorkshire Daily Observer*, Tuesday, Nov. 20, 1906.

WATER RATS' MATINEE.

There were the usual hilarious proceedings at the sixth annual matinée of the Water Rats, given at the Pavilion on Monday. The present King Rat is Mr. Harry Tich, and a packed house testified to his popularity, many of whom were well known in variety circles. Little Tich, too, caused uproarious merriment with his absurd characterisation of Robin Hood in the afternoon's principal item, which, to quote the programme, was as follows:—

THE WATER RATS' BAND OF PLAYERS
will celebrate the passing of another milestone
on the Hanwell Road by uncorking a
sleeping draught, entitled
"(COCK) ROBIN HOOD."
The draught prescribed by Wal Pink.
Musically bottled by J. S. Baker.
Dispensed by the following, who ought to know better.
Produced by Wm. Lee.
Wigs and Costumes by Clarkson.

Robin Hood ..... Little Tich
Maid Merry-un ..... Deane Tribune
Prince John ..... Tom McNaughton
Little John ..... Fred McNaughton
Friar Tuck ..... Jeff Vendome
Hugo de Longespee ..... Wm. Lee
King Richard ..... J. Cheevers
Haco ..... J. Thornbury
Adela ..... J. Gilmore
Motor 'Bus Driver ..... F. Collins
The Army ..... Will Oliver

Louisa was a naughty child, who swallowed pins and things;
She swallowed toys, her papa's paints, and mama's cherished rings.
Her "tummy" was a treasure-house, to her naught came amiss;
But Louie will indeed be brave, if Lewis Waller's this.

This classic, and the manner in which it was acted, can be better imagined than described. It was as farcical as it well could be.

Then we had some comical dances from the Spaghetti Troupe, including the Kalleheno Family, Signor Frazerino, Signor Thornberino, Signor Frederino Genettio, Signor Vendominski, and Signoria Davini O'Tooli. Mr. Dave O'Toole as a prima ballerina assoluta cut a comical figure.

As to the rest, Miss Marie Dainton gave capital imitations of Connie Ediss, Marie Lloyd, Edna May, Camille Clifford, and Mrs. Patrick Campbell; Miss Alice Lloyd delighted her hearers with her rendering of "He was a tourist, she was a maid"; and Mr. Hal Forde sang in his agreeable style, "She's my Japanese girl." Mr. Joe O'Gorman indulged in his amusing Irishisms to everybody's enjoyment; Mr. Wilkie Bard begged to be allowed to sing, and did so in his most entertaining way; Mr. Tom Costello won the sympathy and admiration of the audience for his admirable character-study of a broken-down clown; and Mr. George Mozart and Mr. Harry Fragson also assisted in their own particular way in the fun-making of the afternoon. Other names that appeared on the bill were those of Mr. Tom Woottwell, Mr. Tom Leamore, Mr. Arthur Aldridge, Mr. Michael Nolan, Mr. Albert Le Fre, Mr. Marriott Edgar, Mr. Johnny Gilmore, Mr. Bert Shepard, Mr. Arthur Reece, Mr. Malcolm Scott, Mr. Neil Kenyon, Mr. J. Thornbury, Mr. Fred Ginnett, Mr. Phil Ray, Mr. Arthur Slater, Mr. Joe Cheevers, Mr. Deane Tribune, Dome, Mr. Wilson Hallett, Miss Victoria Monks, Miss Kittee Rayburn, Miss Florrie Forde, Miss Simeta Marsden, Miss Vesta Victoria, Miss Annie Purcell, Miss Jessie Preston, Miss Bertha Pertina, Miss Nellie Coleman, Miss Alma Gray, Miss Alexandra Dagmar, Miss Ray Wallace, Miss Hetty King, Miss José Collins, the McNaughtons, Hill and Whitaker, the Leonards, Three Laurels, the Haytors, Foreman and Fannan, Collins and Rice, the Fitzroys, Stelling and Revell, Sisters Pine, Poluski Brothers, Verno and Voyce, Brown and Kelly Co., Jee's Musical Smithy, Brilliant and Brilliant, the Kellinos, Booker and Narbis, the O'Gorman Brothers, Eadie and Ramsden, and Halter and Ray.

Ascherberg, Hopwood, and Crew and Co. have arranged with Witmark and Sons for the sole publishing rights for Great Britain and the Colonies of the score and all music of Luscombe Searelle's "Mizpah," Witmark and Sons retaining the American rights only. One song from the work, "Where thou canst rest," the copyright of which is vested in Francis, Day, and Hunter, will be published jointly by both London firms. Mr. E. Ascherberg is pecuniarily interested in the production of the drama in London.

In addition to Mr. George Chirgwin, who was similarly honoured, as previously reported in these columns, a well-known song-writer received last week the following from Buckingham Palace:—"The Private Secretary is commanded to thank Mr. Harry Wincott for his kind message of congratulation upon the occasion of His Majesty's birthday."

Mr. Charles Osborne on Monday perpetrated his five thousandth "atrocity." His list includes songs of every conceivable kind, ventriloquial and double acts, gags, parodies, sketches for Joe Elvin, &c., operatic sketches, and other "afflictions," and still he is unrepentant. Amongst his latest are a sketch for Harry Tate, an operetta for the Tally-Ho Trio, a piano act, songs for Chirgwin, Ben Albert, and Bert Dansie, &c., in addition to a special novelty for Charles Minor, the living midget marvel, who will produce it at his forthcoming engagement at the Dome, Brighton. So that, what with managing the Southend Happy Valley for the "genial George" all the summer, and nib-scratching all the winter, C. O. can fairly claim to be "in it."

Among the songs which the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., accepted this week for early publication are the following:—"Nana," a pretty ballad, featured successfully by Miss Ethel Ra Leslie; "Just those three words" and "Waiting for me," sung by Miss Gladys Mavius; Miss Winifred Hare's new song, "When fortune frowns"; "Fishing," by Hubert Delmar, sung nightly by Miss Gracie Grahame; Mr. Alec Hurley's great success, "It's a gift," by George Arthurs and Orlando Powell; "How to get on in the world," by the same authors, sung by Miss Lily Lena; and "Share my little nest with me," by George Arthurs and Orlando Powell, to be specially featured by Miss Alice Lloyd in pantomime at Peckham.

Miss Sylvia Du Barri, who has recently been seen and heard at the Camberwell Palace and the New Cross Empire was born under sunny skies at Lima when revolution was raging and bullets were flattening against the walls of her father's house. That was twenty-five years ago. The fortune of war not being favourable to the cause her father had espoused, Du Barri *père* took his wife and baby daughter to more peaceful Lisbon. Little girls grow big very quickly, and so it came about that Miss Sylvia was placed to school at Paris, where she learnt the rudiments of five languages. She also studied music there and in New York and London, winning a scholarship at the Royal College of Music, being one of the very few ladies of foreign nationality who have obtained such an award. Last year a reverse of fortune overtook the Du Barris, and their entire means were lost in a Spanish bank crash. Miss Du Barri's voice attracted the attention of the management of the Opéra Comique, Paris, where she fulfilled an engagement. This led to her appearance at the Moss-Stoll halls. Her rendering of "Sing me to sleep," "Il Bacio," and other songs at once made her a popular favourite.

FRANCIS, DAY, AND HUNTER

THE WORLD'S SONG PROVIDERS.

A few of our great Pantomime Songs:

"HELLO! HELLO! HELLO!"
("IT'S A DIFFERENT GIRL AGAIN.")
"SNOWFLAKES."
"THERE'S A MAN IN MANITOBA."
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING."

"ARRAH WANNA,"
Our 11th Hour Sensation.

"GOOD-NIGHT, MR. BROWN, I'M OUT."
"CHEYENNE."
"FIGHTING FOR THEIR KING & SIRELAND."
"ROSY'S COSY BUNGALOW."

(FOR FULL LIST SEE PANTOMIME BOOKS.)

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER

The Absolute Headquarters for Pantomime "HITS."

"THE GOOD OLD UNION JACK."
"COME BACK TO BORNEO."
"BOY BLUE."
"I WONDER WHAT WE'D DO WITHOUT OUR GIRLS."

"ARRAH WANNA,"
Our 11th Hour Sensation.

"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE."
"IN MY PAGODA."
"WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO LEARN TO LOVE ME."

(FOR FULL LIST SEE PANTOMIME BOOKS.)

FRANCIS, DAY, AND HUNTER

The Music Market of the World: 142 CHARING CROSS ROAD LONDON W.C.

"THE YELLOW FANG."

A Dramatic Episode, in One Scene, by John G. Brandon, with music by Harold Austin, produced for the first time in England, at the Empire, Camberwell, on Monday, Nov. 19.

Hung Kow ..... Mr. J. G. Grahame
Jun Kee ..... Mr. Cyril Rawdon
Jim Nares ..... Mr. C. Seguin
A Drunken Sport ..... Mr. E. Beresford
Policeman ..... Mr. T. Browning
Judith Beck ..... Miss Mary Mayfren

A surfeit of sensation has been enjoyed this week by visitors to the Camberwell Empire, where the American sketch above-named has formed an important item of Messrs. Jesse Sparrow and Harry Bawn's liberally arranged programme. All who witnessed it must have registered a vow to keep away from the opium dens of Chinatown in San Francisco, where crime flourishes and murder is apparently a matter of everyday occurrence. The sketch proved very engrossing, and though a happy ending is not secured the finish is sufficiently reassuring to come as a relief to the horrors which have accumulated. Realism in every particular is aimed at, and, by the expressions which came at intervals from the audience, is evidently thoroughly secured. The scene is an opium den in San Francisco, and the hour two in the morning. Among the inmates of the building is a young girl named Judith Beck, who has fallen into the clutches of Hung Kow, the keeper of the establishment, and has become a victim to the drug, which she takes to drown her feelings of degradation. The interior presents the appearance of a furniture dealer's, but is devoted to other and much more sinister purposes. Judith is quite aware of the ghastly deeds which are perpetrated in the den, and, being utterly careless as to her future, gives vent to her abhorrence to Jim Nares, the Chinaman's decoy. Jim warns his accomplice that the girl is dangerous, but Hung Kow is apparently well disposed towards Judith, for he gives her opium cigarettes and bids her "go and play." Presently Jim leads in a young man in an advanced stage of intoxication, who says he has won extensively at the races, and hopes there is plenty of whisky. Hung Kow assures him that there is, and hands him a glass. The "sport" is too far gone to heed the whispered warning of Judith, but he has scarcely tasted the liquor when the glass falls from his hand. Partially sobered, he realises that he has been drugged, and shows fight, but is quickly silenced, and deprived of his revolver. The girl is then secured and thrown, gagged and bound, into a corner, and Hung Kow proceeds deliberately to strangle the young man, who has shown signs of recovery. A knocking is heard at the door, and there is barely time for the dead body to be placed in a large chest when a police officer enters. His various enquiries elicit nothing unusual, but though he accepts a drink he does not depart without a certain suspicion. Meanwhile, Judith has managed to disengage herself from her bonds, and, crawling to the table, possesses herself of the murdered man's revolver, with which she holds Hung Kow in check. Snatching off the gag, she rushes to the door, where her screams bring back the policeman, in whose company the Chinaman and his accomplice make their final exit.

Admirable studies of character are furnished by the various members of the cast, which is headed by Mr. J. G. Grahame, the latest recruit from the legitimate stage. His make-up is an artistic study, and he makes of Hung Kow a sly, oily Chinaman with a smile that is appropriately childlike and bland. The relentlessness of the wily Celestial is nevertheless cleverly displayed, and furnishes an admirable example of subdued intensity. Miss Mary Mayfren, who plays the unfortunate Judith Beck, has a voice of sympathetic quality, and might easily be taken for a native American, so well is the Yankee twang preserved; while in appearance she cleverly secures the effect of constant indulgence in the narcotic. Few more difficult rôles are presented in an ordinary melodramatic sketch, but Miss Mayfren accomplishes by natural talent and thorough hard work what may well be described as a decided success. A vivid exposition of an unscrupulous rogue was given by Mr. C. Seguin, whose brutality was admirably suggested; and a picturesque representation of a Chinese assistant came from Mr. Cyril Rawdon. A gleam of humour was let in by the clever acting of Mr. T. Browning of a complacent member of the police force; and Mr. E. Beresford's simulation of the cries of a man undergoing the process of strangulation was startlingly realistic. The sketch was followed by appreciative silence, broken by occasional cheers, which were renewed at the end.

Little Zola made such a success at Kidderminster that his services have been retained for a second week. He has been secured by Mr. Walter George, of Smart Set fame, for nineteen weeks next summer. Who will engage him for pantomime?

Miss Gwennie Hasto commences pantomime rehearsals at New King's Theatre, Edinburgh, on Monday, and wishes to thank managers for kindly cancelling dates to enable her to do so.

Mr. Billie Bint, who told Londoners some years ago "that his father was a marquis," has been doing well this week at the Hippodrome, Paisley, in which town he has not appeared for twenty years. One evening during the week a workingman came in, and, finding that Billie, whom he had not heard for twenty years, had been on, wanted his money back.

Walter Graham, of Chaucer-road, Herne Hill, whose unique performance as "the living marionette" is so deservedly popular, answered, on Friday, the 16th inst., an adjourned summons at Marlborough-street, accusing him of driving a motor-car in a manner dangerous to the public at Wellington-place, Hyde Park-corner, on Oct. 22. Constable Cooper had sworn that the defendant drove at about twelve miles an hour across the front of Lady Penryn's carriage, causing a collision with the pole of the carriage, but the defendant and a witness on oath said that it was the carriage that went fast, and the car, proceeding slowly, was bound to take the place it did in order to avoid it, but the pole of the carriage struck a panel of the car. Mr. Kennedy came to the conclusion that no reliance could be placed on the constable's testimony, and dismissed the summons.

The company at the New Empire, Shildon, Durham, includes Dan Ashton, in an original and up-to-date collier's song-scena; the Camerons, in a comedy sketch; Alex Fox, ventriloquist; J. Taylor, clog-dancer; Lukos, man monkey; Flo Beck, comedienne; Marie De Voy, character vocalist; Leo Fallowfield, comedian; and the Lomascope Pictures.

Professor Attwood, hypnotist and magnetic healer, has started a school for instruction in the science so deeply studied by the eminent Dr. Charcot, and takes pupils at 247, Tettenhall-road, Wolverhampton.

Everyone knows, or should know, that Chirgwin's cognomen is "The White-Eyed Kaffir," and that he plays upon the "one-stringed Japanese fiddle." He was spoken of in the Press the other day as "The One-Eyed Kaffir," and also that he played the "one-stringed banjo." A distinction with a difference.

Messrs. Astley Bros., comedians, will in future be known as Cliff and Astley. The change has been made in order to avoid confusion with turns of a similar name.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR DECEMBER:—

ENGLAND.

Dec. 1. St. Ives (Cornwall) (6,094)	Dec. 22. Northwich (17,600)
Dec. 6. Northwich (17,600)	Dec. 22. Portsmouth (189,000)
Dec. 11. Boston (15,700)	Dec. 22. Preston (113,000)
Dec. 11. Cobham (2,300)	Dec. 22. Rushden (12,500)
Dec. 11. Leighton Buzzard (6,400)	Dec. 22. Ryde (I. of W.) (11,000)
Dec. 11. Ringwood (4,400)	Dec. 22. Southampton (104,911)
Dec. 14. Millom (10,400)	Dec. 22. Southport (48,400)
Dec. 22. Bilston (24,000)	Dec. 22. South Shields (97,300)
Dec. 22. Birkenhead (111,000)	Dec. 22. Tunbridge Wells (33,400)
Dec. 22. Bristol (392,840)	Dec. 22. Wellington (7,300)
Dec. 22. Cheltenham (49,600)	Dec. 24. Rowthorne (67)
Dec. 22. Deptford (110,000)	Dec. 24. Salford (Trinity Market) (221,000)
Dec. 22. Islington (World's Fair)	Dec. 27. Rugeley (7,181)
Dec. 22. Jarrow-on-Tyne (31,300)	Dec. 27. Uttoxeter (5,200)
Dec. 22. Kirkby Lonsdale (1,600)	Dec. 28. Nantwich (7,700)
Dec. 22. Newcastle-on-Tyne (214,803)	Dec. 28. Sandbach (5,500)
Dec. 22. Northampton (87,000)	Dec. 29. Newport (Salop) (3,200)
Dec. 22. North Shields (50,000)	Dec. 22. Newport (Mon.) (67,000)

SCOTLAND.

Dec. 19. Govan (164,000)	Dec. 22. Motherwell (54,274)

WALES.

Dec. 22. Cardiff (164,000)	Dec. 22. Pontypridd (23,000)
Dec. 22. Merthyr Tydfil (26,500)	Dec. 22. Swansea (90,423)
Dec. 22. Mold (4,000)	Dec. 24. Flint (5,125)
Dec. 22. Morriston (15,055)	

THE following is a list of the Christmas and New Year carnivals and world's fairs:—London—at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, Olympia, Deptford, Stratford, Mile End-road, Lillie-road (Fulham), and West Ealing; Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Merthyr, Swansea, Pontypridd, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Greenock, Dumfries, and Govan; Newcastle-on-Tyne, Gateshead, Jarrow, Sunderland, South and North Shields, Middlesbrough, Darlington, Leeds, Bradford, and Huddersfield; Southampton, Bristol, Plymouth, and Portsmouth; Oldham, Rochdale, Wigan, Salford (Trinity Market and Trafford-road), Hartlepool, and Bolton.

THE November fair at Leek had for its principal amusement-caterers A. Bates, with steam horses, swings, bottle batteries, emma sheets, and cokers; Mr. A. Beech provided similar novelties; and the other caterers were Messrs. Rowley and Connor.

MR. ALFRED BALL, with the Royal Bioscope, has opened for the winter season at West Ealing.

STOURBRIDGE WAKES was maintained by P. Collins's racing cockerels and No. 2 cinématograph show, H. Cullis's boxing pavilion, Harris's reptile exhibition, Whiteley and Craddock's set of swings, Hayes' big boat and set of overboats, G. Ford's juvenile midget horses and shooting saloon, Wright's shooting saloons, and cokernut sheets by Whiting, Humphreys, Wright, and Dobson, stalls, aunt sallies, and minor novelties by Birch, Winsper, Joice, and others.

A REGRETTABLE feature of the fight for Burslem Wakes has been the line taken by *The Staffordshire Sentenel*, the principal daily and weekly paper circulating in the Potteries.

IN a leader of the issue of Oct. 9, the editor said:—"The Council is to be congratulated upon its wise and courageous action, which we have no doubt at all will be heartily approved of by the best public opinion in the borough. The obstruction, the noise, and the insanitary conditions abundantly warrant the course that has now been taken." Another writer, under the cognomen of "Crocks and Crazes," said:—"As for the abolition of the Wakes Fair, the Council acted wisely and courageously. The obstruction of the centre of the town by shows, and the noise and dirt, could not but be regarded with disfavour by those who had the best interests of the town at heart. No doubt the showpeople could find a piece of land on the outskirts of the town if they cared to look for it, but it was time that such a display in the middle of the borough came to an end. Should any attempt be made to upset the Council's decision, there should be sufficient public spirit in Burslem to see that the resolution is adhered to. The statement that was printed in Tuesday's *Sentenel* showed that there are no prescriptive rights in the Wakes Fair, which was long ago abolished by the Home Secretary. The Fair that has been held of late years was held by the pleasure of the Council under its special powers, and this pleasure has now been withdrawn, and the matter is at an end. Burslem and Tunstall having excluded the Wakes Fair from their midst, when is Hanley going to act in a similar spirit of enlightenment?"

Now, after the public manifestation of disapproval of the Town Council's action, "Crocks and Crazes" again takes up the cudgels for the defeated anti-Wakes party in the following words: "What will the Burslem Council do? Two public meetings have protested against the abolition of the Wakes, and it remains to be seen what the consequential action of the Council may be. Two points may be mentioned here. Years ago a town's meeting at Tunstall protested against the abolition of the Wakes in that town, but no notice was taken of it, thanks to Mr. John Nash Peake, and there is no member of the Council to-day, probably, who would support their restoration. Is the Burslem Council going to give way to clamour—a great deal of it vulgar clamour? All that the Burslem Council has to do is, like Brer Rabbit, to sit still and say nuffin, and there will be no more Wakes. Another point is that a great deal has been said about the supposed legal inability of the Town Council to abolish a 'statutory fair.' But there is no such fair at Burslem. It was abolished many years ago by the Home Secretary. All that has happened since then is that the Town Council has from year to year permitted the shows to stand in the Market-place by a resolution, which it has now been resolved not to act upon again. If the Burslem Council stands firm, the Hanley Council cannot avoid following suit at no distant date. Should the Burslem Council give way, then Hanley will also suffer."

To this attack the hon. chaplain to the Guild has sent the following reply:—

"CROCKS AND CRAZES"
On Burslem Wakes.
An Answer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE SENTINEL.

SIR,—Your able and humorous contributor, "Crocks and Crazes," has again made *ex parte* statements with regard to Burslem Wakes. Trusting entirely to your well-known impartiality and desire to afford to all parties full liberty of the Press, I venture to deal with the points raised by "Crocks and Crazes" in his column of Saturday last. First of all, your contributor suggests a policy of action to the Burslem County Council. He asks, "Is the Burslem Council going to give way to clamour—a great deal of vulgar clamour?" and then he suggests, "All that the Burslem Council has to do is like Brer Rabbit—to sit still and say nuffin, and there will be no more wakes."

Now, Sir, whether in jest or earnest, Mr. "Crocks and Crazes" has here raised a much more serious, and a vastly more important, question than the continuance of Burslem Wakes—nothing less than the constitutional question, is this a democratically governed country, or are we living both in imperial local concerns at the will and mercy (for the time being) of an oligarchy of elected persons? With any one or all of the other issues raised by the wakes controversy, I am ready to deal at another time; it will be quite sufficient to emphasise the serious and mischievous character of the policy outlined by "Crocks and Crazes."

What are the actual facts of the position? There is, at the present moment, hardly a member of the Burslem Corporation who has not willingly, or, with conscientious reluctance, agreed to allow the question of the wakes to be settled by the ascertained wish of the people. All parties concerned agreed to abide by the popular verdict, constitutionally expressed. The policy illustrated by Brer Rabbit, and expressed in the words, "Sit still and say nuffin, and there will be no more wakes," is the invitation to the Borough Council to ignore the properly-expressed opinion of the people. It is, Sir, more than that—it is the policy of the tyrant, the autocrat—it is Kaiserism in English political life.

I venture to assert that such a policy would condemn all those who adopted it to public obloquy.

I do not for one moment imagine that Mr. Councillor Brodie and the anti-wakes party on the Burslem Town Council will adopt such an un-English, such an unfair and unconstitutional course as that outlined by your regular contributor. In Imperial matters such a demonstration of disapproval of policy as that evidenced by the overwhelming vote of the town's meeting would have led inevitably to the resignation of the Ministry, and an immediate appeal to the country.

However, this one thing is perfectly certain, that the anti-wakes party made a serious error in judgment. For that mistake they had "to face the music" (not at all agreeable music), and it is to be hoped, in all seriousness, that men of public character, acknowledged probity, and undoubted zeal for the good of Burslem, will recognise the compelling significance of the popular vote, and, in a manly, straightforward, and constitutional manner, set *right* the *wrong* they have already committed.

"Crocks and Crazes'" second point is but begging the whole question, and is worthy of a "mining camp lawyer." In effect, it is that there is no legal wakes. This argument is merely a line of possible retreat for the discomfited and routed anti-wakes party. The legality or illegality of the wakes might indeed be a fruitful and profitable point for learned counsel before a judge in chambers; but it has nothing whatever to do with the unmistakable pronouncement of the people's will. The people of Burslem (this is the essential and dominant fact) desire that their old-time wakes shall be continued to them, and that expression of opinion loyally obeyed puts out of court all niceties of law as to the legality or illegality of the existing fair known as Burslem Wakes.

The executive council of the Showmen's Guild will take good care (having already committed themselves to the enterprise) that any attempt to play "Brer Rabbit" with them and their interests will be met by all proper and constitutional means of keeping this matter well before their patrons—the show-loving public of Burslem.

Let us clear the ground of all collateral questions and side issues. The question of all questions is, Shall the will of the people prevail, or shall the elected representatives of the people ignore the mandate of their constituents, and use their high position of administrative power in direct opposition to the constitutionally expressed opinion of the people of Burslem?—I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

T. HORNE,
Hon. Chaplain to the Showmen's Guild.
5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.,
Nov. 21, 1906.

The Cheshire round has hitherto been free from vexatious restrictions on the show business, Cheshire being without bye-laws touching the fair-ground industry. That immunity is now threatened, and if Cheshire and Lancashire showpeople do not speedily set to work, the following bye-laws proposed by the County Council will receive official sanction, and serious injury inflicted upon the showmen and traders using the Cheshire circuit.

COUNTY PALATINE OF CHESTER BYE-LAWS.

For the good rule and government of the administrative County of Chester, excepting the Municipal Boroughs situate therein.

Notice is hereby given that the Cheshire County Council, at a meeting held at Chester Castle on Thursday, the 8th day of November, 1906, made the following bye-laws, viz.:—

ORGANS.

No person shall in any street or public place, or on any land adjoining or near to any street or public place, use or play, or cause to be used or played, any steam organ or other musical instrument worked by mechanical means, to the annoyance or disturbance of residents or passengers.

MUSIC NEAR HOUSES.

No person shall sound or play upon any musical or noisy instrument, or sing in any street or public place, within one hundred yards of any dwelling-house or office, to the annoyance of any inmate thereof, after being requested to desist by such inmate, either personally or through his servant, or through a constable: Provided that this bye-law shall not apply to properly-conducted religious services, except where the request to desist is made on the ground of the serious illness of any inmate of the house.

MUSIC NEAR CHURCHES.

No person shall sound or play upon any musical or noisy instrument, or sing in any street or public place, within one hundred yards of any place of public worship, or public entertainment, or other place of public assembly, in which persons are for the time being assembled, to the annoyance or disturbance of any person or persons so assembled, after being requested to desist by any constable, or by any person so annoyed or disturbed, or by any person acting on his behalf.

MUSIC NEAR HOSPITALS.

No person shall sound or play upon any musical or noisy instrument, or sing in any street or public place, within one hundred yards of any hospital, infirmary, convalescent home, or other place used for the reception of treatment of the sick after being requested to desist by any constable, or by any inmate or officer of such hospital or other place, or by any person acting on his behalf.

PENALTIES.

Any person who shall offend against any of the foregoing bye-laws shall be liable on summary conviction for each offence to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that a sealed copy of such bye-laws has been forwarded to the Secretary of State.

REGINALD POTTS,
Clerk to the Cheshire County Council.
Chester, Nov. 12, 1906.

COUNTY PALATINE OF CHESTER.
LOCOMOTIVES ACT, 1898.

Notice is hereby given that the Cheshire County Council intend, at the expiration of one calendar month from the date of the first publication of this notice, to apply to the Local Government Board for the confirmation of the following bye-law made by them (pursuant to Section 6 of the Locomotives Act, 1898) at a meeting of the Council, held at Chester Castle on Thursday, the 8th day of November, 1906, viz.:—

For prohibiting or restricting the use of locomotives on specified highways in the county on account of the inconvenience caused to the inhabitants of dwelling-houses abutting upon or contiguous to such highways.

"A person in charge of a locomotive shall not use the locomotive between the hours of 10 o'clock p.m. and 6 o'clock a.m. on the highways or main roads, called or known as the Hyde and Mottram (New) Main Road, Mottram and Hollingworth Main Road, and Hollingworth and Glossop Main Road, so far as the same are situate in the urban districts of Mottram-in-Longdendale and Hollingworth, and the rural parishes of Matley and Hattersley, and lie between the boundary of the municipal borough of Hyde and the boundary of the county of Derby and Woolley Bridge, the Stalybridge Main Road from its junction with the Hyde and Mottram (New) Main Road to its junction with the Back Moor Main Road and the Back Moor Main Road from its junction with the Staly bridge Main Road to its junction with the Mottram and Hollingworth Main Road, the use of locomotives being hereby restricted on such highways or main roads on account of the inconvenience caused to the inhabitants of the dwelling houses abutting upon or contiguous to such highways or main roads."

And notice is hereby further given that a copy of such bye-law will be kept at the office at Chester of the undersigned, the Clerk to such Council, and the same can be inspected by any of the ratepayers of the county, without fee or reward, any day during office hours for one calendar month from the date of the first publication of this notice.

And notice is hereby also further given that copies of the said bye-law may be obtained at the aforesaid office, by any ratepayer of the county, on payment of sixpence for every such copy.

Dated this 12th day of November, 1906.

REGINALD POTTS,
Clerk to the Cheshire County Council.
Council Offices, Northgate-street, Chester.

With regard to the traction engine bye-laws set out above, we do not doubt but they have already been considered by the executive committee of the Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union.

The rapid development of electric lighting and motor power by shows and roundabouts has revolutionised the whole aspect of fair-ground business. Large traction engines for electric lighting and motive force on the shows and machines at our fairs make the question of the free use of our roads a vital one, and county authorities must be brought to recognise that restriction on the use of steam traction engines is an unjust interference with, and a restriction in restraint of, trade.

Communications on both these matters will be at once opened up with the County Council of Cheshire. Our readers will notice, however, that the proposed bye-laws do not apply to cities and boroughs within the county, but only to the county areas proper.

BOSTOCK AND WOMBWELL'S MENAGERIE is located at Bradford for a short season, and is meeting with liberal patronage.

"MY SUGAR-PLUM."

A VOCAL SWEETMEAT THAT POSITIVELY MELTS IN THE MOUTH, ITS DELICIOUS FLAVOUR CLINGING TO THE MOST EPICUREAN PALATE.

Sing this Chorus over three times, and forget it IF YOU CAN!

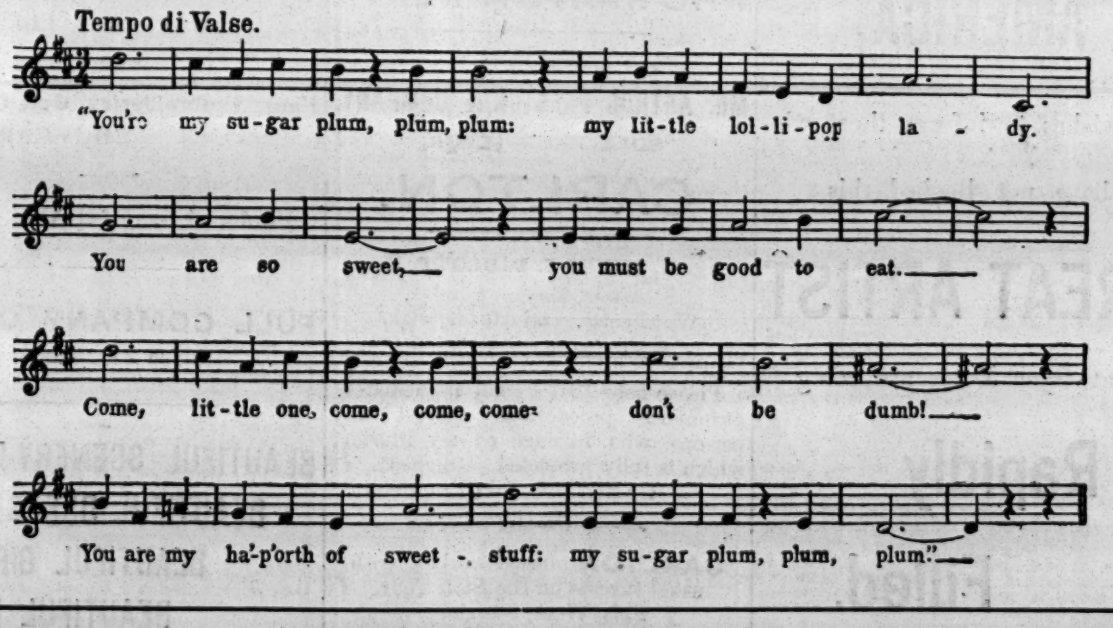
Suitable for "Boy."

HARRY DACRE'S CHRISTMAS SUGAR-PLUM

(Dragée bien sucrée).

Suitable for "Girl."

CHORUS.



Suitable for "Girl."

HARRY DACRE'S CHRISTMAS BON-BON

(Très bon).

Suitable for "Boy."

The music of the Verse is *à la Schottische,* and is quite as alluring as that of the Chorus.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT APPEARED FOR THE FIRST TIME TWO WEEKS AGO.

No less than 147 applications have been received already.

WHICH PROVES THE ABOVE CHORUS TO BE *A MAGNET.*

IT IS FREE FOR PANTOMIME.

A few FREE Music Hall rights will be issued. Apply at once.

THE SUCCESSFUL SONG SYNDICATE, 20, Nassau Street, Mortimer Street, London, W.

At Hengler's Circus, Plymouth, the week's attractions include Hardy, the Handcuff King; Florence, Queen of the Arena; Tom Watson and his performing horse; Ray and Rushford, comedy duettists; Sam Anderson, jockey; and J. Clark's grand juvenile military spectacle of Russia and Japan.

Baker's American Circus was at Kidwell at the beginning of the week, and, despite the bad weather did well. The clever Baker family include Mr. Tom Baker—a fine jockey act. Miss Prissie is also a charming and clever jockey-act rider, and is, it seems, the youngest doing this act in the profession. Miss Eveline is a handsome and clever acrobat and contortionist. Mr. Paul Baker is exceptionally good on the trapeze as a teeth artist, and on the ground; and young Dick, on the flying rings, is wonderfully smart. The clowns are droll. In the circus is also what is probably the oldest performing pony travelling. It originally belonged to, and was trained by, the late Joe Baker. It is now thirty-four years of age and still very brisk.

Mr. Fred Ebley has been granted a theatrical licence by the local Bench, and opens his portable theatre at Blaina on Saturday.

Although it is impossible to plant Coliseums and Hippodrome in every little community, yet even the villages in the remote West of Wales are not without their joys. A newspaper correspondent at little Aberayron, for instance, writes with a glow to his journal:—"The merry-go-round of Danter was a brilliant affair, with its dazzling light, motor-'buses, galloping horses, and its wide variety of music, all worked by electricity. This theatre of brilliancy drew the crowds as a lamp doth the moth."

After failing to obtain a renewal of his licence for the portable theatre, Mr. Whitmee asked the Hemel Hempstead magistrates to license a more permanent building. To this request the Bench deferred their answer for a fortnight, in order that the Town Council might express their views on the matter. We wish Mr. Whitmee the success his enterprise and perseverance undoubtedly deserves.

Guild Subscriptions, 1906:—Per Mr. Hurst, Alfred Gibson, Esq. (Wigan), £1; Mr. David Johnson, 5s.

We are glad to note that the annual showmen's ball at the Empress Ballroom, Bolton, is already fixed, and the date is Jan. 8, 1907. Those energetic workers, Messrs. Pike and T. Hurst, have the matter in hand, and success (as in previous years) is practically assured.

A new departure this year is to mark the showmen's festival at Bolton—a grand football match, Yorkshire Showmen *v.* Lancashire Showmen. This match, like the ball, is for the benefit of the Guild funds, and will take place the day of the ball.

Owing to extreme pressure on our available space for showman world news, we are obliged to hold over interesting news on the fight for Burslem Wakes. A full report will be given next week of the showmen's triumph.

The marriage is announced to take place at St. Mary's Church, Southampton, on Wednesday, Dec. 5, of Jacob Studt, jun., eldest son of Jacob Studts, amusement caterer, of the Victoria Hall, Southampton, to Mary Ann Dooner, eldest daughter of Richard Dooner (of R. Dooner and Son, Bioscope exhibition proprietors), of Bristol.

"We put the world before you" is the well-known phrase of the "Charles Urban Trading Company," and looking over the magnificent catalogue just issued by the firm their claim is perfectly justified. It will well repay all those interested in the film market to get the Charles Urban catalogue; there's money in it.

ANSWERS TO SHOWMEN.

M. E. (Sunderland).—*We cannot advise on so risky an enterprise as taking a show to Canada. Your best plan would be to write to some well-known American showman for information.*

J. B. A. (Crediton).—*We did write as we promised you, but have as yet no answer.*

T. R. O. (Swinton).—*You may join the Showmen's Guild if you are a showman or a fairground trader by paying a minimum subscription of 5s. per annum. You may join any day. Membership is valid for twelve months, following date of enrolment. Hon. members (not in the business) pay at least 10s. a year, without either benefits or vote.*

Mme. Alice Esty has at last listened to the blandishments of the variety theatre managers, and will appear at the Leeds Empire on Monday, Dec. 17, in a new grand operatic scena, written and composed especially for her, entitled *Betta, the Gipsy*, in which she will be supported by a full chorus and grand orchestra. The libretto is by Edward Waltyere, and the music by Signor Emilio Pizzi.

Born at Lowell, Massachusetts, thirty miles from Boston, Mme. Esty made her first public appearance at a concert in connection with our Church, but appeared as a reciter. She arrived in England in 1891, and received encouragement from Mr. Henry J. Wood, then a student, and the late Mr. N. Vert, the latter offering her an engagement at a Patti concert at the Albert Hall, which she was delighted to accept. After successes at the Crystal Palace and St. James's Hall, she spent six years with the Carl Rosa Company, her work with that famous operatic combination eventually totalling fifty rôles. She has played Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana* some five hundred times. She was the first to play Mimi in Puccini's *La Bohème*. Like most great artists, Mme. Esty has her superstitions, and values very highly an antique topaz brooch, fashioned from a stone once possessed by an Indian necromancer. This has always proved a mascot to her.

Miss Laura Dyson, who is to play the heroine in *Crystal Gazing*, was trained at the Guildhall School of Music, and learnt how to act at the Surrey, where she vastly benefited by playing as a member of the late George Conquest's stock company, both in drama and pantomime.

Miss Dyson tells many good stories. One of them may be recalled. On the occasion of the late Queen Victoria's Jubilee, the entire company engaged at the house across the bridge assembled on the huge stone verandah to see the procession go by. The late Dan Leno and Herbert Campbell being among the number, merry were the quips and jests, until somebody mentioned that the poor little gas boy had lost his mother, and had no money wherewith to bury her. At once the kind-hearted Dan suggested a novel kind of collection. A hat was placed in the middle of the verandah, and everyone was required to throw a shilling into it from where he or she happened to be standing or seated at the time. Everyone who missed was fined half-a-crown, and had to try again. Miss Dyson was such a wretched shot that she was fined four half-crowns. Dan was even worse, he being mulcted in nine half-crowns, whilst Herbert Campbell parted with seven. Both kind-hearted comedians were probably bad marksmen on purpose. Anyhow, the collection amounted to well over £10.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

Mr. LEO DRYDEN,

Business Manager for

"The Australian Nightingale,"

MADAME

ADA COLLEY,

PRIMA DONNA,

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BRITISH ISLES, CONTINENT, AND AMERICA,

and wishes to inform those who have not Booked this

GREAT ARTIST

that Open Dates are being

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AMAZING AND UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS.

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A POSITIVE SENSATION.

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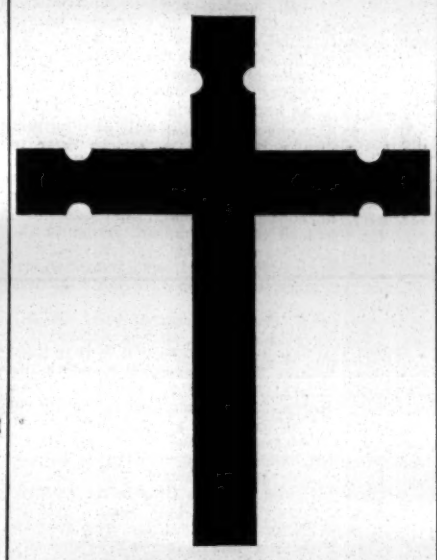

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EMPRESS THEATRE, BRIXTON,

Top of the Bill.

Enormous Business.

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Top of the Bill,

THE LONDON, SHOREDITCH.

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Next Week,

TIVOLI OR OXFORD, LONDON,

for One Month.

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Solicitors, Messrs. Stanley, Woodhouse, and Hedderwick.

Please note that I shall immediately commence proceedings against any persons who infringe on my illusion, which is fully protected.—(Signed) CARLTON, Sole Proprietor.

CARLTON himself working with usual success on the Stoll Tour.

This Week, Starring,

EMPIRE, EDINBURGH.

CARLTON is also Proprietor of

THE FOUR KWEERIES,

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THE FOUR KWEERIES,

EN ROUTE FOR AUSTRALIA.

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CARLTON Specially Engaged to play the SHOWMAN in the forthcoming Christmas Pantomime at the PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRISTOL.

THE LATEST & GREATEST IN GORGEOUS PRODUCTION.

THE ISLE OF OOMA.

AN ORIGINAL EASTERN EPISODE,

Written and Composed by

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Presented by

ARTHUR RIGBY

for the first time this week with

Instantaneous Success

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RICHMOND THEATRE,

By special arrangement with Frank Allen, Esq.

INUNDATED WITH CONGRATULATIONS BY EVERYONE,

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No Expense Spared in any Department.

The beautiful Eastern Scene by JULIAN HICKS.

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EACH AN ARTIST.

BEAUTIFUL SCENERY!

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BEAUTIFUL MUSIC!

AND

SMART COMEDY!

Cannot accept splendid offers for next week, having arranged Special Week with Jesse Sparrow, Esq.,

EMPIRE, CAMBERWELL

FRED KARNO'S COMPANIES.

GLASGOW.

GRAND. Pantomime Season, 1906-7.

GORGEOUS XMAS PANTOMIME.

"The House that Jack Built.",

Fred Kitchen, Harmony Comedy Four, the Fourteen Black Hussars, Kirby's Flying Ballet, Miss May Mars, Miss Luna Love, Miss Frances Kapstowne, Sisters Hopkins, Little Maudie Francis, Wee Mona, Bob Sloan, Fred. Whittaker, Helier Le Maistre, Miss Genevera Tree, Miss Agnes Lane, Harry Lappo, Frank Douglas, Frederic Booth, E. Sydney Smith, Dave Laird, Harold Wellesley, Barry Searle, Albert Leonzi, H. Victor Smith, Misses Holly Errol, Eva Norman, May Prichard, Freda Vaughan, Lallie Forsyth, Kathleen Morland, Dora Grey, Nellie May, Florence Raymaur, Florence Fenwicke, Eva Carlisle, Flo Pragnell, Helen Temple, Ianthe Gordon, Florence Marks, Gabrielle Wallace, Violet Crossley, Helen Le Maistre, Lydia Granville, Louis Wollett, Alys Hardy, Jessie Clapham, and chorus and ballet of 150 performers.

GLASGOW. COLISEUM. "Moses and Sons."

Messrs. Fred Kitchen, Albert Bruno, T. Ellis-Buxton, Herbert Landeck, Anthony Gordon, J. Springsohn, H. Lappo, Nat Lewis, Bernard Katz, Gipsy Dolin, H. Myers, Phil Sinclair, D. Asher, W. Davis, N. Goodman, B. Hart, Frank Lester, F. Westcott, M. Rutherford, E. H. Carl, Harry E. Stafford, L. Banjamin, Fred Bentley, Misses Aggie Morris, Janet Reeve, Madge Rockingham, Rosa Abrahams, Lydia Weber, C. Doncaster, Leah Holland, Bertha Hymans, Kat Hymans, Blanche Newmann, Etty Ray, E. Silve, A. Boyce, A. Spencer, B. Asher, C. Gordon.

Manager, Mr. J. B. Helm; Musical Director, Mr. Dudley Powell.

AMERICA, U.S. MASS. NEW BEDFORD. "Mumming Birds."

Messrs. Harry Royston, James Russell, Sidney Chaplin, W. Fern, Ernest Stone, Fred Bendo, Bert Clark, Arnold McFarlane. Misses Amy Minister, Beatrice Barnes, Agnes Clark.

Manager, Mr. A. Forrest.

STRATFORD. THE EMPIRE. "Dandy Thieves."

Messrs. George Hestor, Frank Morton, Harry Howe, R. H. Kitchen, Tom Manardo, Alec Munro, Sydney Bolton, Charles Usher, B. Moore, S. Gossling, Frank Douglas, Cecil Frere, Misses Leonora Castelle, Kitty Brunton, Chloey Johnson, Margaret Ruby, Daisy Hestor, Edith Ager, Amy Hermance, Marjorie Gossling.

Manager, Mr. L. Greenwood; Musical Director, Mr. F. H. J. Moran.

AMERICA, U.S. BROOKLYN. NOVELTY.. "Early Birds."

Messrs. Billie Reeves, George Welch, Arthur Dando, Will Stanley, Charles Emerald, Jack Osborne, Chas. Sivado, Reed Almonti, Will Crackles, G. Seamans, J. Aubrey. Misses Rosie Fenton, Mabelle Welsh, Minna Dixon.

Manager, Mr. A. Reeves.

COLCHESTER. THEATRE ROYAL. "Saturday to Monday."

Messrs. Rolando Martin, James Fletch, Fred Palmer, J. W. Bradbury, Dick Harcourt, Victor H. Crawford, T. McDonough, George Cooper, C. Herbert Summers. Sydney Lansdown, Bertie Crew, W. Lawrence, E. Pablo, Mark Milton, Misses Amy Rogerson, Ada Maskell, Daisy Stone, Lucy Walden, Lulu Lillian, Kathleen Dennis, Valetta Rushton, Muriel Palmer, Ethel Milton.

Manager, Mr. H. A. Dooley; Musical Director, Mr. A. D'Albert.

NEWCASTLE. EMPIRE. "Jail Birds"

Messrs. James Le Fre, Bob Lewis, Chas. Wragg, Bert Williams, Will Moran, Frank Melroyd, Will Lorenzi, George Craig, Albert Layton, E. E. Giles, jun., B. Dean, Misses Marie Dayton, Sara Dudley, Louie Decubas, Marjorie Williams, Rosie Mayville.

Manager, Chas. Sewell.

LONDON. OLYMPIA. Christmas, 1906.

Special production of the Famous Old-Time RICHARDSON'S SHOW,

A faithful revival of all the old glamour and glory of ONE OF THE MOST AMUSING AND BEST-BELOVED FEATURES OF OLD ENGLISH FAIR LIFE.

MANCHESTER. PALACE. "The Football Match," Christmas, 1906.

Messrs. Harry Weldon, Ernie Myers, Robb Gilmore, Will Poluski, jun. Brien McCullough, Bertie White, Jack Royal, Alec Thomas, Miss Lily Lonsdale, Miss Eunice Bell, supported by the Karno Troupe of comedians, and pantomimists, and two real first-class football teams, comprising well-known football players selected from the leading clubs of the United Kingdom, and chorus and auxiliaries of over a hundred artists.

KARNO'S THEATRICAL FACTORY,

CAMBERWELL, S.E.

The Magnificent NEW WING just added to the above, comprising a Paint Room, Rehearsal Room, and Storage Dock, is now complete. The new Paint Room is furnished with Two Frames capable of carrying any Cloths. The new Rehearsal Room, splendidly lighted, ventilated, and heated, is 72 feet long, 21 feet wide, and owing to its exceptional height (26 feet 6 inches) can be used as a Practice Room for any Gymnastic or Aerial Acts. The huge Storage Dock, thoroughly ventilated and dry, covers an area of 316 square yards, and has a cubic space of 32,648 feet.

GENERAL STAGE DIRECTOR, AUTHOR, and PRODUCER,

Harold L. Hilliard.

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Stanley, Woodhouse, and Hedderwick, E.C.

Sole Proprietor and Director,

MR. FRED KARNO.

26, 28, & 28a, VAUGHAN ROAD, CAMBERWELL, S.E.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Dec. 17, Feb. 11, March 25, April 29, May 6, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Dec. 10, Jan. 7, 28, Feb. 4, 18, 25, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Feb. 11, March 4, 18, 25, April 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
Feb. 18, 25, March 4, 25, April 1, 8, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 29, May 6, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Nov. 26, Jan. 7, three nights, Feb. 18
March 11, 18, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE, May 6, onwards.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
Dec. 17, March 6, April 22, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
Dec. 17, Jan. 14, 21, Feb. 4, 11, and 18, and April 1.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD;
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON;
Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 28, Feb. 4, 11, onwards, with exceptions.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Dec. 3, 10, 17, 31, March 4 (three nightly only), onwards.
Add., E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Canterbury, Dec. 3 and 10 (three nights only).
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Strong Attraction, for Luton, Jan. 14 (three nights).
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

LYRIC THEATRE,
BROMLEY.
WANTED, First-Class Companies,
Three Nights, Dec. 13 and 20,
Six Nights, Jan. 21, Feb. 11.
And a Really Good Pantomime,
Six Nights, Feb. 18.
Address, F. W. PURCELL,
"Lingwood," Yerbury-rd., Tufnell Park, London, N.

QUEEN'S THEATRE,
LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Dec. 3 and 17. L. CARSON, Keighley.

THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
WANTED, Dec. 31, Jan. 21, First-class Attractions only. FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Musical Plays and Important Attractions, for Grand T., West Hartlepool, Vacant March 4, 18, 25. F. GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies, January 7, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, March 4, 18, April 1, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Company, for Dec. 31, Jan. 1, 2, also for Jan. 21, 22, 23 (3 nights each). Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL,
LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Dec. 15 (three nights), Dec. 17, March 4, April 15 and 22 (Fair Week), May 6, on.
Address, FRANK KING.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Dec. 10 (?),
Dec. 17.
Address,
THOS. SWINTON.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE,
PONTYPRIDD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Dec. 17, March 25, April 15,
and various onward dates.
Apply, Manager, CHARLES TRENCHARD.

BORO' THEATRE, HEYWOOD, Lessee, A. JONES.
WANTED, Companies, Dec. 10, 17, and 24. Reply, W. F. SYKES, Acting-Manager, 11, City-road, Hulme, Manchester.

OPERA HOUSE,
WORKINGTON.
WANTED, First-Class Pantomime, Feb. 4 or 11, First in. Address,
STANLEY ROGERS, 124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Jan. 7, 21, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, Companies (Theatrical), for Theatre Royal, Dereham, three nights; good business done with good shows. Refer Maggie Morton.

METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
Dec. 17 vacant.
WANTED, First-class Company.
Wire, "Bacon, Gateshead."

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Comic Opera, Musical Comedies, &c., April, onwards. Address, HERBERT VERE.

WANTED, Strong Attraction, Dec. 10 (to oblige Manager),
King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

THE PERTH THEATRE.
WANTED, Good Attraction, Dec. 24; Share or Certainty. Apply, J. H. SAVILE, Paisley T.

THEATRES R., BILSTON and WEDNESBURY.
WANTED, Good Panto., Dec. 31, Jan. 7, first in; also Jan. 21, 28. HATTERSLEY, Bilston.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Dec. 10, Dec. 10. Address,
J. W. WHITEBEAD, Queen's Theatre, Dublin.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Jan. 28, Feb. 25, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE METROPOLE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant Dec. 10, 17, onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vac. Dec. 17, 31, Jan. 14, 28, onward, with exceptions (Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Dec. 3, 10, Jan. 28, onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant Dec. 3, 10, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE,
Vacant Dec. 3, 10, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE."
Vacant Feb. 18, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S."
Vacant Dec. 31, Jan. 14, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA."
Vacant Feb. 4, 11, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.
To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."
Excellent plants printing.

"THE LOST CHORD."
Vacant March 4, 11, April 8, 15, May 20, on.

All communications to
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

GRAND THEATRE, SWANSEA.
Lessees and Managers, BROOKS and WOODBRIDGE.
WANTED, Dec. 3 and 10, unexpectedly fallen vacant, best No. 1 Companies only, Musical, Comedy, or very high-class Dramatic Companies,
Dec. 3 and 10, Dec. 3 and 10,
Only vacancies till April, 1907.
Wire instanter. Wire instanter.
Wire instanter. Wire instanter.
E. OSWALD BROOKS, Grand Theatre, Swansea.
Tel. 278 Swansea.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for Dec. 10,
Theatre Royal, Nottingham.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, Companies, Dec. 3, 17, 24, Jan. 14, 21 (latter dates can be booked in conjunction with Opera House, Perth. W. E. POTTS.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Dec. 17, 1906; Feb. 11, 18, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, 1907.

Apply, JAMES KIERNAN, Owner and Manager.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Inverness, Attractions for Feb. and March. Vacant dates apply, CAMERON BURGESS.

GRAND THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, Dec. 10, 17, also Christmas Week and onwards, Musical preferred. Wire, VICTOR TURNER.

THE PIER, EASTBOURNE.
The most Popular and Largest Theatre in Eastbourne. Visited by all the Leading Managers.
WANTED, First-class Attractions.
Vacant Dates, Dec. 17, Jan. 14, 28, Feb. 4, March 11 (?), April 8, 22, and various dates, onwards.
Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.
WANTED, Company, for Dec. 31, and Pantomimes for Dates in January. Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

WANTED, Xmas week, good Fit-up Pantomime, Comedy, or Drama (two towns), Tyneside district; printing required 500 walls, 500 windows; no opposition. GEORGE P. FENTON, Queen's Theatre, Gateshead.

WANTED, First-Class Dramatic and Variety Companies, also Clever Musical Attractions, two nights, Dec. 3 and 4, 10 and 11, three nights 17, 18, 19, six Dec. 24, and on, with exceptions. For dates address W. E. POTTS, O. H., Dunfermline; all other coms. JOHN MILLER, Grand T., Cowdenbeath.

KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION and OPERA HOUSE, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, Dec. 10 (three or six nights) and onwards, with exceptions. W. PAYNE.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-Class Pantomime, Feb. 25, one week; also Attractions, April 15 and onwards.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Panto., Jan. 7, 14, or 21.
Address,
GERALD HARDING.

THEATRE ROYAL,
DARLINGTON.
WANTED, Really First-class Attractions, Dec. 17, 17,
Feb. 11, 25.
Good shows certain of Big Business.
JAMES BELL.

GRAND THEATRES, CHORLEY and RADCLIFFE.
WANTED, Big Attractions, Dec. 24, Jan. 21, on, Grand, Chorley; also Dec. 22 and following week, Grand, Radcliffe. SANTE, Radcliffe.

WANTED, for South Africa and Australia, First-Class Romantic Dramas, Comedy Dramas, and High-Class Melodramas, for Repertoire of Star Actor and Actress. Plays having been already produced and having good plants of printing preferred.
Address, ARTHUR DE FRECE, 12, Cecil-court, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-THE-SEA.
WANTED, Big Attractions, Dec. 17, '06 Feb. 4, March 18, '07, only vacant spring dates, excellent weeks. Apply, A. C. MOODY, Lessee.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, HORWICH.
WANTED, Dec. 3, Dec. 3, also 10, 17, onward, with exceptions. Theatre now well lighted and heated; good band, well posted. ED. LEWIS.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, First-class Companies, February 11, 18, March 4, and various, onwards.
WILLIAM MARTIN, 3, Bedford-st., Strand, London.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, unexpectedly, 3 nights, Nov. 29, also March 4, April 8 and 22 (weeks).
CHARLES CAREY.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, Really Good Drama, or other First-class Attraction, Dec. 17, Jan. 14 and 28.
E. H. PAGE.

NEW THEATRE, OXFORD.
WANTED, First-class Company, Musical preferred, Dec. 26 (4 nights). WILLIAM MARTIN, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

NEW ROYAL THEATRE, KING'S LYNN.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, First-class Pantomime, Jan. 7 (6 nights). N.B.—This would be first pantomime in. WILLIAM MARTIN, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

ILFRACOMBE.
RUNNACLEAVE T. AND OPERA HOUSE.
The Most Comfortable Playhouse in the District, used exclusively for Amusement Purposes.
Everything well done. Open all the year round.
WANTED, Attractions, between now and Xmas, with exceptions, also a Good Panto.
JULIUS PHILLIPS, Opera House, Ilfracombe.

CASINO, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-Class Fit-up Companies, Musical Comedy preferred; Share or Rent.
Apply, THORNELL, Casino, Bexhill-on-Sea.

COMPANIES WANTED.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.
The Leading Theatre in the Town.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by electricity.
This week, Mr. and Mrs. John Walters' Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD."
Next week, "WEARIN O' THE GREEN," return.
To be shortly followed by "The SHULAMITE."
Miss MINNIE PALMER in "MY SWEETHEART," "SHERLOCK HOLMES."

WANTED, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 11, March 4, and certain later dates.
Only First-Class Companies Entertained.
Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.
Holds £90 at ordinary prices.
This week, Mr. Frederick Melville's "BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."
Next week, Mr. Louis Calvert's "SUNDAY" (return visit).
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, for Jan. 21, through obliging Fredk. Mouillot, Esq.; March 11 and 18 also open.
The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions touring.

All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
Vacant, Dec. 3, Dec. 3,
Dec. 10, Dec. 10,
Dec. 17, Dec. 17,
Dec. 24, Dec. 24.
WANTED, Strong Attractions,
Wire, Wire, Wire.
R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FLEETWOOD.
This week, Mr. Whitmore Ledger's Company opened to the usual packed house, in spite of bad weather.
WANTED, Companies, Dec. 6, 7, and 8 (three nights), Dec. 10 (six nights), only vacant dates this year; Jan. 28, and onwards.
Address, H. J. SNELSON.

THEATRES R., BILSTON and WEDNESBURY.
WANTED, Good Companies, Dec. 3, 10, 17.
HARRY BATTERSBY, T. R., Bilston.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Magnificent New Town Hall, moderate rental, permanent stage, excellent accommodation. F. W. WESTERN, Sandy, Beds.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

WANTED, Complete Entertainments, dramatic, picture shows, minstrels, &c., for small towns. Address, Box 4,043, "The Era."

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, Feb. 18 and March 11.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11 and March 11.
Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 24, March 11.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, Feb. 18.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, March 4.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, Jan. 14.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 28, Feb. 18.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Jan. 21 and March 11.
Easter week vacant.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Star Theatre, Swansea.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of Dec. 17, 31, and Jan. 7,
Scala Production.
Wire or write, W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"SAILORS OF THE KING."
WANTED, Important Theatres, Dec. 24, on,
Big Production.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Win. Gar., Blackpool (return).

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Important Theatres, Dec. 24, on,
Full Chorus, Big Specialities.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Feb. 11 and 18, through transferring. Nov. 26.
His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness.
Aut., 1907, Grand Production, "Rollicking Rory."

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED Jan. 7,
Feb. 4,
March 4, 11, 18.
Address, J. W. CORDINER,
Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.
See Companies' advertisements, page 2.

GRANVILLE and THORNE'S CO.,
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Moneymaker, Dec. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 4, 11.
Wire for Xmas and New Year.
FRANK M. THORNE, T. R., Stratford, E.

WANTED, Theatres, for "The Silent Witness," unexpectedly vacant Dec. 3, to follow Riddings and precede Radcliffe; also Dec. 17, 24, 31, and on. F. H. NEVILLE, Sat., Shotton, Durham; after Empire, Riddings, Derbys.

"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND," Enormous Success.
Miss V. St. Lawrence as Fiend.
WANTED, Xmas, New Year, Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 18, 25, March 18, April 15, 22, June 3, 10 17 (?). MONTAGUE BEAUDYN, Grand, Mansfield.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, First-Class Theatre, Xmas week.
FRED BULMER, Grand Theatre, Brighton.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, Aug. 3, onwards
FRED BULMER, Grand Theatre, Brighton.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres.
FRED BULMER, Grand Theatre, Brighton.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
By Geo. R. Sims.
WANTED, Big Theatre, for Xmas week, also Jan. 7, 21, and Feb. 11. Wire,
H. HOLLWEG, to-day, Aquarium, Yarmouth; Monday, Empire T., Southend-on-Sea.

THEATRES WANTED.

LINGFORD CARSON'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, Managers to kindly Note that all the following Plays are beautifully staged and well played, and any production not satisfactory to the resident management, I shall take it as a personal favour if they will acquaint me immediately, so that I may have an opportunity of rectifying.—Faithfully yours, LINGFORD CARSON.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, for this Extraordinary Attraction, Dec. 17, '06. Managers desirous of making money, book the above. L. CARSON, Keighley.

"THE DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Autumn Dates, for this most excellent attraction, August, on. L. CARSON, Keighley.

"BABES IN THE WOOD."
Beautiful Dresses, and, above all, a Company of Carefully-selected Artists.
WANTED, Jan. 21, Feb. 4 and 18, First-class Theatres only. CARSON, Keighley.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Dec. 24, Dec. 24, Feb. 18, 25, March 4, and onwards.
Splendidly acted, beautifully mounted, and magnificently advertised. Nov. 26, Grand T., Eccles.

MISS MARY NEIL AND MR. GEORGE KIRK'S CO., "HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
New Year's Week, Jan. 7, 21, 28.
A few Autumn Dates still open.
CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
This, Junction; next, Osborne, Manchester.

Messrs. SHINTON and GREENWOOD'S TOUR,
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL."
WANTED, Big Theatre for Xmas.
All communications to
JOHN B. SHINTON,
Aquarium T., Yarmouth (return).

MR. F. B. WOULFE'S TOURS.
"ROBIN HOOD; or,
THE KING OF SHERWOOD FOREST."
An entirely new and original version, by Clifford Rean.
Mr. F. B. Woulfe as Robin Hood.
Miss Ethel Griffies as Maid Marion.
A gorgeous production; magnificent scenery and dresses; large plant of printing.
Company of eighteen; quartette of glee singers.
WANTED, Dates, for this Ideal Xmas Attraction, Dec. 31 Jan. 7, 14, 21, Feb. 18, and various on. F. B. WOULFE, Miner's T., Ashington.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, Xmas and Jan. 28.
Address,
FRANK E. BURDETT,
Cradley Heath. Nov. 26, T. R., Rotherham.

"COAL KING."
Polini and Maitland.
WANTED, Dates, Jan. 7, 21, Feb. 4, 11, and 25.
POLINI, 93, Penge-road, Anerley; London, S.E.

"DISHONOURED."
WANTED, Xmas, big Military Attraction, LEICESTER JACKSON, Walsall; next, Dover.

"HER ONE GREAT SIN."
WANTED, Xmas, South preferred.
LEICESTER JACKSON, Walsall; next, Dover.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, First-Class Theatre, for Miss Maud Hildyard and Company, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25. Apply, Mr. ERNEST DOTTRIDGE, Empire Theatre, Oldham.

WANTED, "Revenge; or Death or Glory Boys." Star Cast, including E. Hill-Mitchelson, Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 25, and March 11. E. HILL-MITCHELSON, P., Preston (two weeks.)

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Jan. 7, 14, 21, and Feb. 4, Lancs. or Yorks; March 4 and 11, North.
DICKIE CLARE, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Theatres for "The Prodigal Parson." Jan. 7 and Feb. 4, only spring vacancies. W. V. GARROD, Theatre Royal, York.

E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, Theatres, Xmas and New Year's Weeks, January 7 and 14 (North).
GEORGE DENHAM,
this, Prince's, Accrington; next, W. London.

"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, New Year's Week and Jan. 7, 14, for this great sporting play; piece better than ever; racehorses toured. Wire for this powerful attraction to F. G. KIMBERLEY, King's Theatre, Longsight; next, T. R., Sunderland.

"CINDERELLA."
WANTED, Feb. 4, only vacant date. Apply, H. A. JORDISON, St. James's Hall, M'chester.

"THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
WANTED, Dec. 3 and 24, 3 and 24.
Sixth year of tour.
Also, "THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
Either or both plays. Wire, LOIE ESMOND, T. R., Houghton; next, T. R., Shotton.

WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 17, Christmas, for "The Way of the World," Miss Sidney Crowe; racehorses travelled. SKARDON, to-day, Wednesbury; next, Rugby.

"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, with large holding capacity, Whit and August Bank Holiday weeks, for the Biggest Financial Success touring. Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

"THE TRAITOR."
E. HILL-MITCHELSON AND HARRIS FINEBERG'S CO. One of the finest productions touring.
WANTED, Dec. 17, 24. E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

"WOMAN AND WINE."
WANTED, Feb. 18, through transfer. E. VIVIAN EDMONDS, T. E., Sunderland, to-day; next, Blyth.

EDWARD MARRIS'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, for Pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe," Feb. 4.
Between Liverpool and Tyneside.
EDWARD MARRIS, Theatre Royal, Grantham.

"THE THRONE OF TERROR."
WANTED, Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31 (North), for this High-Class Costume Drama; Feb. 25 (Midlands); various Spring. MILLER, Cowdenbeath (two), Dunfermline (four).

"AN ACTOR'S ROMANCE."
WANTED, Jan. 7, 14, now booking Spring and Autumn, 1907. Address,
CHARLES DURIE, Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, No. 1 Theatre, North, Feb. 25, also March 18 (?), Mr. Wm. Mollison and representative company in a Répertoire of Plays, including "As You Like It," Mr. Mollison repeating his performance of Jaques, which created a furore during his season at St. James's Theatre. Address, SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO'S.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, New Year's Week, Dec. 31, for this great play, an ideal holiday attraction. Band of fifes, drums, and bugles, for parade. F. G. KIMBERLEY, King's, Longsight; next, T. R., Sunderland.

By arrangement with Mr. Wm. Greet,
"THE SHULAMITE,"
the entire production from the Savoy Theatre.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 24 and 31. Jan. 14, 28, and a few later dates. Apply, re dates, J. FRED WATSON, Victoria, Broughton, Manchester. Other communications, H. THEODORE, 25, St. Anne-street, Manchester.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Dec. 31, Jan. 7 and 14.
Enormous Success at Theatre Royal, Castleford.
As many laughs as a Pantomime.
HARRY FOXWELL, Theatre Royal, Batley.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
Sixty-fifth week of present Tour.
Booked and re-booked into Oct., 1907.
WANTED, Whit Week Midlands, March 25 (follow Jarrow), April 8.
FRANK AYRTON, Gaiety, Burnley (return).

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, MR. SAMUEL JAMES'S COMPANIES.
"AS GOOD AS GOLD."
Vacant dates March 11, 18, Sept. 16, 23.
"WHY WOMAN SINS."
Vacant Dec. 31, Sept. 16, 30.
Add., F. S. JENNINGS, Lyric O. H., Hammersmith.

THEATRES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, for JAMES KIDDIE'S
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomime,
"CINDERELLA,"
"CINDERELLA,"
"CINDERELLA,"
Vacant Jan. 21, Feb. 4, and onwards.
"ALADDIN."
"ALADDIN."
Vacant Feb. 18 (Midlands).
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Vacant Feb. 18 (Lancs. or Yorks.).
Address,
JAMES KIDDIE, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

"BLUEBELL IN FAIRYLAND."
Forty-Five in Company.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Jan. 14 (South), to oblige a Manager, and Easter.
Only Vacant Dates till Xmas, 1907.
E. GRAHAM-FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD'S COMPANIES.
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, on.
Good Theatres Wanted,
Good Theatres Wanted,
for this important Attraction.
for this important Attraction.
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
Everything Carried. Brilliant Company.
STUART CLEVELAND, 30, Victoria-street, Fleetwood.

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JACK HADDON'S
Gorgeous Pantomime,
"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK,"
"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK,"
Vacant Jan. 14, Feb. 4.
This Pantomime can be played twice nightly.
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JACK HADDON,
Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

Grand Xmas Production.
E. A'DELL AND CHABOT'S CO'S.
(The Name a Guarantee.)
"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR," by Eva Elwes, Vacant Jan. 28, Feb. 4, on. Special plant of printing, three tons of scenery, and a cast second to none touring.
"THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
WANTED, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, March 11, on. Wire, E. A'DELL, to-day, Bootle (third visit); next, Middleton (R.).

"SAPHO."
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WANTED, First-class Theatres, Dec. 24,
Jan. 21, 28.
Enormous success everywhere.
Wire Dec. 24. Wire.
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"OLIVER TWIST"
(By arrangement with Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree),
Feb. 4, March 18, Easter, and April 8.
"THE FOUR JUST MEN"
(By arrangement with H. A. Saintsbury),
Feb. 4, March 4, 18, and Easter.
WILLIAM MARTIN, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

EDWARD MARRIS'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Wanted, for
"The Orchid,"
possibly Dec. 26, four nights.
EDWARD MARRIS, Theatre Royal, Grantham.

"HER LOST SELF."
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH."
WANTED, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 28, Easter. Wire, to-day, FRANCES DELAVAL, T., Houghton-le-Spring; next, King's, Gainsborough.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 14, March 11.
HENRY L. OSMOND, Opera House, Weymouth.

ALLAN WILKIE,
Supported by
Mr. G. Alexander Marsh, Miss Carrie Baillie, Miss Ine Cameron, Miss Gertrude Gilbert.
The Strongest Shakespearean Company Touring the British Isles.
WANTED, Feb. 11 (three nights, South), April 29 (between Warrington and Harrogate), May 13 and 20 (North), May 27 (South), Good Theatre for Stock Season for four weeks, commencing June 10, Aug. 5, onwards, with exceptions.
Address, ALLAN WILKIE, Knightstone Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare.

HENRY E. LEIGH'S COMPANY.
"THE 'VARSITY BELLE."
WANTED, Xmas, New Year, and various Spring Dates, August Bank Holiday, on.
ANDREW W. SPENS, T. R., Portsmouth. See Companies Advertisement.

WANTED, Theatres for "A Heart's Desire," a Play of intense interest. Thanks R. C. Buchanan, Esq., for Contracts. Vacant Dec. 24 (Xmas week), Dec. 31 (New Year's week). A great Holiday Attraction. En route, or H. ELLIMAN, 5, Vernon-street, Dublin.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 10, 31, "For Better or Worse."
Wire, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, March 4, 18. FRED BULMER, Metropole Theatre, Devonport.

THE "APEX" ANIMATED AND TALKING PICTURE CO., with the CHRONOPHONE (Gaumont's patent),
The Greatest Wonder of the Age.
WANTED, Theatres, Music Halls, Halls, &c. Dates, Jan. 12, onward, with exceptions. Shares or certainty.

All communications to
GENERAL-MANAGER,
81, Victoria-avenue, Hull.

WANTED, Halls, Theatres, &c., Share or Rental, for Dec. 3, 10, and on, for The Anglo-American Variety Co., including Dakota, the great hypnotist, a sure draw; plenty of free outside shows to draw the public; a sensation in every town visited, supported by a Grand Star Company of First-Class Artists, including the Perfecta Electragraph, with the Latest and Best Animated Pictures, the finest company on the road. This week, Nelson Variety Hall, Nelson, Lancs. Booked for one week; stopped four. Refer Manager. Write or wire DAKOTA, Nelson Variety Hall, North-street, Nelson, Lancs.

WANTED, Jan. 28, 1907, one week. First-Class Theatres or Hippodromes, Share or Certainty, for Kellinos and Star Vaudeville Company. All coms.,
Hippodrome, London. Hippodrome, London.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Juvenile Lady, Tall Heavy Gentleman, Comedian, Character and Responsible Actors, Baggage and Wardrobe Mistress. All particulars, photographs, last two references, E. VIVIAN EDMONDS, Theatre Royal, Blyth.

WANTED, First-class, Young, Pretty, Powerful Juvenile Leading Lady; Heavy Gentleman, capable character and juveniles; open Christmas, sketches, London; Good Comedian, Dec. 10; a few Amateur Ladies, walking on. Write, FRED G. BROOKE, 55, Ridley-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, for Musical Sketch, Soubrette, Two Good Low Comedians, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, commence Christmas. Letters only. OPERETTA SYNDICATE, 26, Agate-road, W.

WANTED, to rehearse Monday, Dec. 10, 1906, smart and pretty Mezzo-Soprano, Soubrette, petite, fair, one used to concerted items and duets preferred; must be able to act in sketches (juveniles). Must be able to come to Ilkley early in December. Fare paid. Apply, ROBERTSON, Pavilion, Ilkley.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"THE TRAITOR."

WANTED, First-Class Leading Lady, young, pretty, and dress well.
References and photographs.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

WANTED, A1 Comedian, for Sketch, long tour; also Intense Miser Actor. Send photo., particulars, where at present can be seen playing. Apply, letter, 122, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Lady, for Special Week, Dec. 10, who has played Lady Sneerwell, Lady Capulet, Jessica, &c. Apply, ALLAN WILKIE, Knightstone Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, Clever Child Actress, for important part in Dramatic Sketch, rehearse London immediately, special week, Dec. 3. If suitable long engagement. Full particulars, height, appearance, age, parts played, photo., &c. Interview by appointment only. Address, JESSIE M. LYONS, Prince's Theatre, Poplar, E.

"THE CONSCRIPT."

WANTED, Sound Leading Man, for strong romantic part; also Child Actress (look ten, must be fourteen); can arrange joint. Photos., lowest terms, &c., to Mrs. F. W. CLIVE, this, Luton; next, Carlton, Birmingham.

WANTED, for "Her Lost Self" and "Biggest Scamp" a Gent. to play Wilfred Daventry and Biggest Scamp; clever, tall. FRANCES DELAVAL, Theatre, Houghton-le-Spring. Mon., King's, Gainsborough.

"PRIEST OF THE TEMPLE."

WANTED, Gentleman, for Heavy Lead, Robust Old Man, Juvenile Lady.
CHARLES MARCH, Opera House, Northampton.

WANTED, a thoroughly good Leading Gentleman, must be young, used to stock. Apply, with terms. Also Variety Artists write.—J. O. HAYES, People's Theatre, Taunton, Somerset.

WANTED, First-Class Gentlemanly Heavy Man, for Sketch, "Monte Carlo," few Comedy lines; town only; one known to the Music Halls preferred. Letters only, Mrs. GEORGE DAVENTRY, 5, Victoria-mansions, Holloway, N.

WANTED, Responsible Actor, for Special Week, Dec. 3, rehearse Dec. 1. Lowest terms, &c., to E. HOGGAN-ARMADALE, Exchange Theatre, Wellingborough.

MR. SAMUEL JAMES'S COMPANIES.

WANTED, First-Class Tall Character Man, Carpenter, to play small Comedy Part.
Add., F. S. JENNINGS, Lyric Q. H., Hammersmith.

WANTED, good Juvenile Gentleman, capable of Heavies. Lowest terms, photos., and references, to HENRY L. OSMOND, Theatre, Bordoncamp, Hants.

WANTED, Heavy Character Gentleman ("Cripple Creek"). Rehearse Dec. 10. Terms, height, references, parts played. MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, London.

WANTED, Gentleman, for Juvenile Lead; if suitable, long tour. Address, with full particulars, height, age, &c., WHITBREAD, Queen's T., Dublin.

WANTED, Smart Character Comedian, who can be intense, funny, and refined, long engagement, London, good modern wardrobe, study, appearance. All particulars, lowest terms, photo., LEONARD MORTIMER, 162, Clapham-road, S.W.

WANTED, good Hebrew Dialect Comedian, must be tall and of the Hebrew persuasion.
Apply,
BARNARD'S Agency, 24, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Good Contralto Vocalist for Tour, young and refined, with good répertoire.
Apply by letter to Prof. VOORZANGER,
61, Warwick-avenue, Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, a few smart young Ladies, no previous experience necessary, no fees. Send photo., which will be returned immediately if not suitable. Mr. G. LEONARD, 101, Trinity-road, Upper Tooting.

WANTED, tall Young Ladies, of smart appearance; must have exceptionally good singing voices; also Violin Soloist, who is clever musical Director. Long guaranteed engagement in America.
Address, JESSE L. LASKY, c/o Marinelli Agency,
29A, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C.

WANTED, for Tour, Male and Female Choristers, must have good voices, and be of good appearance. Apply, 3.30, Tuesday,
Daly's Theatre.

WANTED, deep Second Bass, for celebrated Quartette, bookings unequalled; first-class engagement for first-class man. Address, M. HENRY, 38, Holland-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Smart Ladies, for Pantomime Chorus and Show Ladies; also Principals and Comedians. Photos. and full particulars to GROSSMAN and ALTMAN, 40, Lisle-street, Leicester-square.

WANTED, Smart Lady Dancers, First-Class Engagement, open at once. Call Saturday, 11 to 3. FRANK PERRY, 71, York-rd., Waterloo-rd., S.E.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

JAMES KIDDIE'S PANTOMIMES.
"ALADDIN," "CINDERELLA,"
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Season 1906-7.

WANTED, Artists engaged for above to send addresses for the next two weeks to JAMES KIDDIE, Caen Villa, Highfield-road, Widnes.

WANTED, Arthur Carlton's Pantomimes.—Will Artists engaged kindly send their measurements, also addresses for next two weeks? ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

"BABES IN THE WOOD."
"BABES IN THE WOOD."

WANTED, First-Class Principal Girl,
Handsome Fairy Queen,
Smart, Clever Dame,
Handsome Second Boy.
Send immediately full particulars, photos., absolute lowest terms, and say where can be seen working during next week, or call between 11 and 4, Mr. G. SINCLAIR, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Second Boy, Fairy Queen, Comedians, Trios, Quartettes, Dame, Baron, and Wardrobe Mistress. GEO. AYTOUN, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E. 'Phone 1949 Hop.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, all Lines, Responsible Actors, Knockabout Comedians, &c., short run, North London. VALENTINE, 8, Dean-street, Oxford-street, London.

WANTED, for London Pantomime, Chorus Ladies, with good voices; must be tall and young. Apply immediately, F. DARRELL and Co., 415, Strand.

WANTED, Fairy Queen. Send photos., age, names, and addresses of last two references. ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Known, vacancy has arisen in First-class "Cinderella" Pantomime in the North of England for Second Broker's Man, who must be able to understudy Ugly Sisters. Lowest terms and references.
Box 4,032, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Florence Leonard, High-class Vocalist, Vacant Pantomime, Fairy Queen. Renderings of a Scotch medley and "The Carnival" speedily make her an immense favourite.—The Stage, Oct. 18, '06. This, Hippo., Sheerness; next, c/o FORTUNE and GRANVILLE, 115, Strand.

WANTED, by Wynnie Darrell, Dainty Comedienne and Dancer, engagement, as principal girl; good voice and appearance. Communications, GEORGE F. SLATTER, Walthamstow Palace, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Monday next, Marie Leonard, Refined Up-to-date Soubrette, Liberty Panto., Second Boy or Girl. Wire, Empire Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, good Panto. offer by Marie Gerrard, last season played Princ. Boy with "Sinbad" Co. Perm., 65, Gordon-road, Aldershot.

WANTED, Known, Miss Bessie Frank, Disengaged, principal girl, sketches, &c. Refer, Mr. J. H. Savile, Mr. J. Gar Kiddie. Address, T. R., Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Ailsa Douglas, the popular Vocalist, at Liberty for Principal Girl or Fairy Queen. 206 Lambeth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Proprietors to know, J. W. Rowley is at Liberty for Pantomime, Comedian or Dame. Address, Lynton House, Durand-gardens, Clapham-road, S.W.

WANTED, Ballet and Chorus, for three young ladies, singers and dancers; also employment as usher or cloak-room attendant. Apply to SECRETARY, Ladies' Music Hall Guild, 69, Primrose-mansions, Battersea Park.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Victor Vernon, Principal Comedian, four seasons Theatre Royal, Plymouth. Address, 69, Cranworth-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Bob Baxter, Liberty Panto., dame preferred, last two seasons R. Arthur, Esq. Address, Crown and Cushion, Leicester.

WANTED, for Panto., Animal Parts; Goose a Speciality; have own skin. J. ARTHUR, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, by Denby and Dent, Pantomime.
Address, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Barrett and Knowles, at Liberty for Panto. Reasons for being so, Last year Theatre Royal, Glasgow; year previous Alex. Theatre, Birmingham. Refer to Fred Wyndham, Esq., or Lester Collingwood, Esq. Address, Palace, Manchester, or BLACKMORE.

WANTED, Panto., by Bodey Bros., Triple Bar Gymnasts, Speciality and Small Parts. Com., 10, Fillwood-road, Fishponds, Bristol; or Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Frank Keegan and Co., Funniest Knockabout Act on the Road, at Liberty for Panto., Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21. Com., 8, Somerleyton-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Pantomime, Electric Flying Ballet,
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WANTED, Pantomime Engagements for
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Managers in want of a smart, up-to-date Troupe of Expert Step and Acrobatic Dancers communicate at once, or call and see same.

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SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

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WANTED, for Theatres Royal, Stockport and Ashton-under-Lyne, two good, quick Scenic Artists, provide own brushes. Apply, with copies of recent references and lowest terms,
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WANTED, Scenic Artist, to Commence at Once, for pantomime production; also re-paint stock; own brushes. ALFRED SELWYN, Empire Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, Quick Scenic Artist, start immediately, one week. Particulars, PAYNE REYNOLDS, Palace Theatre, West Hartlepool.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

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WANTED, Known, S. Beltram open to receive Contracts, large or small, Touring Scenery re-painted; salary or contract. Address, c/o Waterloo Hotel, Liverpool.

WANTED, Contracts, Every Description of Scenery. Compare terms, models free. Work guaranteed. SCENIC CO., W. B. Bostock, Rumford-st., C.-on-M., Manchester.

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WANTED, Contracts for Bright, Effective Scenery, at lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio (W. B. ROBINSONI, 170, King's-road, S.W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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Address full particulars,
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WANTED, Panto. Sketch Producer, with own script, two weeks, open Dec. 24, probably longer; also cheap panto. artists, chorus ladies, good quartette. Those Manchester district write, MANAGER, 152A, Oxford-road, Manchester.

To Music Hall Agents.

WANTED, First-Class well-known Agent, for Young Baritone, trained with exceptional range, late Musical Comedy, Halls, &c, reliable turn, not a dud; will give good bonus to well-known Agent that can book. First instance, W. A., Box 4,019, "The Era."

WANTED, Agent in Advance and good Carpenter, both thoroughly used to Fit-up work. Age, references, lowest terms, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, good Electrician, accustomed to making stage effects. Send last two references, lowest terms, and age, to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, HULL.

WANTED, Stage Carpenter, practical man, good worker, permanency. Write, stating previous engagements, references, age, salary, and if married. GEORGE MORTON.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, a good Stage Carpenter, accustomed to Window Billing, with own tools, one with knowlegde of electricity preferred, must be a strict disciplinarian. Apply, with photo. if possible, age and full particulars, with last two references, which will be applied for. GEORGE E. MUDD, Manager, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

WANTED, good reliable Carpenter, for Tour; own tools. State age, experience, last two references, and salary, HARRY BATTERSBY, T. R., Bilston.

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WANTED, Known, Resident-Manager Disengaged shortly, seeks an engagement, resident or touring, over 17 years' experience in both; thoroughly conversant in bar management, &c., &c. Exceptional references. Address, "THEATRICAL," c/o Manager, Tavistock Hotel, London, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement for Gentleman, as Manager in Music Hall or Circus, thoroughly experienced and capable of taking entire charge; sober and reliable; excellent testimonials. Full particulars by applying to SECRETARY, Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 69, Primrose-mansions, Battersea Park.

WANTED, Engagement, as Stage-Manager or Carpenter, in Theatre or Music Hall, own tools; twenty years' experience; age 39; good refs. W. HARWOOD, Stage-Manager, Pavilion, Glasgow.

WANTED, Re-engagement by thoroughly experienced Manager, Theatre or Music Hall, Touring or Resident; excellent references. Box 4,029, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by young Gentleman, Clerk, as Assistant in Agency or Managing business; small premium if required. Full particulars address, Box 4,023, "The Era."

WANTED, Re-engagement as Advance Agent or Manager, just finished most successful tour. Highest references. B., 9, Auckland-road, Kingston, Surrey.

WANTED, Known, George Yates, Advance Agent, smart, reliable, excellent window biller, thoroughly experienced; good refs.; vacant Nov. 26. Write, G.P.O., Glastonbury, Somerset.

WANTED, by Advertiser (32), thoroughly experienced, at present for 12th year managing successful billposting business in city of 200,000, seeks similar situation; smaller town not objected to. Undeniable references. Write for full particulars in first instance, Box 4,048, "The Era."

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WANTED, Wardrobe Mistress; must be capable of cutting out and making; to start at once.
ALFRED SELWYN, Empire Theatre, Hull.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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WANTED, Musical-Director, Pianist, for Fit-up Tour. Fullest particulars, with last three references, to
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WANTED, Leader, Violin; also Cornet, Piano, Clarionet, and Drums.
Address,
MANAGER,
G.P.O., Spennymoor, Co. Durham.

WANTED, First-class Leader, A.M.U., Brilliant Violinist, open Monday, Dec. 3. Apply, with terms M. D., Hippodrome, Hull.

WANTED, Conductor-Pianist, First-class, for Pantomime, to join about Dec. 17. Salary references, and age, to DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Xmas, Pianist-Conductor. Age, references, lowest terms, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First Violin and Cornet, for Touring Trades Exhibition (band of five); join next week. Permanency to good, sober, and steady men. References and terms to MANAGER, Trades Exhibition, Town Hall, Hexham.

WANTED, First and Second Violins, Viola, and Clarionet, Variety experience indispensable. Apply, stating lowest terms and refs., to AUGUSTE DENTON, Mus.-Dir., Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy, S. Wales.

WANTED, Monday next, First Violinist, used to Variety Business. Evening dress. Terms, &c., T. A. EDWARDES, Palace Theatre, Derby.

WANTED, at once, for Panto. Season, two First Violins, also 'Cello, only first-rate men need apply to ALFRED CARPENTER, Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, DUNDEE.
Managing-Direcor, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR.

WANTED, for six weeks, commencing Dec. 17, capable First Violin and Viola Players. Apply, with terms, &c., to H. EVERITT LOSEBY, Musical-Director.

WANTED, thoroughly good and competent Cornetist; must be able to play all Grand Operas, &c. Terms and references to J. H. CURRY, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby. Open all the year round.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, for Palace, Bath; experienced Variety business; open Dec. 3. Age, terms, &c., ANDREWS, 21, New King-st., Bath.

WANTED, Solo Cornet. Herbert Williams please send address. F. WILLIAMS, 18, Livingstone-road, Bath.

WANTED, Good Cornet and Bombardon, for pitching, shares, join at once. Address, MANAGER, 3, Leslie-grove, East Croydon.

WANTED, Second Clarionet, for Tour; must be used to Grand Opera. Open Dec. 3rd. Terms, references, &c., to Box 4,026, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Clarionet, to Double String.
ALEX. CORRISON,
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Penzance Military Band.

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WANTED, to Open immediately, Trombone Soloist, D Bass, and Flute and Piccolo; must wear evening dress and assist fittings.
Long engagement to the suitable men.
Apply, POOLE, Town Hall, Lewes.

WANTED, to complete Band for Pitching, Horn, Trombone Euphonium, Bombardon; steady workers only. JAMES, 15, Lower Draytonplace, Croydon, Surrey.

WANTED, Three Good 'Cellists, Two Solo Violinists, One Violinist and Pianist combined for White Star Mediterranean Service. Musical Duties only; second-class accommodation. One First-class Pianist and Flautist, for Cunard Service. Mr. C. W. BLACK, 19, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class 'Cellist, for above Variety business; good Viola write in. Terms and refs. Apply, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Palace Theatre, Cork.

WANTED, 'Cello; must be young, smart, and experienced in variety business. Write full particulars to CONDUCTOR, Empire T., Coventry.

WANTED, good Flute and Clarionet, must be thoroughly used to Variety business. Apply, with latest references and terms, to GLEGHORN, 5, Glenthorne-road, Roker, Sunderland.

WANTED,
Piano, Violin,
'Cello, and Clarionet,
for R.M.S. Ormuz;
Light Duties.
BANDMASTER,
14, Brook-road, St. Margaret's, Twickenham.

WANTED, Pianist, 'Cellist, and First Violin (ladies), for permanency. Only experienced, good player should apply; young, good appearance essential. Box 4,049, "The Era."

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM, LTD.

WANTED, experienced and reliable Drummer, with own Tympani, open Dec. 10. State terms, references, and full particulars. Also vacancy for First-Class Violinist. GEORGE BURNLEY, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Double Drummer, with all effects; must be good tympanist, and experienced, open Monday. WORSWICK, Hippo., Wigan.

RHYL, N. WALES.

WANTED, by the Rhyl Urban District Council, a Band of not less than thirteen members and a vocalist, to perform in the town and on the Promenades during the Summer Season of 1907, from Whitsuntide to the end of Sept. Vocalist to be changed every week from the middle of July to the end of Sept. The Band must depend on collections and voluntary subscriptions, with a subsidy by the Council of £150, who will also provide a Bandstand and Chairs. For further particulars apply to the undersigned. Offers to be sent in not later than Dec. 20.

ARTHUR ROWLANDS,
Clerk to the Council.

Council Offices,
Rhyl.
Nov. 23, 1906.

WANTED, First-Class Uniformed Brass Band, thirty performers, for Sweden, May 15, Sept. 15. Forward photos. GUISE, 27, Bonham-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Full Orchestra, for Palace Theatre of Varieties, East Ham.
MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Box 4,042, "The Era."

GRAND CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL, PAVILION, CARNARVON, NORTH WALES.

WANTED, Small Band. Wilton Russell write, if disengaged. Address, JAMES W. BOSTOCK, Barton-street, Gloucester.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, Violinist, Disengaged, Composer of Music "Silver King," &c. Pantomimes arranged. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, First-Class Musical-Director at Liberty; brilliant Violinist; Variety business preferred. C. Fox, 35, Heathcote-street, Hanley, Staffs.

WANTED, by First-class Musical Director, Engagement in Theatre or Music Hall. Highest references. Box 4,022, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, experienced variety, dram. bus. A. PARISI, 106, Kenbury-street, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement as Leader, Theatre or Music Hall; good refs.; Disengaged Dec. 24. E. BURROWS, 3, Pound-villas, Banstead, Surrey.

WANTED, Re-engagement by Smart Young Pianist-Conductor (arranger), Theatre or Music Hall. HENRI ROCHELLE, c/o Burbridge, 22, Knowle-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Known, Miss Elsie West, Violinist, to Open for Engagements, Concerts, At Homes, &c. Lessons given. 17, Pyrland-road Highbury New Park.

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second Violin, in Orchestra; steady and reliable. Write, J. A. FRAY, 1, Banksfields-rd., Mytholmroyd, Yorks.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Violinist, experienced, solo and orchestra, combined, piano accompanist. Refs. Miss KATE HUSBAND, 4, Lansdowne-street, Hove.

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second Violin, in Orchestra; steady and reliable. Write H. FOREMAN, 29, Ilderton-road, Rotherhithe.

WANTED, Engagement, as reliable First or Second Cornet, can join at once. Address, C. BURROWS, 7, Stone-street, Hastings.

WANTED, Known, Cornet, young man, fair knowledge of music, height 5ft. 9½in., wishes join Police Band. Address, 68, St. Paul's-road, Salisbury.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, through closing Pier Pavilion, any Bus.; good refs. H. HART, 25, Sidney-road, Southport.

WANTED, by experienced Clarionet, Engagement, any business, reliable, abstainer; would deputise, London or Suburbs. SHEEHAN, 11, Pelham-street, South Kensington.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced Double Bass Player, Theatre or Variety; first-class references. G. Fox, 134, Queen's Park-rd., Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, through closing Pier Pavilion. High refs. Any Business. W. SAWYER, 24, Manning-road, Southport.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombone, Theatre or Music Hall, or Deputising.
W. GOFF, 111, Upper Kennington-lane, S.E.

WANTED, Engagements, as Bass-Tuba, guaranteed capability and experience with the Leading Orchestras, including New Brighton Tower; deputising; distance no object. W. BANNISTER-LOUGHLEN, 2, St. Michael's-place, The Saltisford, Warwick.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, Known, First-Class 'Cellist, open for Engagements, town only. Address, Box 4,036, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Oboe. Open for Panto. or Variety Business. WEBB, 75, Newington-butts, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Æneas Gibson, First-class Harpist and Pianist, immediate Engagement; young; travel abroad if preferred; reliable, sober. 164, Roundhay-road, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Maud Estlin Grundy, age 19, Harpist; brilliant Soloist. All letters, 7, Provost-rd., Hampstead, London, N.W.

WANTED, by experienced Lady Harpist, Engagement for Panto. or Xmas Production. Box 4,018, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, London Theatre, or business; long references London; thoroughly reliable. PENFOLD, 74, Kenninghall-road, Lower Clapton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo, young, steady, and reliable; good ref.
FLAUTIST, 9, Garden-walk, Bridlington.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced Flautist, used to any business, Theatre or Music Hall preferred; good refs. Box 4,040, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady, as Accompanist, London or Tour. 39, Chelsham-rd., Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Musical Graduate seeks post as Pianist or Conductor; fully experienced. Address, Mr. D. DAVIDSON, 2, Wintour-street, Leeds.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by good Variety Pianist, any reliable Engagement, large or small, conduct and arrange; long experience and absolutely reliable, gentlemanly. LORENZO LEWIS, 3, Market-st., Exmouth, Devon.

WANTED, by Good Pianist, situation in Orchestra or upon Boat; fine reader, good soloist, first-class references from Union-Castle Line and Royal Mail Line as Conductor and Pianist; also Music Hall references. With good répertoire. Address, CHARLES KEETON, Red Lion, Costock, Notts.

WANTED, Engagement, by N. Robinson, Pianist, any Bus.; good reader, steady, reliable, excellent refs.; exper. var., drama. Bus. 227, Bowling Back-lane, Bradford, Yorks.

WANTED, Engagement, by well-known Pianist, London or suburbs; 10 years' experience London Halls. PIANIST, 37, Morgan-street, Bow, E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drums, deputising or permanent; can open at once. A. EASOM, 16, Stonebridge-road, South Tottenham, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by steady, reliable Double Drummer; thoroughly experienced; Variety preferred; good refs. A. F. LILLE, 93, Queen's-road, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Engagement, as Drums and Effects, experienced, any business, can combine viola or second violin. CHAPMAN, 140, Hampton-rd., Southport.

WANTED the Shakespearean Ladies' Orchestra (Viennese), copyright registered Stationers' Hall, twenty-two (or less) performers, magnificent costumes; highest criticisms. Conductor, Miss GASCOYNE OLD, 238, Edgware-road, London.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington. Bookings Johannesburg, Jan. to Dec. Quartet now Disengaged.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

WANTED, Big Novelties in all Lines, at once and future dates; also Wanted, the Talent of the World; Riders, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Clowns, and Startling Sensations, for King Ohmy's Grand New Circus, which will open for the season in the town of Hyde, Lancashire, Dec. 24, 1906. All Artists must state when last appeared in the above towns. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Circus, Barrow-in-Furness.

TUDOR'S HIPPODROME, BLYTH.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Big Combinations, with Singing Pictures preferred, Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, and 17; new stage, 22 by 46. Address as above.

POOL AND BOSCO'S CIRCUS, LTD.

WANTED, for Circus, Aldershot, Dec. 3, on. Artists in all Lines, including good Comedy Acts, Strong Shows, Cinématograph Pictures, Animal Shows, Riders, &c., &c. Nothing too good. Lowest terms. Bosco, Circus, Aldershot.

WANTED, Big Circus Acts and Novelties, for Hengler's Circus.
Apply,
HUMPHREY E. BRAMMALL, Hengler's, Argyll-st., W.

WANTED, a Top Man (about 8st.), for Two Acrobats, to play also Comedy for Acrobatic Sketch. Box 4,031, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Boy,
about 8st,
one with slight knowledge of gymnastics preferred.
All information first letter,
Box 4,045,
"The Era."

WANTED, Legmania, Posturer. State height, age, salary, photo. if possible, FRED WOOD, General Post Office, Liverpool.

WANTED, smart Triple Bar Performer, to open at once. State tricks and particulars,
Box 4,034, "The Era."

WANTED, a Top Mounter, at once, for well-known Acrobats. E. STARLING, 57, Fortess-road, Kentish Town, London.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known.—Notice to Proprietors, Managers, and Agents, Jackles and his Savage Brutes. Something New and Novel. A success every town we visit; 2½ years with Bostock and Wombwell's Great Shows through South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, &c. At liberty about the middle of February, 1907. 77, North-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Jan. 28, for three weeks only,
the refined John Scott Family
of male and female Equestrians, &c.,
five in number (one lady and four gents.),
including Poor Billy, the King of the Ring.
For particulars, lithos., &c., address,
12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, John Irvin and Miss Pinder will be at Liberty Dec. 3, with Six Bareback Acts, with own Horse, Riding Dog, and Flight of Pigeons, including my Foot Equilibrist show.
For terms, address, IRVIN,
144, High-street, Deptford, London.

WANTED, Happy Armstrong, Lightning Pyramid Drummer, Instrumentalist, Comic Patterer, Liberty Monday, onwards, exceptions, thanks to Richardson Bros. for contract, Olympia, Sunderland, Third Return. Wire, 40, Aspinall-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, Musical Eccentric, has just finished with Tom Foy's Company of Comedians; have left on my own accord. This week, Grand, Stockton; next week, Nov. 26, Gilbert's Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Les Steckels, Refined Gymnastic Speciality, specially retained this week longer by Payne Seddon, Esq., Opera House, Londonderry, usual success. Monday, Hippodrome, Stalybridge. Agent, STEBB, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Bodey Bros., Triple Bar Gymnasts. This, Empire, Merthyr; next, Palace, Portsmouth. Write for Dec. 3, 10, 17.

WANTED, Monday, also Dec. 3, the Maros, quaintest three-bar act. Big success, Public Hall, Barnsley. Perm., 126, Porter-street, Hull.

WANTED, Monday next, Miss Myria Lo-La, the beautiful and marvellous lady gymnast. Wire, LO-LA, 32, Victoria-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Nov. 26, one week only, Alex and Jolly, first-class comedy three-bar act.
Wire, ALEX, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Ariel and Astarte, Lady and Gentleman, Gymnastic Pot-Pourri Act, free Dec. 10, 17; also New Year's week, North. Address, Hippo., Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Dec. 3, to follow Worthing, Queenie Lolo, Charming Lady Gymnast; also Little May, Graceful Contortionist and Speciality Dancer; two distinct Acts. Address, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

WANTED, Known, Four Zolas, Lightning and Herculean Acrobats and Tumblers; also the Brothers Alpine, on the High Perch; just finished 9 months' tour, at Liberty Nov. 26 and onwards, also for Panto. Animal Parts and Speciality. 40, Tiverton-road, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, Dec. 17, 24, only vacant dates, Mayeno Troupe, two ladies, two gents., Gymnasts, Acrobats, Tight Wire, three distinct numbers, comedy or serious. Perm., 30, Gt. George-st., Belfast.

WANTED, Dec. 3, for the Great Martelloni Troupe of Acrobats, through obliging a manager. Wire, Palace, Sunderland; next, Derby.

WANTED, Known, Almero, Aerial Norwegian Spar and Wire Act, Vacant for Xmas season, two reliable acts. Permanent, 142 Parnhead-road, St. Peter's Park, Paddington, London.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Proprietors to see Harry Formosa, Equilibrist and Club Manipulator, in a Refined Novelty Act, at Liberty Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24. Apply, 53, Victoria-road, Grangetown, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, good all-round Tumbler, wishes to join Tumbling Troupe or Comedy Sketch. GROGANS, 36, Ardgowan-place, Kingston, S.S. Glasgow.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for the Opening of the Coventry New Hippodrome,
Variety Artists
of every Description,
Big Productions,
Military and Equestrians,
Spectacles, Ballets, Pantomimes,
scenes with 100 or more people taking part,
in fact,
the very cream of every branch of entertainment,
fit to be exhibited on a
First-class Variety Stage.

Any price paid to right class of talent.

A comfortable engagement,
no outside interference,
and, above all,
no commissions stopped.

Apply, with terms, &c.,
T. M. SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, London, W.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Nothing too big. Send full particulars, with lithos. (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Dec. 3, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Dec. 3, onward.
WM. B. BROADHEAD, Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Big Numbers and Artists in all Lines, new to Wigan (Hippo.), one week, May 27, 1907. Summer terms.
Leo Vincent, ventriloquist, communicate at once.
JOE WALDRON, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines, for Dec. 10, 17, 24, and onwards.
SITES, LIMITED, 213, Piccadilly, W.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
General-Manager, H. L. SKIVINGTON.

WANTED, Star Artists in all Lines. Nothing too big.
Salary or Share.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists for Glasgow Concerts. Lowest terms and permanent address to the SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-st., Glasgow.

"CHESTER'S."
P. L. CHESTER (late Chester's Agency Limited).
30, Fennel-street,
Manchester.

WANTED, First-class Artists.
Correspondence invited.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines,
Palace, Lancaster.
J. FELL, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, only dates vacant until end Jan. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists for Dec. 3, must be new to Sandgate. Lowest Combination terms.
HICKS, 2, Aliwal-road, Clapham Junction.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Ballad Vocalist, &c., Dec. 10, 17. Lowest combination terms, DALE, Theatre Metropole, Hoyland.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, to Open Monday, Nov. 26, long tour, near Glasgow preferred. DUNLOP, 32, Victoria-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Artists wishing to be Booked for First-Class Music Hall Engagements, to please communicate with BROOKS'S Agency 36, Shaftesbury avenue, W.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, nothing too big, commencing Saturday, Dec. 15, and every Saturday onwards. Artists can work their London engagements same time. Write VICTOR W. ROWE, 28, Herbert-road, Stockwell, S.W.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, for 3 weeks, Lancashire, Dec. 10, 17, and 24.
EVANS, 55, Berwick-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Dec. 3 and on.
GEO. SAPHRINI, Palace, Boston.
Will Ahrensmeyer wire address?

WANTED, Artists coming North for immediate and later dates, write at once, big and small Specialities, also big Sensational Stage Act write at once. Artists writing to me for one price and proprietor for another save stamps. 'Phone 234Y5 Tron. DREW BAYLEY, 179, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Empire Palace, Dover, and the Alhambra, Sandgate. FRED DURHAM'S Variety Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Telephone 15, Brixton.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, for Scotland, immediate dates. ANDERSON'S Agency, 6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Good Sisters and Serios. Send lithos., &c., SAM LEE, 48, Howland-street, Fitzroy-square, W.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Dec. 3 and onwards.
MANAGER, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Always send
DALTON'S AGENCY. House Address as well
DALTON'S AGENCY. as Theatre.
DALTON'S AGENCY. A feature in connection
DALTON'S AGENCY. with this Agency will be
DALTON'S AGENCY. Artists Vacant "Monday
DALTON'S AGENCY. next," also "Artists Vacant
DALTON'S AGENCY. Immediate Dates," and Art-
DALTON'S AGENCY. ists are requested to post
DALTON'S AGENCY. me if open Monday next,
DALTON'S AGENCY and mention at same time
DALTON'S AGENCY. any immediate vacancies;
DALTON'S AGENCY. but "Monday next" being
DALTON'S AGENCY. a feature in the future, a
DALTON'S AGENCY. penny stamp may mean a
DALTON'S AGENCY. shop. Please note to always
DALTON'S AGENCY send private address where
DALTON'S AGENCY. staying in the respective
DALTON'S AGENCY. towns for early delivery of
DALTON'S AGENCY. telegrams. Tele., "Gran-
DALTON'S AGENCY. beste Withington," Tele-
DALTON'S AGENCY. phone, 193 Didsbury. 29,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Mauldeth-road West, With-
DALTON'S AGENCY. ington, Manchester.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL, PAISLEY.
WANTED, Known, the Proprietor having decided to close the above Hall after Saturday, Dec. 8, intimates to Artists that all Contracts made by present manager are hereby cancelled.

WANTED, Known, Alhambra, Edinburgh, Call Monday, Les Valdos, Andy Burn, Mlle. Bartenelli, Three Royal Temples, Mark Antony, Wallie Gilbert, Alhambrascope, Boultone.

WANTED, for Dec. 3, 10, and 17,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
State Towns at Liberty for.
Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, Dec. 24, onwards. Terms, &c., EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone, 09261. Wires, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Stars, Big Numbers, Anything Big, Anything that can draw, Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, 17, onwards. I can book you not only odd weeks, but First-class Tours. Wire or write, with full particulars.
JESS VERNO'S Agency, 16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal. Will Drum and Major please wire address.

WANTED, Star Turns,
Immediate and Future Dates,

GEORGE PEARSON'S Agency,
6, Dunstan-road, Honor Oak, S.E.

WANTED, Middle Turns, for Norway, Sweden, and Denmark, great vacancy; must be seen. GUISE, 27, Bonham-road, Brixton. Appointment only.

EMPIRE and GRAND THEATRE, DONCASTER.
WANTED, the Greatest Acts in the Profession, Speciality, Comedy Acts, for Dec. 10, '06, and onwards; must have full booking in all cases. Send lithos. and particulars to LEO FRITZ, Agent, Barnard's Music Hall, Chatham.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly.

WANTED, all Dec, onwards, for South and North Wales, South Coast, Sunderland, Variety Acts all Lines. Full Bookings, permanent address, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Telegrams, "Fêtes, Bristol." Telephone 2536X Nat.

WANTED, Known, any Star Acts who have odd weeks vacant should send list of vacancies to FRANK LYNNE, 12, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W. (AYTOUN'S Agency.)

WANTED, Cycle Acts, Bioscopes, &c.
T. DIACOFF,
Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, co. Durham.

WANTED, for Keighley Institute, Yorkshire, for week commencing Jan. 7, Refined Artistic Novel Acts, that can be done on a small stage, Humorist, Smart Juggler, Vent. Conjurer, &c., &c., anything new and good, new to Keighley and attentive to business. State terms and all particulars, with private address, to CHARLES CLIFFORD, c/o Mrs. Melrose, 6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow, and please accept silence as a polite negative pro tem.

WANTED, Big Specialities for Hippodrome, Cambridge, now opening at popular prices and under the management of Royle and Mervin. Write or wire.

WANTED, Good Speciality, Long Tour, musical, jugglers, or acrobatic, open Dec. 17, '06. Send fullest particulars, W. PARDOE, Theatre, Middleton, Lancs.

WANTED, Specialities, Specialities, now and onward, now and onward. MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

DEETRICH'S VAUDEVILLE BUREAU,
31, Islington, Liverpool.
WANTED, big Speciality, for Dec. 3, price no object; also strong singing number.
Always vacancies for clever novelties.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, Variety Talent, Share or Salary. Rehearsal Monday next, 2 o'clock for Dainez' Circus, Three Seabornes, Sisters Volbecque, T. C. Jacques, Will Memory, The Camerons, Leo Fallowfield, Vernon's Bioscope.
Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wiggles worth's Agency, late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c., 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester

WANTED, the Cream of Profession. Those new to London can have a trial show. Send lithos., memos., and bookings, lowest terms, &c. Keep me posted every week. Many thanks to Henri Gros for giving Lily Arthur two dates at the Metropolitan, and two at Chelsea, also Parisian offer, 1,200fr. Sauteron. BILLY HENDERSON, seen by appointment only. Manager, Frank Lantin. 30, Handforth-road, Brixton-road London.

HIPPODROME, LOUGHBOROUGH.
WANTED, Good Tops, for Feb. 4, and on.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Hippodrome, Londonderry.

HIPPODROME, DERRY.
Call Monday, Nov. 26, at 12 o'clock,
"The Vagabonds," Mlle. Asturte, The Cosmans, Brown and Spink, The Leonards, Garden's Quintette, The Sisters Virginia, Bioscope, Morton and Bowman. W. PAYNE SEDDON.

WANTED, Top of Bill, for Dec. 3 and 10; also good Singing Turns.
Address, WILL ONDA, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

WANTED, big Top Liners, for Hull, Wakefield, &c.; also other turns, Dec. 10 and on. Full particulars to ALFRED SELWYN, Empire Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Joe Haynes takes possession of the George, Newington Butts, Wednesday next, 28th, at 7. P.S.—Always can place Big Top or Bottom Lines. Passmores write.

BOGNOR PIER PAVILION.—SEASON 1907.
WANTED, Known.—The Bognor Urban District Council are prepared to receive Tenders for the Provision of Concert Parties and Band on the Pier for next season, from Whitsuntide to end of September. Particulars of the Council's requirements may be obtained on application to F. W. LOVETT, Council Offices, Bognor. Applications will only be considered from responsible Managers or Bandmasters willing to contract for the whole period, and individual performers need not apply.

WANTED, First-class Combination, Dec. 24,
vacant through obliging.
Address, ELLISTON, Bolton.

JOHN H. TOMKINSON'S ROYAL GIPSY CO.
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WANTED, through artists leaving for Panto., really good Comedians, Refined Serios, Sisters, and Contralto Vocalist. Long and comfortable engagement to suitable people. Address, with fullest particulars and where can be seen working, to JOHN H. TOMKINSON, Smallthorne, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, good voices, smart appearance, for Refined Party (Halls). Fullest particulars, Box 4,051, "The Era."

WANTED, two Vocal Comedians, one Tenor, one Baritone; must patter and dance; to join well-known Comedian, for Comedy Singing and Dancing Trio, for Music Halls; age under thirty. Apply TRIO, 77, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, good Comedian, Refined Lady Serio, and Specialities, for Picture Show; long tour, Liverpool Xmas. Lowest terms. MANAGER, 3, Lebanon-gardens, Wandsworth, London, S.W.

WANTED, Comedian (married), Refined, Wife pianist, also soubrette and dancer, for picture and variety tour. J. M. PETT, 4, Fordel-rd., Catford, S.E.

WANTED, for "Concordia," Smart Comedian; must knockabout and dance. PERCY HONRI, Queen's Park Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, Young Lady, as Assistant to Illusionist. Apply, giving full particulars regarding age, height, &c., to Box 4,041, "The Era."

WANTED, Man with Modern Living Picture Machine, with latest up-to-date Films, for Winter Season, to take the management, on sharing terms, with proprietor, must be steady and a worker; hall in main thoroughfare. Apply, WILKIE, People's Palace, South Shields.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, find own Films, Gas, and Machine, for an hour's Pictures nightly, one matinée, and Sunday evening's Concert. Monday next, near Middlesbro'. Wire, GOLDEN, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, at once, experienced Bioscope Operator and Electrician. State lowest terms and references. GRAHAM, Hippodrome, Hull.

WANTED, Bioscope, with Operator.
Address,
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WANTED, for Bristol, Bioscope Operator (alternating current). Experienced men only need apply. Good salary to good man. CLEGG, Box 4,025, "The Era."

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, used to alternating current, open Monday. Wire, ONDA, Prince's Theatre, Preston; possible tour to suitable man.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

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WANTED, Known, Maud Esmond, London's Refined Burlesque Artist, open Panto., Boy, six weeks. Nov. 26, Walthamstow. 10, Kenbury-gardens, Camberwell.

WANTED, Known, Nellie Lovell, vacant one week, Dec. 3, also Disengaged for Panto., 1906-7. 88, Boston-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Florence Bell, Comedienne (late of Ten Dixie Girls), Nov. 19 and on, vacant panto. All communications, 6, Montague-street, Russell-square, W.C.

WANTED, Dates by Jessie Lacey, Serio Comic, Songs own, girl impersonator, decent turn and voice; country not objected. 106, Shirland-road, West Kilburn.

WANTED, by Florence and Lillian, in their artistic musical act, Dec. 3. Address, Empire, Nottingham; next week, Palace, Leicester.

WANTED, by Cento, the Cycling Monkey, Nov. 26, and onwards; a Novelty. Great success everywhere. All coms., 6, Middle Market-road, Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Herr Schuyler, World's Greatest Saxophonist, Dec. 3. Blackpool Times says: He is an artist of the first degree, and has performed all over the world. Wire, 49, Peter-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Phil Rabey, Comedian and Topical Vocalist, enormous success at Emp., Camberwell, where wire for Monday next, wire, unexpected vacancy.

WANTED, Known, Carl St. Clare, Phenomenal Male Soprano and Mimic, Lib. Mon., Nov. 26; would join quartette. C/o Bexfield, 77 Main-st., Gorbals, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known.—Important Notice to Managers and Proprietors. Dan Ashton, in Original and Copyright Collier's Song Scena; interesting, instructive, and entertaining, founded on fact (Wingate Colliery Explosion, Oct. 15, '06). Empire, Shildon, Durham; Monday, 26th, Theatre Varieties, Colne, Lancashire. Want immediate dates. Offers above. See Cards.

WANTED, Known, Will Gay, Comedian and Dancer, Lib. Monday. Terrific hit Islington Empire. Wire, 31, Princess-square, Kennington Park-rd., S.E. Any distance.

WANTED, through Parthenon closure, Monday next by Tony Iveson. Wire, Empire, Dover, till Saturday; then C/o SLEY, Manchester.

WANTED, by Allan Hanbury, Eccentric Patter Comedian, Monday next; also Dec. 3. Open Stoll Tour, Dec. 31. Wire, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, Dec. 17, onwards, by Harry Keeble, Versatile Comedian, and Hoozee?, the Perfect Ventriloquist. Always successful. Monday, Metropole, Hoyland.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Corona, Society Entertainer and Versatile Comedian, desires intermediate dates, Dec. 8, Jan. 22. Next, Theatre Royal, Waterford.

WANTED, Dec. 3, 10, 17, by Harry Gold, smart Singing Comedian, with a successful song-scena, "Cloudland," a big hit, on any programme. Offers required for the above dates. This week, Hippodrome, Wakefield. Nov. 26, Empire Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, Dec. 3, Bert Lytton, the Swell Comique. This week, Pavilion, Newcastle; next week, Hippodrome, Stoke.

WANTED, Known, George Edney, Refined Comedian and Descriptive Vocalist, vacant Dec. 3, 10, 17. Nov. 26, Westminster, Liverpool. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Bernardo, Comedy Juggler, Monday, Palace Theatre, Dundee.
Liberty Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, the greatest Wrestling Marvel of the age, undisputed Champion Boy Wrestler and Herculean Pose Artist of the World, and pupil of the Russian Lion; meeting all comers, £100 challenge, tremendous success Leigh, Lancashire, London, Glasgow, and South Wales to follow. Managers wanting great draw secure this turn. Fast booking up only few vacant dates.
All coms., Megson's Royal Standard Agency,
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WANTED, Nov. 26 and on, by Jack Sheppard, the World's Greatest Handcuff King and Prison Breaker; also Miss Ruby Vesta, in the Greatest Trunk Mystery on the Stage.
Sure draw.
Wire, 249, Bond-street, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by Marsuma, the Hypnotist and Magnetic Healer and Money Magnet, Dec. 3 and on, with exceptions; Share or Salary. Refer Harry Benet, Esq. This, Alhambra, Sandgate; next, Palace, Kidderminster (third return in ten months). Good lithos. and posters.

WANTED, Known, the World's Strongest Man, Attilla, the Grecian Gladiator, Liberty Mon. and Dec. 3. Wire, 195, Boaler-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Dec. 3, 10, the Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box, a laughing and applauding hit; don't miss this act; a Contortionist, Comedy Juggler, Conjurer, and Dog; wire KYOTO, Palace Theatre, Blackpool; vacant Dec. 3, 10, 31; also Miss May Geraldine, Dainty Dancing Comedienne; two distinct and successful acts. Wire or write, KYOTO, Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Letta and Minni, vacant 26, and Dec. 3.
Address, 11, Addison Park-mansions,
Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, Monday next (one week only), by Maud Marlow, Charming Comedienne; and J. H. Crew, Quaint Comedian. Empire, Middlesbro', and Stoll Tour, &c., to follow. Starring return, Empire, Wrexham, where wire.

WANTED, Dec. 3 and 17, by Trick and Trixie, Comedy Musical Artists. Great success, this, Middlesex; next, Bedford.

WANTED, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, by The Moncktons, in musical farcical episodes, including latest screamer, "Are Wives Dummies?" Hippodrome, Bury.

WANTED, by Agnese and Arthur Lynch, in American Picture Songs, Dec. 3 and 10, to precede Cork. Hippo., Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, Monday next, also Dec. 3, 10, Sardou's Illusionists, 1,000 laughs in 1,000 seconds; also Marie Rivers, Comedienne. Wire, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, by Stanert and Yondi, comedy singing and dancing act, Dec. 3, 17, 24. Address, Empire, Dudley (fourth visit). Vac. also Panto.

WANTED, Known, Rezene and Robini vacant Dec. 31 and Jan. 14. Always a hit everywhere. Monday, Palace, Blackburn.

WANTED, by Chant and Chant, Vocal Comedy Duo, Monday, also Dec. 3, 10, 17, precede Panto., Scotland. Wire, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Known, Austin and Austin, Eccentric Acrobatic Chair Pyramidist, Vacant Monday next, Regent, Salford. Wire for Monday. STEBBING'S Agency.

WANTED, Dec. 3, by the Mozondos Comedy Jumping and Tumbling Act. Next week, Hippodrome, Oldham. Wire above.

WANTED, Dec. 24, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, by Los Granadas, "Sensational Happening Outside an Hotel." Monday, Empire Theatre, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Known, the Three Lloyds, Big Success, this week, Hippodrome, Glasgow, only double bounding cable act in the world, and no balance poles used. Next week, Palace, Blackpool. Vacancies Dec. 3, 10, 17. Ability and talent, not bluff.

WANTED, by the Three Danbrooks, musical comedy act. "A Lively Time in a Music Shop." Nov. 26, Dec. 10, 17. Wire, 16, Burtop-road, Lower Tooting, S.W.

WANTED, by Five Halyards, Dec. 3, 10, new Nautical Comedy Musical Scena, "Jack at Play" (own Scena). Address, "The Era."

WANTED, Monday next, by the Prinellas, in their beautiful Farm, Cornfield Scena, "A Country Flirtation." Wire, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Ernestine Troupe of Dancers and Singers (seven ladies), now Touring Continent; Liberty at once for Pantomime. GUISE, 27, Bonham-road, Brixton.

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WANTED, in or near Glasgow, Dec. 3 and 17, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, by the famous Mitchelson Family, up-to-date International, Continental, and Speciality Dancers, Vocalists, and Instrumentalists. Photos. and terms, 98, South Portland-street, Glasgow. Telephones, National 4Y1 Gorbals. Glasgow Post Office, 40, Red.

WANTED, Dec. 3, by Geo. Gulliver, Ventriloquist, to precede Belfast.
Address, Hippo., Stalybridge.

WANTED, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist, Monday next, also Dec. 10. Wire or write, 5, Union-road, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Dec. 10, for Matt Wilkinson's Screamer, "The Registry Office"; also Violet Beatrice, Dainty Boy Impersonator. Address, Palace, Dundee.

WANTED, Known, Caban's French Cirque, at Liberty Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24. Enormous success, Hippo., Londonderry. Re-engaged. All coms., Hippo., Londonderry.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Lion Show, Best Trained and Finest Existing Lions on the Stage.
Vacant Dec. 3, 17, 24 (Xmas week), also Jan. 7, 14, and 28.
Address, week Nov. 26, Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Monday and Dec. 3, Percy Victor's Dog Orchestra; Eddie Clay, Comedy Musical Act. Empire, Stafford. After to-day, 48, Bilston-st., Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Baton Spinner, Tumbler, and good Ragtime Dancer, would join Comedy or Speciality Act. MILRAY, C/o G.P.O., Glasgow.

WANTED, Dec. 3, on, Fontain's Mannikins, and The Lauriers, Comedy Conjurers, one or both acts. Now topping bill. Empire, Hull.

WANTED, by Young Man, Engagement with Comedy Sketch or otherwise; good Ragtime Dancer; can do few Comedy Tricks in Tumbling. Box 4,039, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Disengaged, Assistant-Illusionist or Assistant Conjurer. HILDA BERESFORD, 58, Heron-road, Herne Hill, London.

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WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. MINERVA AUTOMATIC Co., 120, York-rd., King's Cross, London, N. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Don't buy worn-out machines of old pattern; get a genuine Mills 1906 pattern.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, Electrical, Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, manufacture four and six pole Showmen's Dynamos (improved pattern), also new Flame Arc Lamps, geared motors, for driving organs and roundabouts, large stocks, cable, carbons, globes, incandescents, all classes of repairs; new line, direct coupled portable electric plants, driven by paraffin.

WANTED, Known, Auction Marts and others, R. Owens, 65, Market-street, Manchester, making up good Lines; good profit. Write for samples.

WANTED, Showmen to save money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of specially prepared paints, colours, varnishes, brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating caravans, roundabouts, swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

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WANTED, Artists for Carnegie's Christmas Carnival, for one or two weeks, commencing Christmas Eve, Comedy Combinations, with Artists giving Single Turns preferred.

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WANTED, Novelties, for present and future dates, nothing too big; good Trance or Illusion write. THOMPSON, 78, Castle-st., Bristol.

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WANTED, Freaks, Giant or Giantess, Dwarf, Fat Boy, Bearded Lady, Long Tour in First-Class Music Halls; easy work; fares paid.

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WANTED, Living Freaks, of Every Description, good shows. Terms, share. Write for present and future dates, MANAGER, 33, Bradshaw-st., Derby.

WANTED, Giants, Midgets, Tattooed Ladies and Gentlemen, Novelties, and Freaks of all descriptions. A. E. PICKARD, American Museum, Glasgow.

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WANTED, Lady Character Delineator.
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WANTED, a respectable Young Woman, to parade and assist in Living Van, good home all year round to suitable girl; must be domesticated. TAYLOR'S Electric Coliseum, Regent-street, Swindon, Wilts.

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WANTED, Known, Prof. Carl Whyte, Hypnotist, Lady in a Trance, Madame Celestina, Lady Wizard, and only Acknowledged Champion Knife Throwers, at Liberty for Christmas. Also Wanted, Novelties, open Monday, Ton-y-Pandy, Maerdy, Tirendall, good shops; share. Post Office, Mardy, Glamorganshire, S. Wales.

WANTED, Dates, by Mme. Wynema, Siberian Wolves and Snakes; also Collena's Sharpshooters. Address, 14, Woodbine-street, South Shields.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Tom Scott, King of Doorsmen for Exhibitions, High-class Shops, World's Fairs, &c. Address, Trades Exhibition, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Flo (Tattooed Lady) and Ydac's Cabinet, Liberty Monday, on; Shares or Salary. Wire, CADY, 66, Kirkgate, Leigh.

WANTED, Engagement, Good Glass Engraver, Wire-worker, Electric Engraver, Gilding and Plating, used to Exhibition work. HUSKINSON, 14A, Parade, Margate.

WANTED, good Shops for a First-Class Novelty, for Monday, sure draw and good money taker. BIRCH, 47, Scott-street, Cardiff.

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WANTED, all Showmen and Roundabouts Proprietors, Stall-holders, to know that Rochdale Christmas Fair will commence on Dec. 14, and continue till the 26th next, in the Cattle Market. All applications to WM. MITCHELL, Hindhill-street, Heywood.

WANTED, a First-class Space for Phrenology, at once. Address, PHRENOLOGIST,
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WANTED, Known, Space to Let, for Set Gallopers or Motor-cars, in the Grand Carnival, Dundee; also dolly stalls, knife ringing, photographer, &c. Terms moderate. Opens Dec. 15 till Jan. 12.
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To Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Amusement Caterers, Speculators, and others.

WANTED, Known, that Tom Norman (Silver King) has received Instructions from the owners, who are retiring, to Sell by Private Treaty the Goodwill, and all those Roundabout Riding Machines at the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, namely, one large Steam Roundabout, known as the Boston Riding School, having seventy-two life-size Horses and two full-sized Wagonettes, with powerful Engine for driving the same, together with Organ, Organ Engine, and all accessories thereto, together with large Trucks for conveyance of same, all in thorough good condition and working order; also one set of Steam Horse Roundabout, consisting of twenty-four Horses and two Boats, together with Engine for driving the same, by Walker, Tewkesbury; Organ, Organ Engine, &c., &c., with Trucks complete, in thorough working order; also one set of Steam Bicycles, complete, to carry forty persons, together with Engine for driving same, by Savage, King's Lynn, the above also being in thorough good condition, together with a large quantity of Showmen's sundries, three portable sheds, engineer's tools, &c., &c. All of the above machines can be seen built up, and a trial run at any time, and all particulars on application to
TOM NORMAN,
Showman Expert,
and
Authority on anything and everything connected with the business,
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N.B.—If the above is not disposed of by Private Treaty by Dec. 6 next, it will be offered by Public Auction on a date to be hereafter announced.

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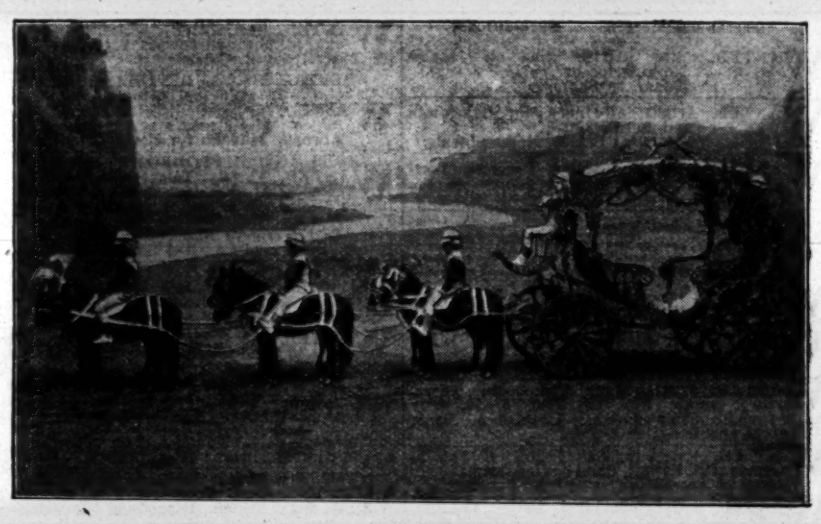

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"SAME GIRL ON SUNDAY."
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"COURTING AT HAMPTON COURT."
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"I'M OFF TO DELAGOA BAY."
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"THE GARDEN OF MY HEART."
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"ALL HE WANTS IS A GIRL."
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"ALL HE WANTS IS A GIRL."

"IONA."
"IONA."
"IONA."
"IONA."

"PETER PEACOCK, ESQ."
"PETER PEACOCK, ESQ."
"PETER PEACOCK, ESQ."
"PETER PEACOCK, ESQ."

"ON THE PIER."
"ON THE PIER."
"ON THE PIER."
"ON THE PIER."

"WHERE THE BANYAN GROWS."
"WHERE THE BANYAN GROWS."
"WHERE THE BANYAN GROWS."
"WHERE THE BANYAN GROWS."

"WHAT! WHAT! WHAT!"
"WHAT! WHAT! WHAT!"
"WHAT! WHAT! WHAT!"
"WHAT! WHAT! WHAT!"

"ONEOTA."
"ONEOTA."
"ONEOTA."
"ONEOTA."

"LADYBIRD."
"LADYBIRD."
"LADYBIRD."
"LADYBIRD."

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Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
Marie Duma, Ginnett's Remounts, the Clarkes, Glenroy Troupe, Clarice Netta, Bioscope, Ray Maskell, "Rogues of the Turf," Harry Herbert, Alec. Thorne, Chas. Fisher and Co.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
"Three of a Kind," Bioscope, Francis Letty, Sid Myra, Greta May, Holden's Mannikins, Stavordale Quintette, Frank Maura, the Courtiers, Phil. and Nettie Peters.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Carl, Bioscope, Jessie Burnett, Paxton Trio, Three Clarions, Jordan and Harvey, Sydney Dolf, Delomes, Selma Braatz, R. T. Meikle.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
"Moses and Son," Bioscope, Violet Ray, Molasso Quartette, Shawlene, Les Voces, Indian Fakirs, Sylvia du Barry.

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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"Mad Minstrels," J. H. Milburn, Baker and Balfe, Bros. Hayes, the Maples, Minnie Cunningham, Albertine Melisch, Lucia and Viata, Bioscope.

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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Harmony Four, De Wynne Bros., Frank Sylvo, Burley and Burley, Ernest Ball, Rita and Roma, Joly, Hanid Alexander, Daisy James, Bioscope.

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BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
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ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Mark Sheridan, Bioscope, Lizzie Daniels, Brett and Orford, George Brooks, Gordon Highlanders, Ray Wallace, New Macs, Sisters Dorrell, Dutch Daly.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
First Performance: "Prince of Monte Carlo," Pictures, Florrie Forde, Harry Weldon, Ted Cowan, Walter Stanley, Kitty Rayburn, Lola Patey, Juno Salma, Jackley Wonders, Wm. Lee and Co., Sisters Slater.
Second Performance: "Prince of Monte Carlo" Co., Pictures, Florrie Forde, Barney Armstrong, Ted Cowan, Oakdene, Kitty Rayburn, Leah Laurie, Ike Scott and Son, Jackley Wonders, MacCann's Dogs, Sisters Slater.

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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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There's a mighty little island, where the west wind blows,
Where the oak tree grows, and the red, red, rose;
And her native sons have never failed to thrash her foes.
The whole world knows it well.
Though her rivals always envy her, and try to claim
That she's not the same at the fighting game;
Her sons throughout the world will still uphold her name,
And win anew the glories of her fame.
Chorus:—
At duty's call in line will fall, whenever danger's nigh,
The boys who'll waste no time in idle brag;
From colonies beyond the seas the men who'll do or die.
Underneath the same old flag.
The gallant Scotch, the old Black Watch, those fighting Highland boys,
And then that dear dare-devil Pat from Ireland,
Tommy Atkins tried and true, sailor lads in navy blue,
Fighting for their King and Sireland.

Write for Full Copy and hear the Melody.

"ARRAH WANNA."

(An Original Irish-Indian Song).
Words by Jack Drislane, Music by Theodore Morse.
'Mid the wild and woolly prairies lived an Indian maid,
Arrah Wanna, queen of fairies, of her tribe afraid.
Each night came an Irish laddie O, with a wedding ring,
He would sit outside her tent, and with his bagpipes loudly sing.
Chorus:—
Arrah Wanna, on my honour, I'll take care of you;
I'll be kind and true.
We can love and bill and coo.
In a wigwam built of shamrock green, we'll make those red men smile,
When you're Missis Barney Michael Carney from Killarney's isle.

Write for Full Copy and hear the Melody.

"THE GOOD OLD UNION JACK."

(A Dramatic Story and Stirring Refrain).
Words by Jack Drislane, Music by Theodore Morse.
Tell me, daddy, tell me, why those men in that big crowd,
Won't you tell me why they're cheering, what makes each one look so proud?
Listen, lad, he answered, it's the tune the brass band plays,
It's the song, "Britannia Rules the Waves," and you'll know one of these days.
Chorus:—
Makes no diff'rence where you wander, makes no diff'rence where you roam;
You don't have to stop and ponder for a place to call your home;
When they ask where you were born, lad, speak right up and answer back,
That you're proud of your own dear Motherland, and the good old Union Jack.

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See our Special Advertisement on Page 24.

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SONGS THAT WILL BE EVERYWHERE.

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"AU REVOIR, MY LITTLE HYACINTH."
"MY BUNGALOW IN BORNEO."
"WHEN THERE ISN'T A GIRL ABOUT."
"THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR A GIRL."
"WHAT HAS BECOME OF OUR SONGS?"
"COLOMBO." "STOWAWAY."
"YOU ARE MY IRISH LILY."
"WALTZ ME AROUND AGAIN WILLIE."
"I WANT NO OTHER LITTLE GIRL BUT YOU."
"IF I HAD BEEN BORN A GIRL."
"SHE HASN'T DONE HER HAIR UP YET."
"WOULD YOU CARE?"
"LOOK OUT MR. MAN."

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All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office.

Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns.

Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not re-booked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows:—

MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALAN W. YOUNG,
Empire Theatre, Liverpool.

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MR. S. GETHING,
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MR. W. LEA,
Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LONDON DISTRICT,
MR. WILLIAM COLLINS,
The Empire, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

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HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
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LYRIC, LIVERPOOL.
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CALLS
FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, NOV. 26, 1906.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.
SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday, at 12-0 sharp.

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Cissy Scofield, Harry Briggs, Pallister's Bioscope, Leotard Brothers, Soutnern and Co.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
G. W. Hunter, Wallace Whitney, Beattie Foster; Les Belles Americaine, Ethairien Bros., Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Chas. F. Best, Josh Dixon.

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Tom Kelso, Charles Gardener, Zampas, Rita Resdan, Pallister's Bioscope, Ellis and Watts, Peake and Co.

PALACE, BATH.
Florrie Gallimore, Bros. Durant, Josie Delaine, Harry Walker, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Alex. Victor Duo, Lytton and Bland, Silvo, Rebla.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Miss Florrie Baines, in "Miss Lancashire, Ltd."

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Friscari, Vocal Chameleon, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Hillman and Russell, Almos, Bert Harrow, George Hyam, Toy Foy and Co., Howard and Harris.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL
Donaldson Bros., and Ardel, Mayon and Marle, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Gracie Bard, Flo Challis, Will Driscoll, Millie Denham, Prince Kokin.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
R. A. Roberts, Tom Yorke, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Dayton Family, Tom Lloyd, Nash and Noel, Ethel Loftus, Blanche and Powell.

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THE BRITANNIA.
Matinée Monday.
Josephine Colona and Co. in "Robin Hood," Geo. Hall, Bros. Zampah, Stan Aubrey, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Florrie Bray, Kitty Marion, Tom Collins, Beattie Kent, Cissie Dryden, Geo. Kirk and Co. in "Grip; or, The Fatal Hand."

FORESTERS.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Vaudeville Dramatic Co. in "The Better Man," Grey and Welford, Smith and Johnson, Lily Black, Bert Danson, Elna May, Silbon Family, Percy Hannon, Woolmer Young, Maude Beaumont, Dan Filmer, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Addie Dorina in "Dr. Spot's Patients."

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Dr. Walford Bodie, M.D., C.M., U.S.A.; F.R.M.S., London; Floradora Girls, Mill May, Mark Merry, Helms and Cozens, Dick Cruickshanks and Co. in "Colonel Pepper," Janet H. Reynolds, Pollo Jerome, Chas. Sloman, Rumbo Austin, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Jack and Evelyn.

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All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Matinée every Monday.
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Notice.—All artists carrying Scenery must have it Fireproof, according to L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

N.B.—All Billing Matter, accompanied by Pictorials, and Business Communications relating to the Provincial Circuit must be addressed to the

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At a theatre in a well-known University town great admiration is shown by the College students for two dancing girls who are performing during a matinée. They vigorously applaud the clever and pretty dance, throwing on the stage many bouquets, tokens of their approval. Outside the theatre at the close of the performance the students, as usual, disperse in different directions, some quite studious, and others ready for further amusement. Two of them, however, remain behind and make proposals to the commissionaire on duty for an introduction to the young ladies they have just seen dancing. A little "palm oil" obtains the man's consent to take their cards in at the stage door, from which the girls soon emerge and welcome their admirers. They arrange themselves in pairs, and walk from the theatre apparently quite happy. Turning the corner they call for a carriage. As the vehicle is drawing up they view with some dismay and annoyance the approach of two dons. One of the students quickly bundles the girls into the carriage, while the other acknowledges the presence of his masters. As the latter draw near they make signs to the youths that they require the carriage; the students quickly seize this opportunity to get out of their dilemma. While the dons are handed in at one side of the carriage, the girls quickly make their exit the other, one student keeping his eye on the masters and the other taking charge of the girls. The carriage drives off, and the couples walk away, laughing at the success of their plans. At the College gates they all four, by persuasion and a substantial tip, soon overcome the scruples of the porter, who has hesitated to admit them. Unfortunately, so entirely wrapped upare these young people in tackling the official that one of the girls leaves behind a parasol. A few moments later the dons arrive, and, quickly observing the article carelessly left, at once demand an explanation from the poor man at the door. Taking the offending article with them the two learned men proceed into the college in search of the erring youths. Inside the quarters allotted to the students both girls have settled themselves comfortably and the young men are enjoying themselves to the utmost. They are suddenly disturbed by ominous sounds in the corridor, jumping to their feet all begin seeking hiding places for the girls. One is bundled into a box, the other is placed full length on the couch and covered with the college gowns, completely screening her from view. Seizing a book each, the students seat themselves on the edge of the couch and are apparently studying very deeply as the two dons rush into their rooms. The surprised look on the faces of the youths when confronted with the accusing parasol does not satisfy their masters, and they at once begin a thorough search of the room, &c.

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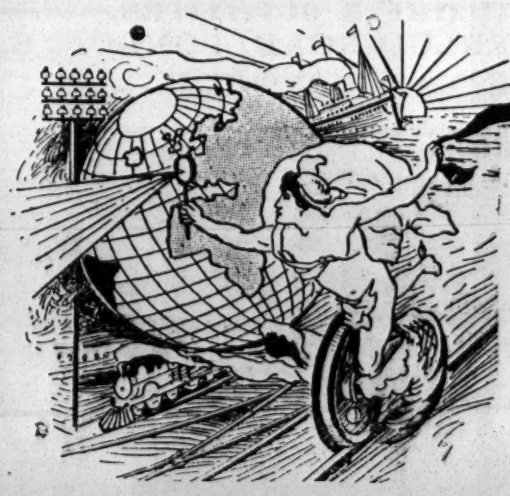

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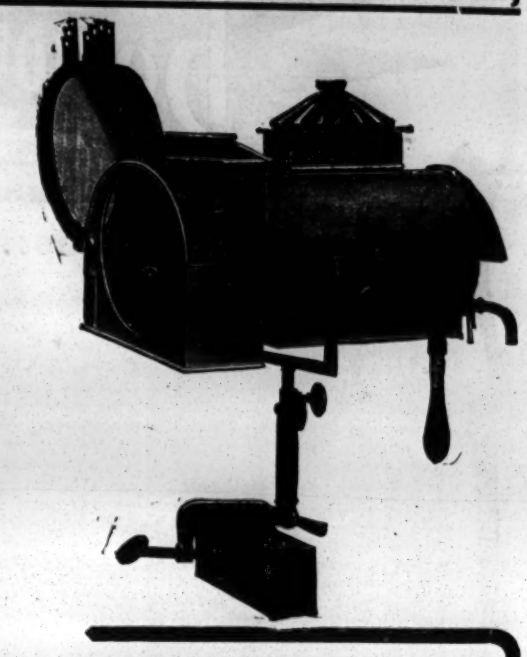

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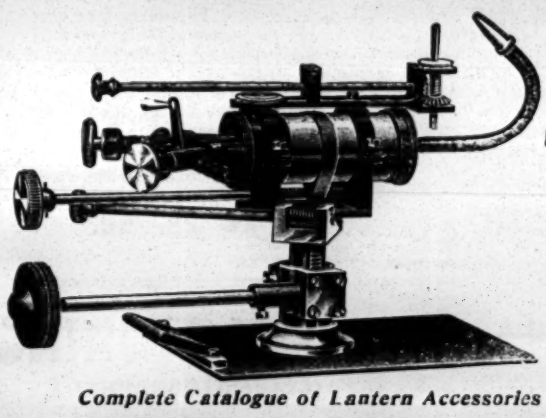

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MR. D. LEWIN-MANNERING, Baron Bonelli, and Stage Director, in "The Eternal City," on Tour. Dec. 3, T. R., Smethwick, 1 week.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS, Disengaged Dec. 8th. Add., this week, Theatre Royal, Norwich.

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MR. PERCY MARSHALL, Wibsey, in "Public Opinion." Dec. 3, T. R., Portsmouth. Dis. 15th.

MR. H. SHERWOOD MARTIN, Theatrical Business-Manager, Theatre Royal, Manchester.

MR. CHRIS MASON, at Lib. Dec. 17, owing to sudden termination of Tour. Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

MR. ERIC G. MERRIE, Manager, "At Cripple Creek" Co. Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, Dec. 3, Six Nights.

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MR. GEORGE T. METCALFE, Acting-Manager, Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer's Tour. Address, Opera House, Cork.

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MR. GEORGE MILLER, Pierre Michu, "The Little Michus." Dec. 3, Coronet Theatre, W.

MR. G. M. MONTANINI, General-Manager, "A Traitor Prince" Co. Theatre Royal, Colne.

MR. HUGH MONTGOMERY, MARIE HARCOURT, Napoleon and Marcel, "Napoleon the Great" Co., T. R. Croydon.

MR. G. MORETON-WILLIAMS, "A Woman's Past" Co. Dec. 3, Queen's T., Gateshead.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN, Week Commencing Dec. 3, Hippodrome, Maidstone (Return), New Songs.

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MR. TOM MOWBRAY, "The Girl Behind the Counter" Co. Disengaged Dec. 10. Dec. 3, T. R., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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MR. GUS OXLEY, at Liberty for Pantomime, 12, De Laune-street, Kennington-park, S.E.

MR. F. M. PAGET, Antonio, Polonius, Brabantio, Duke Frederick. Theatre Royal, Belfast, Dec. 10.

MR. CECIL W. PARKE, Principal Baritone, Second Tour, "Duchess of Dantzic."

MR. ASHTON PEARSE, Lord Percy Kilgour, in "Public Opinion." Disengaged Dec. 17. Theatre Royal, Portsmouth.

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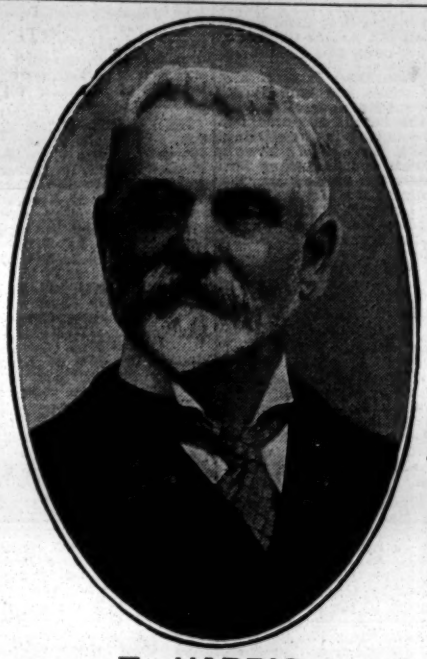

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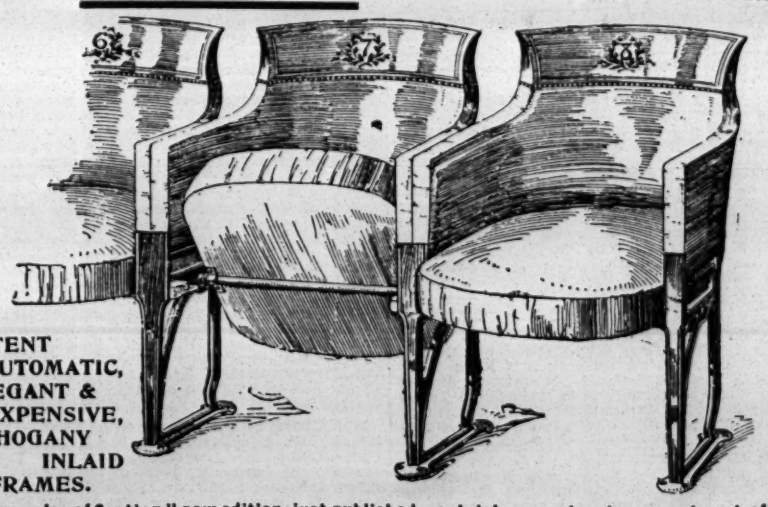

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Cavanah, C.A.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchinson's company opened here on Monday with *Cousin Kate*. Miss Lilias Earle displays conspicuous talent in the part of Kate Curtis, and Mr Templar Powell makes an excellent Heath Desmond; Mr. Ernest Cox is successful as the parson; Miss Hilda Honiss shows keen appreciation as Amy Spencer; and Miss Amy Coleman contribute a good portrayal of a dowager.

Palace Theatre. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. Neil Kenyon, Scottish comedian, receives an enthusiastic welcome; and the comedy sketch by Mr. James Willard and company proves most enjoyable; Spry and Austin are as versatile as ever; the Katos give an exceedingly pleasing and interesting exhibition; and Mr. Herbert Clifton's vocal mimicry turn is wonderfully effective. Other notable contributions to the varied programme are those of Yettinah, whose magical feats are wonderfully clever; the Zelovas, graceful and daring acrobatic equilibrists; Miss Elsie Earle, a charming comedienne; and Mr. Arthur Goodman, a juggler, whose methods are novel and distinctive.

ABERTILLERY. — Theatre Metropole.—Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom.—This week the boards are occupied by Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company in the stirring drama *Her Nameless Child*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn as Anthony Ford is excellent, and as Arthur Mr. R. F. Gwyn-Richardson deserves praise; Mr. Ellerslie Pyne makes a capital Lord Henry Woodville, whilst Mr. John A. Levey is good as Mongrole, Lord Henry's catspaw; Mr. Alvin Sawyer and Miss Grace Harlington are responsible for the comedy parts, as Tom Rivers and Bessie Brooks respectively. Miss Madge Trevelyn is well suited as Crayoul, Miss Grace Jones is a charming Lady Sybil Woodville, and Miss Pattie Hastings wins favour by her pathetic impersonation of Phyllis Ford.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. Williams.—*An Unwedded Wife*—a very sensational play and excellently presented by Miss Van Praagh and Mr. Edward Whitty's company—is forming an acceptable bill of fare to lovers of drama. Miss Van Praagh gives a talented portrayal of Marion; Mr. E. St. C. Forbes is good as Blackshaw; whilst Hawthorn and Armstrong are carefully played by Messrs. Darra and Roydan.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company is here for the week with the romantic play, *The Breed of the Treshams*, by arrangement with Mr. Martin Harvey. Mr. H. Tripp Edgar as Reresby (called the Rat) gives an impressive delineation of the part; as the cowardly Colonel Mr. Richard A. Greene fully establishes his claim to notice; and Mr. Cecil C. Klein gives a forcible impersonation of the Hon. Francis Tresham. Miss Celestine Bertram as Batty, the waif, finds the impersonation of a boy well suited to her special gifts. Prominence is also given to Viscount Dorsington by Mr. Oswald Lingard; to Margaret Hungerford by Miss Nellie Clyde; to Mrs. Bagshaw by Miss Madge Sagny; and to Helena Pierrepont by Miss Miriam Holt.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leach.—The attractions here include Arthur Holland, refined comedian; Cribb and Cribb, in fun of a boisterous kind; Charles Valvo, military ventriloquist; a novel speciality, Canary's Flying Kitchen; the Corman Youngsters, in their act scena, "Christmas Eve"; Nancy Renshaw, the laughing negro comedienne; George King and Tom Delane, in a comedy duo, *At the Club*; Johnson and D'Evre, American speciality artists; and Maston, mimic. The "bright, particular star" of the week is Miss Ada Fawn, the popular comedienne.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. H. Laycock.—A programme full of good things is presented here this week, headed by the "Bounding Dillons" (Hilda and Willie), who give a performance on the Dillon patent spring and trapeze, as clever as it is unique; in connection with this turn there is an amateur bouncing competition each evening, which is provocative of roars of laughter. The Three Sisters Transfield give a musical show, which is highly appreciated; the Three Pirmans are responsible for a comedy act on the horizontal bars and trapeze; Mr. George Prince, the "crazy comic," makes a welcome reappearance; Vernando is an exceptionally smart ventriloquist; Allsopp and Bekwith, comedy duologue artists, are amusing; "Yorkshire Tom" is here again, and finds much favour with his mimicry; and Mr. E. C. Clayton still remains a popular feature with his pictures. Friday night was set apart for the second annual benefit of Mr. J. Lacy Lyne, the popular manager here.

BACUP. — New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—Mr. Charles Watson Mills' company is here this week with *A Wrecker of Men*. Mr. Frederick Biron submits a capital study of Jim Murley; Mr. Milner Noble makes a very good impression as Pharosaphus; Mr. Millar Anderson deserves praise for his interpretation of the silent servant, Railton; Mr. Stanley Champion is all that can be desired as Guise Strange; Mr. Harry Dunning, as the Hon. Reggie Verincourt, is distinctly good; Mr. Charles Earle in the dual rôles of Ezekiel Isaacs (a Jew) and Karnaphus (a mummy) is seen to advantage. Mr. Thompson Carruthers as Eric Melville gives a creditable performance. Miss Lucy Sibley shows considerable skill and ability in her delineation of Risca Mallison; Miss Beatrice Reynolds as Navasole Slopper evokes much merriment; Miss Gwendoline Talbot wins approval as Marion Isaacs; and Miss Cissie Podmore is a pathetic representative of Doris Melville.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company in *Sunday* is paying a return visit. Mr. Leonard Pagden is an ideal Colonel Brinthorpe and Mr. Ernest A. Douglas a pleasing and breezy Tom Oxley; Mr. G. Wallace Johnston as the unscrupulous Arthur Brinthorpe is effective, and the Towzer, Davy, Lively, and Jacky of Messrs. W. William Lockhart, Sidney Reneff, Cecil Yapp, and Arthur Vezin are all respectively well contrasted. Miss Emelie Polini takes the title-rôle with much charm and dramatic power; Miss Muriel Pope is good as the Nun; and Miss M'Aimee Murray is a bright Mrs. Naresby.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company in *The Wearin' o' the Green* is here. Mr. Chalmers Mackey plays Barney O'Hea with great spirit and humour and sings capably, ably seconded by Miss Nana Flensberg, who is a winning and amusing Biddy McGinn; Mr. Charles Homer sings and acts well as Shamus McDermott, and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey is a winsome Norah McGrath.

Tivoli Theatre of Varieties. — Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi.—The Four Kurios are exceedingly comical, and are well received; Rose and Calvert prove a refined comedy couple; Francis, the cannon ball king, and his satellite Alfred are good jugglers; Jack Chalmers sings well; Grace Langley sings and dances artistically; and Johnny Walker is an amusing comedian.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—For the last week of the regular autumn season the dramatic version of *When It Was Dark* is being given by Mr. Morton Powell's company. Miss Eva Moss gives a forcible rendering of Gertrude Hunt; Mrs. Morton Powell is seen to advantage as Helena Byars; Basil Gortre is cleverly undertaken by Mr. Cyril Austen Lee; Constantine Schwabe finds a cool representative in Mr. George H. Pitt; and the Robert Llewellyn of Mr. Mills Watson is excellent.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Florrie Gallimore is once again the bright particular star of a good all-round programme, and her success with new and old songs is as great as ever. As a female impersonator Letine wins a big reception; Musical Silvo provides delightful harmony; the Brothers Durant continue to perform wonders as acrobats and gymnasts; Josie Delaine, in her scena, *The Mirror and the Maid*, is loudly applauded; Henry Walker is a comedian with a lot of patter; Lytton and Bland give their well-known speciality *A Lesson in Love;* and the Alex-Victor Duo, youthful duettists, also appear. Raymond's Bio-tableaux are humorous.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is here in *An Abandoned Woman*. A prominent feature of the performance here is the excellent acting of Miss Georgette Thierry. Mrs. H. Foxwell gives a convincing portraiture of Eleanor Dean; Mr. Wolston Foster is successful as Captain Seaton; Mr. P. Marton Wright is equal to the requirements of his part; Mr. B. J. Leill plays well; Mr. Harry Foxwell is distinctly happy in his humorous interludes; and Mr. Will Glaze is lively and diverting.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company in *Two Little Drummer Boys*, by Walter Howard. General Kingsley finds a clever exponent in Mr. Mark Fuller; Mr. Fred Emery capably depicts the character of Captain Frank Carsdale; the rôle of Captain George Darrell is satisfactorily interpreted by Mr. Archie Helsby; the part of the Rev. John Rivers is left in the capable hands of Mr. Harry Greenburn; Molly Meadows is charmingly portrayed by Miss Edie Macklin; Miss Mildred Eversleigh meets with success as Alma Kingsley; and Miss Kathleen Magee undertakes the trying rôle of Drunken Meg in a thoroughly capable manner.

BELFAST.—Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Miss Winifred Emery and company opened here on Monday in the new play, by Mr. Horace Vachell, entitled *Her Son*. Miss Emery appeared as Dorothy Fairfax, and undoubtedly achieved a great success by her skilful impersonation of the leading rôle. As Dick Gascoyne Mr. Eille Norwood was seen to advantage, and one of the outstanding features of the production was the really remarkable interpretation of the part of Min by Master Bobbie Andrews. Miss Minna Blakeston deserves congratulations on her capital impersonation of Chrystal Wride, and a word of praise is due to Miss May Chevalier for her clever assumption of the rôle of Lady Curragh. In the third and fourth act Min was played by Mr. M. A. Wetherell in an admirable manner; and other rôles were efficiently sustained by Miss Yvonne Morel. Miss Harriet Trench, Miss Eileen Munro, Miss Keith Lytton, and Messrs. Harry Ashford and H. Cannon George. On Wednesday, Thursday, and last night *Olivia* was presented, with Miss Emery in the title-rôle. *Her Son* was preceded by Mr. Brandon Thomas in a monologue, in which he attained a high level of excellence.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—The second week of the dramatic season at this theatre commenced on Monday, when the premier attractions was provided by D'Evelin's Zouaves, in their marvellous lightning drill and wall-scaling exhibition. The Collinson Combination create roars of laughter with their really funny sketch, *The Cook's Guest*; and a hit has been made by those versatile comedians, Tennyson and Wallis. The Bros. Ashley stage their comedy boxing sketch, *Next, Please*, which has been enthusiastically received; and the Wartenburg Bros. are marvellous juggling experts. Miss Jenny Hartley is a charming comedienne and good dancer; and Rosalie Jacobi, soubrette, Mr. Joe Mac, comedian, and the attractive Royal Pictures are also in the bill.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Hal Godfrey and company provide the leading attraction here this week with the funny sketch, entitled *A Very Bad Boy*. The Selbinis, acrobatic trick cyclists, are very smart; and a hit has been made by Mr. Geo. Westland, a decidedly quaint Scotch comedian. Mr. Sybil Montague sings ballads with much charm; and the Santerons perform some jumping feats with amazing cleverness. Mr. Frank Couch is a really funny comic; and Mr. Ned Graydon appears to great advantage in a new musical speciality. The accomplished Sisters Lavender, duettists and dancers, complete a good programme.

New Alhambra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company, under the personal direction of Mr. M. Montgomery, is appearing this week in the drama, *Defending His Honour*. Miss Nina Blake-Adams furnishes a skilful impersonation of Ethel Bryce; and Mr. Horace Denton cleverly impersonates the rôle of Douglas Bryce. Miss Marie Hooper, a newcomer, fills the part of Mrs. Verison with every possible acceptance; Mr. Cyril Grier gains approval for his finished impersonation of Dick Verison; the humour of the piece was entrusted to Mr. Tom H. Solly as Richard Verison, ably assisted by Miss Mattie Crawford, a vivacious Trixie Lucien. Mr. Percy M. Stevenson, happily recovered from his indisposition, realistically portrays the villainous Stephen Graid; and Mr. Elmore Frith does full justice to the rôle of George Duncan; Mr. H. Hesselgrave is capital as Jack Damish; and Miss Florrie Townsend exhibits much ability in her assumption of the dual rôles of Harry and Jack Bryce. Miss Alice Clarke ably sustains the small part of the nurse; and Mr. E. Smyth is good as David Pellar.

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. H. Battersby; Manageress, Miss Battersby.—A first-class company is creating much interest in the representation of *The Female Swindler*. Miss Grace E. Leslie possesses ample opportunity to bring out fully the heartlessness of Lue Valroy, and she does it effectively. Another fine exposition is the John Coulson of Mr. Joseph Millane; Miss Florrie Kelsey makes an interesting and pretty May Andrews; and the hero, Harold Travers, finds a careful and natural young exponent in Mr. Guy P. Ellis. As Geoffrey Warden Mr. Wilford Cheetham does well; and Mr. John Belton works hard as Mikestein, the Hebrew pawnbroker. The diverting impersonations of Mr. Harry Wright and Miss Mary Dawson, as the servant, Mary Ann, also deserve mention.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company in *Lucky Durham* is again attracting crowded houses here. Mr. Edmund Kennedy repeats his clever and telling performance of John Durham with, if anything, increased success; Lord Mountfallon is finely played by Mr. Robert Forsyth; Mr. A. E. Walker gives an artistic representation of Mr. Vallerton; and the Hon. Reginald Steighton is admirably undertaken by Mr. Arthur Leigh. Miss Alice Esther Belmore, as Helen Vallerton, shares largely in the honours of the evening; Mrs. Durham is exceptionally well acted by Miss Louisa Gourlay; Miss Nance Wolviston is well suited as Lady Mountfallon, and Miss Florence Dolhunty is an efficient Hon. Margaret Steighton.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Miss Winifred Hare, the popular comedienne, is a leading attraction here, and creates an excellent impression. A capital company also includes Casey's Circus, a well-arranged juvenile act, which has made an unmistakable hit; Miss Minnie Hunt and Mr. Rhys Thomas, in their amusing sketch, *Her Birthday*; Joe Reishen's trained dogs, a wonderful show of canine sagacity; the Violas, in a really remarkable second-sight exhibition; the Brothers Hannaway, dancers; Miss Lily Langtry, a vivacious comedienne; Mr. Frank Cafferey, comedian; Miss Alexandra Royal, and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—This week Birmingham is flocking to see *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)* in the shape of Mr. G. P. Huntley, who, as the unsophisticated countryman with a partiality for rabbits, makes the house rock with laughter. Miss Millie Legarde shares the honours with her bright and merry manner as La Bolero; Miss Nellie Hodson pleases immensely as the maid, Louise; Miss Eva Kelly is highly attractive as Violet Brinton; Mr. Fred Maguire brings down the house with his fine singing in the rôle of Jacques Kenyon; Mr. Harry Welchman is admirably suited to the rôle of Norman Popple, which he invests with a handsome presence and dashing manners; Mr. C. M. Daly gives a smart impression of the groom, Platt; and Mr. Sydney Young, Mr. James Stephenson, Miss Kate Forster, Miss Ella Daincourt, and several others are noticeable for their support, which is augmented by a powerful chorus and orchestra.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*The Prince of Pilsen* is once more the attraction here, with Mr. George Musgrove's company, presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard. Mr. Martin Adeson, as the rich brewer who is "mistook" for a prince, displays a rich humour quite in keeping with the part; Mr. J. B. Fox, as the real prince, scores in several well-delivered songs; Mr. G. Villiers Arnold sings and acts as Lieut. Tom Wagner with splendid effect. Miss Maisie Ellinger appears as the merry widow, Mrs. Madison Crocker, with delightful grace and animation, and is accorded a fervid reception in all her movements and songs; Miss Isa Bowman acts with charming vivacity as Nelly Wagner; Miss Nell Emerald displays all the dainty and chic attributes of the French maid; Miss Meg Hamylton makes a highly popular rôle of the bell-boy, Jimmie; Mr. Lawrence Wensley makes a diverting rôle of the Earl of Shrimpton; Miss Nelly Barnwell is popular as the Vassar Girl, and an innumerable array of other "girls" support.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*La Poupée* is here, with that best of all replicas, Miss Stella Gastelle, to charm and fascinate with her clever performance, which remains as fresh and unspoilt as when she first essayed the rôle. Mr. W. H. Powell plunges the house into unrestrainable mirth as the eccentric doll-maker, Hilarious; Miss Avis Grahame affords him excellent help as Madame Hilarious; Miss Kitty Cavendish is commendable as Henri; Mr. Aubrey Carr portrays the excessive diffidence of the young novice, Launcelot, with perfect taste, and his singing wins him much applause; Mr. Frederick Hobbs is sonorous in voice and dignified as Father Maxime; Mr. William Griffin succeeds as the Baron; Mr. Fred Seymour is good as Loremois; and Mr. Vernon Reed as Balthazar contributes with good effect. An adequate chorus and orchestra assist, under the direction of Mr. Harry Rushworth.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*The Shadow of a Crime* has made a powerful and successful appeal here, and Messrs Little and D'Arcy's company has been exceedingly well received. Miss Ina Grant renders the rôle of Loyale Norman in a most praiseworthy style; Mr. Stephen Crossley keeps the audience interested in the well-being of Harry Bullington; Mr. Robert Forder takes the part of the evil-doer, Ralph Esmond, in a capable manner; Miss Dorothy Riddell acts a graceful and sympathetic part as Dora Bullington; Mr. John H. Manley as Sir Edward Bullington and Mr. William Matthews as Jim Murdock are highly successful; Mr. E. W. Avery shines with his clever comicalities as Tom Brown, and others of the Brown family are smartly portrayed by the Misses May Rosine, Madge Blackie, Gertrude Rolands, Connie Little, May Hesford, and Lucy Hesford .

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Face at the Window* is here, played by Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company, both drama and company being received with acclamation. Mr. Lionel D'Aragon's characterisation of the Wolf, otherwise Lucio Delgado, is most dramatic; Mr. T. W. Dunscome plays his part as Paul Gouffett with conspicuous ability; Mr. Alfred Warne and Mr. Malcolm Wills, as the banker and his discharged clerk respectively, do excellent work; Miss Eugene Magnus appears as Marie de Brisson to the utmost advantage; Miss Marie Tennant makes the most of La Pinau; Mr. F. C. Raphael acts most realistically as the cut-throat, Barbelon; Mr. C. Alan Hineson relieves the play with some humorous by-play as Peter Pottlebury, and is cleverly assisted by Miss M. Leslie-Cudd as Babette; and Messrs. George Phythian, Walter Marriott, Arthur Hillier, James Cox, George Lockwood, Robert Hamilton, and R. L. Ward complete the cast.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley. — General-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Mr. F. Wybert Clive's company submits *The Conscript* here with every indication of success. Large audiences have cheered Mr. E. Bellenden Clarke in his manly and vigorous acting as Karl Truevitch, the hero; Miss Lilian Ross gives a pleasing interpretation of Karl's wife, Nadia; Mr. Chas. E. Johnson, as the villainous Governor, Count Paul Hardiski, gives a powerful and consistent performance; Mr. Walter Steele acts with telling ability as Ivan Manloff; Mr. William Head makes an effective part of Doggervitch, and Mr. Sidney Cauldfield as Maxim Fedka. Mr. Claude Seaton as Michael Andreitch, and Mrs. Charles Wood as Dame Katinka are successful. Mr. Becket Bould acts in the humorous rôle of Tretch Trotoff with genuinely humorous effect, and moveover entertains cleverly in song; and Miss Connie Meadows as Wando does likewise, and is very successful.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting Manager, Mr. Frank Whittle.—*The Eternal City* is presented here by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company. Mr. D. Lewin Mannering is most efficient as Baron Bonelli; Mr. Henry Deas makes a decisive hit as David Rossi; Mr. Jack Fortescue gives a clever embodiment of Pope Pius XI.; Mr. W. O'Flynn is a successful Bruno Rocco; Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood does well with the part of Commendatore Angelelli; Miss Sarah de Groot shows great ability in the rôle of Donna Roma; Miss Eva Stuart imparts due effect to the character of Elena; Miss May Fortescue's acting as Princess Bellini is characterised by much grace and care; Miss Violet Campbell acts as Natalina in a highly felicitous manner; Miss C. Stokes does well as Francesca; and Messrs. Edward Comberbach, E. Clowes, Henry Ainsworth, and E. Charles are successful in their rôles.

Empire.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Mr. Eugene Stratton, the premier coon impersonator, is here this week, adding greatly to his high reputation. Nellie Wallace has a style which is perfectly unique amongst comediennes; Fielding and Hull give a capital vocal turn; and Phillips and Terry present an original and laughable sketch; J. W. Rickaby has a very amusing military skit, and Will Vokes, a clever and eccentric dancer, does well. Other successful turns are provided by Beatrice Willey, a sweet-voiced vocalist, Alfred Hurley, and Beatrice Renee.

Gaiety.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Charles Dare's Minstrels occupy premier position on the bills this week. It is a capital negro minstrel show, and that this form of entertainment is still popular was shown by the hearty applause accorded. Mark Melford is as smart as ever, and his sketch, *Only a Wedding*, is distinctly funny. Other items which merit commendation are provided by the Two Anartos in *The Morning Mail;* Verno and Voyce, singing comedians; the Imperial Quartette of vocalists and dancers; Esta Stella, a smart comedienne and dancer; and the Vyponds, society entertainers. Fred Land and Charlie Dixon are two comedians who materially add to the fun.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford. — Edwin Boyde is a comedian who always obtains a warm welcome from audiences in this city, and his funny songs and style are productive of much amusement; Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls's company present a comic-tragedy entitled *The Battle of the Belles*. Plenty of amusement is supplied by this sketch, which is well staged, the principals being supported by a number of clever artists. Harry Champion is a quaint comedian with some good songs, and Tatten Hall adds to the fun with a smart burlesque on the huntsman; the Two Bees present an original comedy sketch entitled *The Man in the Moon;* other turns on an attractive programme are Bert Byrne, comedian; the Lizette Troupe of lady acrobats; Babs Lloyd, and Elsie Rubins.

Bordesley Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—George Formby the "Pretty Lad from Lancashire," occupies the first position on the bill this week, and keeps the house in a roar of laughter; Ella Retford, as usual, receives a hearty welcome, and Boswell's Stage Circus is responsible for much amusement; the Six Imri Girls, in a clever display of racquet and club juggling, are well received; Lillian Lowe, vocalist; Woodhouse and Wells, comedians and dancers; and Frank Harwood, comedians, also contribute to the programme.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—Eden Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—On Monday and Tuesday Mr. Lingford Carson's company appeared here in *A Modern Adventuress*. Mr. Charles Draycott submitted a powerful embodiment of Pietro Donelli; an admirable William Delby was seen in Mr. Morley Carroll; Mr. Sydney C. Cranston was distinctly successful as Harry Delby; Mr. Ernest J. Fare was an excellent Wallace Danton; and Steve Meredith was capably handled by Mr. H. Scatchard. Miss Marie Robson gained admiration in the rôle of Vivette Delby; the character of Violet Meredith, *alias* Maud Delby, was well represented by Miss Muriel Thompson. Mr. Arthur Byron and Miss Daisy Norman were well suited in the amusing parts of John Crompton and Sally Hodges. *The Octoroon, The Heart of a Hero*, and *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* were played on the remaining nights.

Town Hall.—Mr. C. E. Parlato has just concluded a most successful visit here with his renowned cinematograph and variety entertainment. The performances during the fortnight have each evening been well patronised and greatly appreciated. Mr. Parlato's abilities as an impersonator and his interesting show with his trained animals have evoked much favourable comment.

BLACKBURN. — Theatre Royal.— Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Hall Caine's popular drama, *The Christian*, is proving a strong attraction here. Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is presenting the play. Miss Grace Chalmers is Glory Quayle, and she acts finely, her work in the last two acts being especially good; while as John Storm, Mr. Frank Tennant is strong, his interpretation comparing very favourably with his predecessors in the part; Mr. Frederick Scarth plays Lord Robert Ure very forcefully, and Mr. W. Briscoe Owen as Horatio Drake is excellent; Mr. Bert Conway (the Faro King) and Mr. Fern Pound (Mr. Lorimer) are also worthy of special mention.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is drawing large houses with *The Power of the Cross*.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—An excellent variety programme is contributed to by the following:—The Aquamarinoff Troupe of Russian dancers; Arden and Abel's sketch, *Three of a Kind;* Belle Braham, pictorial songstress; Gus Garrick, comedian; Rezine and Robini, eccentric comedians; Annie Schuberth, ballad singer; Edwards and Dacre, in their sketch, *What a Life!* and the Javeons, gymnasts.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone. — Mr. Charles Harrington and Co. are here in *The Sailors of the King*. Mr. Harrington faithfully portrays Admiral Drake and Mr. Frank Stevens gives a good account of Dick Drake; Felicia Phrynne finds a charming exponent in Miss Madge North, whilst Miss Sylvia Stella plays with great zest the part of Rebecca Crosby. The launch of a boat is made a special feature of the play.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*The Marriage of Kitty*, well acted by Mr. Howard Cochran's company, is the attraction here this week. The important rôle of Kitty Silverton is cleverly played by Miss Aida Jenoure, and Sir Reginald Belsize is artistically sketched by Mr. Cochran; Mr. Cecil Wilford is well placed as John Travers, and Mr. Colet Dare is decidedly good as Hampton. *His Lordship Intrudes* is the title of the curtain-raiser, played by Mr. Langford Reed and Miss Helen Kay Robertson.

Palace. — General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—A clever male impersonator is Hetty King, who tops the bill here this week. Other popular turns are J. P. Ling, in a mimetic monologue; Lozelle, a smart gymnast; Kyoto, the Japanese conjurer; the Three Lloyds, the bounding cable wonders; May Geraldine, singer and dancer; Crissie Cross, comedian; Four Hearnes, acrobats; and Carl Lynn, an extraordinary animal mimic. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope is also here.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. C. Moody.—The interesting drama, entitled *The Golden Ladder*, has been successfully presented here by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds's company. Mr. William Clayton, as the Rev. Frank Thornhill, gives a fine embodiment of a prominent part. Mr. Joseph Rowland, as Samuel Peckaby, submits a finished piece of character-acting; in the heavy part of Michael Severn, Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds plays in his usual robust and forcible manner, and finds able support in Mr. E. Graham Winsford as M. Peranza. Miss Mary Austin wins the hearty plaudits of the audience by her artistic rendering of the leading rôle of Lilian Grant; whilst the Mrs. Peckaby of Miss Mimi Edwards is highly praised. In the child's part of Lily Miss May Eddis obtains a brilliant reception.

Gaiety.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Grantham; General-Manager, Mr. Arthur James.—Sabino, in a musical entertainment, heads the bill here, and gives a varied and interesting show; Nell Brough, burlesque artist and whistler, has become a warm favourite; the Kashino Komedy Co., in *The New Master*, an amusing sketch, has had a good reception; Jack Hastings' illustrated songs continue to attract. The pictures displayed by the Bioscope have proved an interesting item of the programme.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. William Tudor.—Pictures continue to gain in popularity with the patrons of the "Drome," and this week's series are giving every satisfaction. The variety turns have been supplied by Syd Hermann and Clive Watts, and have proved attractive.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company, Ltd., opened here on Monday with a week of Grand Opera in English, a full house showing its appreciation and enjoyment of the fine rendering of Wagner's *Tannhäuser*. Mr. Joseph O'Mara, in the title-rôle, sang magnificently, and had a cordial reception; Mr. Charles Magrath was dignified as Herman, the Landgrave; Mr. William Dever was a decided success as Wolfram; and Mr. Renshaw as Biterolf, Mr. Tattersal as Heinrich, Mr. Brindle as Reimar and Mr. Johnstone as Walther were excellent in their respective parts. Mme. De Vere was charming in her rendering of Elizabeth; Miss Toni Seiter as Venus deserves every praise, and Miss Watt as a young shepherd created a pleasing impression. Other operas staged during the week are *The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Bohemian Girl, Romeo and Juliet, Cavalleria Rusticana, Il Pagliacci*, and *The Lily of Killarney*. The chorus ably responds to the skilful conductorship of Herr Richard Eckhold and Signor Romualdo Sapio.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The great attraction here this week is the champion Ju-jitsu wrestler, Tano Myaki. Other turns supporting him are Charles Santon, male soprano and double-voiced vocalist; Selby and Myers, comedians, patterers, and dancers; Mabel La Blanche, ballad vocalist; Prof. R. Dunning, ventriloquist; Lord, Murray, and Lord, in their comedy gymnastic mélange, *The Intruder;* Kahn and Kahn, in a magical act; Carr and Rose, operatic duettists; J. H. Bowman, vocalist and dancer; Marie Blythe, contralto vocalist; the Four Geraldos in a smart performance of juggling and hoop rolling, and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Mouillot and De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—The chief attraction here this week is the Kentucky Four, coloured singers and dancers; De Henau, the famous armless wonder, who paints with his feet only; Counsell and Mills, in their musical burlesque, *On the Stage;* Mlle. Aladini, with her cockatoos; Curtis and Vanity, the American comedy duo; Will Fredo, a mirth-provoking comedian; Flo Summers, comedienne and dancer; and the Hippodrome Pictures are other attractions.

BOSTON.—Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. Saphrini.—The Five M.P.'s, who are here on a return engagement, greatly delight large audiences with their new musical act; Fred Cary, comedian, scores with his smart songs and patter; Max Merlin is clever as "the human crocodile"; the Gelders, mystifying magicians, Lily Martell, comedienne and dancer, Ivy Dene, Daisy Palmer, and the Lee Trio, in their absurdity *The Snowstorm*, are all well received.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—*The Walls of Jericho*, under the management of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. M. V. Leveaux, is paying a second return visit here. Mr. Herbert Bunston's rendering of Jack Frobisher remains a fine performance, which remark also applies to Miss Florence Jackson as Lady Alethea; Mr. G. A. Brandrum as the simple Hankey Bannister is successful; Mr. Cyril Balcine has made a clever study of the Marquis of Steventon, and Mr. Sydney Hamilton does well as Harry Dallas; Miss Molly Carton as Lady Lucy and Miss Doris Lytton as Miss Wyatt stand out prominently among others in a strong cast.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The visit of the clever actress Mrs. Russ Whytal and her company, who are here this week with the delightful comedy *Alice Sit-by-the-Fire*, has been eagerly anticipated. Mrs. Russ Whytal as the charming womanly Mrs. Grey, in a convincing performance, more than justified her reputation as a clever actress; Mr. J. J. Bartlett's Colonel Grey is a performance at once natural and self-possessed. Amy Grey, the romantic school-girl, is delightfully portrayed by Miss Beatrice Bramah; Mr. A. W. Bascomb is humorous as the shy, reticent Cosmo Grey; Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu gives a convincing performance of the part of Stephen Rollo; the enthusiastic Leonora Dunbar exactly fits Miss Lucie Verrier; Miss Ada Marius plays the Nurse well; and as Richardson Miss Lilian Locke is capital. In the intensely dramatic one-act play *The Royal Flower*, which precedes the comedy, Mrs. Russ Whytal was the recipient of great applause for her powerful and earnest acting as Le Marquis, and she was finely supported by Mr. Bartlett as Vidal, Mr. Bascomb as Cadet Vincent, and Miss Ninon Dudley as Virginie.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. Frederick Melville's drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage*, is on a return visit here, eliciting unmistakable marks of approval from enthusiastic audiences. Mr. H. Lonsdale is the hero, George Madison, and he gives a fine performance of the part; Mr. Louis Hector is effective as the villain, Charles Devereux; his accomplice, Lady Lucretia Lancaster, is excellent in Miss Octavia Noel's hands. Miss Nellie Bonser capably fills the part of the heroine of the story; Mr. Fred de Vere is good in the comedy rôle of Timothy Tuttutt; Miss Lucy Beaumont is capital as Patty Lovejoy; and Mr. Leonard Maxwell as Geoffrey Broughton, Mr. Rawden Vivian as the Rev. Mr. Deane, and Mr. Philip Renouf as Joe Lambkin are also noticeable. Mr. John Atkins is responsible for the excellent staging of the drama.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd

Leonard Dalrymple. The staging is highly satisfactory, the mechanical railway engine and train in Act. II. being realistic. Mr. Lewis Leslie acts in good, manly style as Dave Stannard; and Miss Carlotta Anson is pleasing as Mary Stannard; Mr. Percy Maitland is consistent and effective as Luke Dezzard; Mr. Herbert Belmore acts well as Ezra Gamble; Miss Ethel Denville is decidedly good as the boy Davy; and the comic parts of Tat Spavvin and Suzette are capitally taken by Wittie Wattie Walton and Miss Madge Beresford, the remaining characters being all in competent hands.

PALACE THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. V. Welchman.—Hardeen heads the programme, much interest being evinced at his dexterity in getting out of handcuffs and other manacles. C. Emlyn Jones's Ladies Quartette please with harmonious singing; and Rachel Lowe, comedienne, presents a pleasing turn, her songs obtaining much appreciation; the Three Amaranths are exceptionally clever and expert as acrobatic dancers; Spry and Monti please with their song, dance, and patter; George W. Kenway scores as a mimic of eminent comedians; Les Sados are successful as jugglers and equilibrists; Simms and Simms, musical comedians, obtain much applause; and Wal Robbins, black and white comedian, is appreciated. The performance concludes with animated pictures by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—John Tiller's company heads the bill with the amusing sketch, *High Jinks*, which has now been considerably elaborated. Plenty of song and dance is introduced, and the sketch goes really well. Sim Maree, a young Hindoo, described as the "Human Coil," does some exceptionally clever feats as a contortionist. "Mr. E." amuses with patter and comic magic-lantern pictures; the Evalos have a smart speciality and patter act; Herbert Rule, comedian, is successful, and the entertainment concludes with animated pictures.

BROMLEY.—LYRIC THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Purcell; Assistant-Manager, Mr. David Watson.—A successful three nights' visit has been paid us by the Ashley Vaudeville company. Mons. Goanon's ingenious illusions delighted a crowded audience, and calling for special mention are Miss Nellie Camp, a charming comedienne; Miss Lillian Devon, dainty serio and dancer; Bernard Bransby, a refined comedian; Harry Bentley, who has decidedly a style of his own; Gartell Trio, in a musical act; Vincent Mills, a good comedian; Eileen Conroy, an Irish comedienne and dancer; Beale and Belle, in a funny duologue, *By the Sea*; and Kirk and Randall, in an amusing skit, "Actors in the Park." A very interesting series of pictures is shown by the Bioscope.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company provided a rare treat on Monday night, when a large house showed much appreciation of the sterling all-round acting of *Leah Kleschna*, the title-rôle being played by Miss Bessie Rignold. The burglar Kleschna was powerfully delineated by Mr. Paul Belmore. Mr. Wm. F. Grant made a fine Paul Sylvaine. Mr. Hamilton Deane delighted the audience with his Raoul Berton. Campbell Goldsmid was an excellent Schram. Mr. Roland Daniel did well in the dual rôles of General Berton and Valentin Faure. Miss E. Russell as Madame Berton, Miss Helene Belgrave as Claire Berton, Miss Violet Thorold as Sophie, Miss May Mamond as Frieda, and Miss Edith Summers as Charlotte gave charming support.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A creditable performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's bright comic opera *The Mikado* is being given here this week by the Burnley St. Catherine's Amateur Operatic Society for the benefit of the local charities. The excellent scenic and lighting effects call for much praise to the resident staff of the theatre, under the management of Messrs. Jas. Moffat, J. Rowley, and T. Thornton. The whole performance is cleverly superintended by Mr. Henry Leffler, late of the Savoy Theatre, London.

EMIPRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—An excellent programme includes the Vasilescu Roumanian company, in a real performance on bars and bicycles; the Waldrons, in the comedy sketch *The Silly Burglar*; and Dan Robans, who possesses an excellent baritone voice. The performance on pyramids of bricks by N. T. Kioto is clever; Harry Vardon gives a smart ventriloquial entertainment; and Harry Carlton is a capital comedian. Dorothy L. Clarke in nursery songs is good, and "The Children's Lunch," illustrated by the Empire Theatrescope, is pleasing.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—Mr. J. W. Turner's Opera Company is paying a welcome return visit this week, and on Monday gave a capital performance of *Satanella*. In the absence through indisposition of Mr. Turner the part of Count Rupert was allotted to Mr. F. J. Hargrave, whose fine voice and excellent acting made him an admirable substitute; Mr. Sidney Clifford's sonorous voice was heard to special advantage in the rôle of Arimanes; the pirate captain found a thoroughly capable exponent in Mr. G. Bidding; Mr. P. Newton (Karl) and Mr. Richard Cummings (Hortensio) creditably sustained their respective characters; little short of perfection was Miss Kitty Brownless as Satanella, voice and acting being equally good. The Lelia of Miss Christine Gomez and the Stella of Miss Jessie Dennis richly deserved the applause accorded. The chorus was up to the usual high standard. The répertoire for the remainder of the week includes *The Bohemian Girl*, *The Waterman*, *Il Trovatore*, *Faust*, *The Puritan's Daughter*, and *Maritana*.

BURY (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Andrew Melville's company is playing the drama *Driven from Home* here this week. Mr. Reginald Payne is capital as Walter Hatherleigh; Mr. Fred A. Marston plays well as Anthony Raybrook; Mr. J. Milne Taylor is well placed as the villain, Geoffrey Waring; Miss Rose Ralphe is charming as Laura Raybrook; and Miss Jessie Yatman does full justice to her part of the orphan.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Some good turns here include the Cattaneos, acrobatic marvels; the Sisters Geretti, trapeze artists; the Llewellyns, operatic vocalists; Allis and Cassati, comedians and clog dancers; Rosie Sylvester, singer and dancer; J. W. Elliston, descriptive vocalist; Dan Paulton, comedian; and Carlton, the great card conjurer.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—A good show is provided here by Clown Zertho's marvellously trained dogs; Harry Grey, comedian; Tina, a dainty singer; Percy Farrimond, the singing collier; Fred and Lillie Monckton, in a sketch entitled *Are Wives Dummies?*; Claremont and Victor, comedy acrobats; Will Letters, comedian; and Olive Arindale, comedienne.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*The Shulamite* has been a decided success at the Royal this week. Mr. Wm. Greet's company is responsible for the representation. Mr. W. T. Lovell's delineation of Robert Waring reflects considerable credit upon this talented actor; Miss Evelyn D'Alroy cannot be too highly praised for her inspiring rendition of Deborah; Mr. Charles Weir's impersonation of the old Dutch settler is admirable; Mr. Reynolds Denniston makes the most of his part of Jan; and Miss Mary Griffiths as Tante Anna gives a faithful and excellent portrayal. As a curtain-raiser, *The Widow Woos* is presented.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—*A Fight for Millions* is being presented here by Mr. Robert Perris's company. Mr. John C. Carlyle is an excellent Tom Manley; Mr. Hugh Mewburn a forcible Richard Dudley; Miss Alwynne Ermon a dainty Pearl Rivers; and Helen Dudley has an able exponent in Miss Elma C. Turner. Miss Norah Kingsley acquits herself with credit as Mrs. Hudson Rivers; and Miss Doris Howe as Little Madge wins the hearts of all. Mr. Harry Howe as the Tramp, and Mr. Karl H. Edwards as Solomon Moses, are exceedingly amusing.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—The laughable sketch, *Welcome Home*, is presented by Bob Hutt and Co., with much success, and proves amusing from start to finish. The Dandies are charming in song, dance, and mirth; the Aurora Troupe, skilful cyclists, perform most interesting feats; the popular tramp at the piano, Jas. Stewart, is particularly entertaining; and another excellent comedian is Billy Farrell; the Amoros-Werner Troupe, in a pantomime juggling episode; Johnny and Charlie, comedy acrobats; Jimmy Shields, a one-legged eccentric; and the Bioscope, with excellent pictures, are the remaining features of an attractive bill.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Trustees of R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Stanley.—Hardie and Von Leer's company in *Two Little Vagabonds*, occupies the boards. Miss Laura Hansen plays the part of Marien Thornton with pathos and power; she is ably assisted by Mr. William Fagan as George Thornton; Mr. Henry Watson is a convincing Captain Darville; Miss Mildred an excellent Barbara; Mr. John F. Traynor a humorous Bill Mullins; and Miss Marie Pritchard a successful Biddy Mullins; Miss May Hart and Miss Margaret Nybloc, as Dick and Wally, undoubtedly make the feature of the production.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—There is an all-round excellent programme provided here this week, but the laurels are undoubtedly won by Miss Marie Loftus, who is paying her first visit here, and meeting with a tremendous reception; the versatility of this charming artist, in her scena, *Singers Past and Present*, is little short of marvellous, and she is recalled again and again at the end of her performance. Without doubt this is one of the finest turns ever brought to Carlisle, and the management is being repaid for its enterprise by packed houses. The McConnall Trio, in their sketch, combine some good fun with excellent singing, which is thoroughly appreciated. Another good turn which wins unstinted applause is A-Ba-Be's post-card album; Walter Emmerson, comedian, keeps the house in good humour; Gus. Merriman, negro comedian, scores a decided success; Dora Martini is a gymnast far above the average; and Eily Adair, dainty soubrette and dancer, creates a favourable impression. Some capital pictures by the Pepiscope complete a most enjoyable programme.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—This week Hardie and Von Leer present—under the direction of Messrs. G. W. Bowes and Henry Chattell—*Two Little Vagabonds*. Miss Evelyn Shard is a great success as Marion Thornton; Mr. Ernest Stidwell as Capt. Darville is exceptionally good; Mr. Herbert Russell does well as Bill Mullins; Mr. Claude Agnew is effective as Dido Bunce; and Biddy Mullins is in the capable hands of Miss Kathleen O'Connor; Miss Dorothy Hart and Miss Josie Beltram, as the two little vagabonds, Dick and Wally respectively, impersonate the characters with pathos.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—Mr. W. Reuben Payne's company in *The World's Verdict* is here for a week, and doing very effective work. Mr. Albert Guyon gives a careful and convincing study of Jaspar Woodleigh, whose supposed wife, Cora Cassilis, is well played by Miss Lily Roselle; Mr. W. G. Wesley (Sammy Carrot) and Miss Anena Walton (Sally Jenkins) keep the fun going, and are very popular; Mr. Eric Hudson gives a vivid picture of Nathan Black, a maniac; Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh is charming in the part of Florence Woodleigh; Miss May Axon makes an admirable Nellie Ashford; and Mr. Harry Stuart plays with vigour as George Ashford; Mr. W. Reuben Payne is safely cast as Jeremiah Screw. Others worthy of mention are Mr. Tom Egerton, Mr. Hy. Claremont, Mr. Alex. Stewart Dyson, Mr. Jonas Swinbanks, Mr. Clifford Roche, and Mr. Fred Griffiths.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—*San Toy* is here again with Miss Bessie Allayne repeating her bright impersonation of the title-rôle, and Mr. Arthur Cartwright giving a popular rendering of the part of Captain Bobby Preston; Mr. Bert Edwards, as Li, is applauded throughout; Mr. George Taylor, stage manages and appears as Lieut. Harvey Tucker; while Mr. Robert Rivers gives a capital sketch of Sir Bingo Preston; and Mr. Charles Cobb makes a popular Sing Hi.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The talk of this week's audiences is Henry Mack, whose smart act bewilders all; Miss Lillie Soutter scores in every song; Evelyn Taylor's ditties are well received; Pyck, Holl, and Taylor have a much-liked act; the Seven Zerbinis give their musical scena, *The Enchanted Glen*; and others in the bill are Ivy Aberdare, vocalist; H. C. Le Fre and company, in *A Sham Hero*; and Mr. Lacey with his Erascope.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank E. Donne.—Happy Fanny Fields, in the second week of her stay here is going better than ever; a good reception is also given nightly to George D'Albert; Orpheus is deserving of much praise for his musical act; Rell and Brett make a hit with patter, song, and dance; the Edisonograph has a capital film, entitled "The Horse Who Ate a Baby"; Ada Parker, coon songstess and dancer; A. E. Clifford, vocalist; and May Marton, soubrette, complete the attractions.

CHELTENHAM. — OPERA HOUSE. — General Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—*Mr. Hopkinson* is paying a visit this week, introduced by Mr. Charles Macdona's company. The title-rôle is cleverly played by Mr. Frank Stanmore; Mr. Arnold Lucy is a polished, genially critical Duke of Braceborough; the Duchess is impersonated with an air of gracious good humour by Miss Marie Hassall; Miss Gladys Jesson as Lady Tyre Egglesby invests the part with convincing cold dignity; Lord Cawthorpe has a sufficiently blasé representative in Mr. Reginald Dane; Mr. Shirley Lea presents an effective study of the crotchety Earl of Addleton; Mr. C. M. Heslop as the Hon. Otho Dursingham emphasises well the frankly cynical nature of the part; Miss Katherine M. Romsey portrays with delightful snap and verve the part of the "young person," Eliza Dibbs; Mr. G. C. Murray is natural as Smethurst; and minor parts are well filled by Mr. Vincent Galley and Mr. J. G. Lowther.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The event of the theatrical season is the visit of Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson to this house. On Monday night *The Merchant of Venice* was presented. Mr. Benson's Shylock is too well known to require any further commendation; Mr. Percy D. Owen is impressive as the Duke of Venice; Antonio is well represented by Mr. Clarence Derwent; Mr. Geo. Buchanan, as Bassanio, creates a good impression; Mr. H. O. Nicholson, as Gratiano, gives a forceful representation of the part, and is the cause of much merriment; Mr. G. F. Hannam Clark is well placed as Lorenzo; both in elocution and acting Mr. Ed. A. Warburton deserves much praise as the Prince of Morocco; Mrs. Benson, in the rôle of Portia, soon wins the favour of the audience, her love scenes being tenderly acted; Miss Helen Haye makes the most of her opportunities as the waiting-maid, Nerissa; and the part of Jessica is safe in the hands of Miss Gwladys Wynne. *Henry the Fifth*, *Macbeth*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, and *Hamlet* are also in the week's programme.

CHORLEY. — GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hemingway.—The Anglo-American play, *A Gambler's Daughter*, is paying a return visit here this week. Mr. A. Lincoln Galthorpe sustains with much dramatic effect the part of the villain, Stephen Brand; while Mr. Alfred Sanders humorously emphasises the part of Solomon Solomons, his accomplice. Captain Stanhope, the hero, is finely portrayed by Mr. William T. Riley; Mr. Robert Ayrton extracts plenty of humour from the part of Desmond O'Dare, an Irish emigrant. The dual rôle of Mildred and Miriam Grant is admirably sustained by Miss Adria Hill; Ralph Gilman finds a capable exponent in Mr. Arthur T. Leonard, and Mr. Victor Millard does exceedingly well as Jack Grant.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Herbert J. Montague.—The attraction here this week is the farcical comedy, *Facing the Music*, presented by Mr. Charles Windermere's company. Mr. Windermere undertakes the part of John Smith, and much of the success is due to his untiring efforts; the Rev. John Smith is smartly portrayed by Mr. C. Casson Freer; Mr. Gordon Philliott does good work as Dick Desmond; Mr. W. H. G. Wynne looks and acts well as Colonel Duncan; Miss Clare Manifield gives a smart performance of Nora Smith; Miss Kathleen Willoughby is highly successful as Mabel, the curate's wife; Miss Mary Buckstone makes a dashing Miss Fortheringay, of the Bijou Theatre; Miss Evelyn Shelley is a typical housekeeper, by name Mrs. Ponting; and Mr. Henry Nelson is well suited as Sergeant Duffell. The farce is preceded by a domestic episode, written by Mr. Windermere, entitled *The Bookworm*, in which he gives a delightful reading of the part of Mr. David Holmes. He is ably assisted by Mr. Gordon Phillott as Philip and Miss Clare Manifield as Kitty, a foundling.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Company; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—Messrs. Durward Lely and William Mollison's company opened on Monday with *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush*. Mr. Mollison, who is a great favourite here, capably delineated Lachlan Campbell; Mr. Kendall Chalmers artistically portrayed Tammas Mitchell; and the Earl of Kilspindle was successfully enacted by Mr. D. Lyall. Miss Evelyn McNay displayed ability as Flora Campbell; Miss Jennie Fitzgerald made a clever Jeannie; and Miss Josephine Woodward appeared to advantage as Margaret Howe.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—A crowded house assembled on Monday night to witness the musical pantomimical extravaganza, *Saturday to Monday*, by Mr. Fred Karno's company. The cast includes a strong contingent of comedians, of whom Mr. Rolando Martin, as Jaggs, is particularly welcome, his drolleries and topical asides causing endless merriment; Mr. J. Fletch, as Spinks, also contributes largely to the general fun; whilst Mr. V. H. Crawford, as the eldest son, and Master J. McDonagh, as the only daughter of Jaggs, are responsible for some humorous situations. Miss Amy Rogerson makes a charming Clorinda, and Miss Daisy Stone is acceptable as Violet.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Ben de Frece.—Quite an ovation is accorded the star turn, Horace White, and he certainly provides a very entertaining item with his ventriloquial business. Harry Russell and Co., in an amusing sketch, entitled *Binks' Blunder*, affords plenty of enjoyment; Little Salvino is highly proficient with a variety of musical wind instruments, whilst a quaint and yet very clever turn is Johnny Fuller, the "Great Little Cat." Phil Bransby, coster comedian, Mabel le Roy, a particularly well-dressed comedienne, and a smart set of pictures complete the programme.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE—Lessee, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Messrs. Fred Darcy and Fred J. Little's company is on a welcome return visit here this week with the musical drama, *On the Stroke of Twelve*. Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle is good as Jack Rutledge; as George Bainbridge Mr. Fred Guinness is excellent; James Horton is well presented by Mr. H. Creagh Hunt; as Henry Rutledge Mr. Fred Ferne is entirely satisfactory; Mr. Fred Little, as Jesper, is most favourably received; and as Jess Bainbridge Miss Nellie Moors is the recipient of well-deserved applause; Miss Beatrice Moore is an attractive Doris.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Martin Harvey and his company made their first appearance in Cork at the Opera House on Monday, producing *The Only Way*. Mr. Harvey's Sidney Carton is a powerful study, and his acting in the final sacrifice was admirable. The pathetic Dr. Manette of Mr. Fred Wright, sen., was a performance of much interest. Miss N. de Silva, as Mimi, acted with much pathos and grace; Miss Coleridge, as Lucie Manette, played with sympathy and charm; Charles Darnay was effectively represented by Mr. Leonard Craske; and the Defarge of Mr. Charles Glenney was a very fine study. *The Breed of the Treshams* and *A Cigarette Maker's Romance* are also in the week's répertoire.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The principal turn here is that of the Three Olympiers, in "Beauty in Bronze," which consists of a series of studies portraying some great sculptors' creations. As a humorist, Fred Horsfall was most successful; the Haverleys, American song illustrators, gave a pleasing turn; Evie Hamilton, comedienne and dancer, was warmly received; the musical turn of Fanny Humber is clever; a good comedian is Charles Bignell, whose songs are decidedly amusing; Fred Collins, in song and patter, is full of humour; the Three Zaracs appear in *Mashing the Barmaid*; and the Ladderites, in their daring act, prove themselves clever gymnasts.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr Wm. Bennett.—The sensational play, entitled *The Spider and the Fly*, produced by Messrs. Carpenter and Cooper, is attracting considerable attention at this house of amusement. Mr. Stanley S. Gordon is quite a favourite as Cyril Girdlestone; Mr. Ellis J. Preston is a capable villain, Welby Girdlestone; Mr. H. C. Lanceley, as the Rev. McAlister, is a typical village parson; Mr. Frederick Ross is an imposing David Strong; Mr. Fred Terriss and Mr. Charles A. Preece are highly amusing as Romulus Roe and Remus Roe. Miss Amy Venimore is responsible for some capital work as Stella Grey; Miss Nina Vaughton is a charming heroine, Edith McAlister; Miss Lucy Murray is seen to advantage as Molly Blake, an Irish lass; and Miss Ada Palmer is good as a modern lodging-house keeper.

THE HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—A carefully-selected programme is submitted this week at this popular house. The Three Romas give a gymnastic display and hand-balancing act which is very clever. Leonard Barry, in a comedy sketch entitled *Saturday Night*, is well received. Austin Rudd, comedian, is a warm favourite; Starr and Leslie, American speciality artists, give a smart juggling exhibition; W. J. Churchill is a highly successful comedian; the Ten Dixie Girls are much admired in a graceful dance scena, and the usual Hippodrome pictures conclude the performance.

THE EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—A delightful performance is given here by Madge Morley and company in a comic episode, entitled *After the Races*. Paul Conchas appears in a juggling act with heavy weights, and is enthusiastically received; the Sutcliffe Family appear in an acrobatic performance, and also give a sword dance; the Sisters Finney introduce an acrobatic display which is clever and highly entertaining; Tom and Marie Motramo, comedy comedian and comedienne, give a good turn; Frank Darwin is a capital actor-vocalist; Gertrude Bradshaw acceptably renders some well-known songs. Lena Willard, comedienne and impersonator; Beattie and Blanche, comediennes and dancers; and the Bioscope pictures are also in the bill.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. Fred Jarman's company, with *Under the Czar*, is delighting full houses by its all-round excellence. Mr. Gerald Smyth is entrusted with the hero's part, and wins constant applause; Mr. Geo. H. Doyle has the part of Zakhar Kovesky, and gives a capital exposition; Mr. Louis Weston, as Paul Ignat, causes much laughter; Miss Maude Steeple gives a finished interpretation of Sonia Gregorovitch; and Miss Rose May, as Zara Bhura, has a lot to do, and does it well; Mr. R. Tarrant, as Victor Kleff, deserves special mention, as also does Mr. C. P. Amalia for his Count Nesseldorf. We must not overlook Mr. Carl Varener's Alex Petroff, and all the other characters are well filled.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company is paying a welcome return visit here, and opened on Monday with *Carmen*. Miss Rosina Beynon was seen at her best in the title-rôle, her singing and acting being superb; Miss Alice Boaden delighted everyone as Michaela, possessing a voice of extraordinary sweetness; Miss M. Wilcocks gave an effective rendering of Frasquita; and Miss M. Wood did well as Mercedes. Mr. Charles Carter, in excellent voice, did full justice to the part of Don José; Mr. Marshall Vincent was a general favourite as Escamillo, his rendering of the "Toreador Song" receiving a vociferous encore; Mr. R. Brookes as Il Remendado, and Mr. S. Lansdale as Il Dancairo, were amusing; and Mr. Van Lachterop and Mr. G. Gorst were well placed as Morales and Zuniga. The chorus is exceptionally powerful, and the orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. Harrison Frewin. During the week *Faust*, *Tannhäuser*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Il Trovatore*, *Lohengrin*, and *Maritana* were presented.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wallace Davidson.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is here this week in the drama *Honour Thy Father*. As Gabriel Garth, Mr. W. M. Cameron displays great histrionic ability; and Mr. Bert H. Ross is a commendable Jack Halyard; Duncan Bly finds a capable exponent in Mr. W. B. Winning; and Mr. Claude Merton does exceedingly well in a dual rôle. Miss Winnie Donovan submits an interesting rendering of Mercy; and Miss Kate Newton, in the character of Gertrude Garth, is worthy of much praise. As Ned, Mr. W. H. Melrose, and Miss Lizzie Morley as Poppy, find favour with the audience.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Mr. Charles Steuart is introducing a triple bill here with success. The one-act comedy, *The Second Mrs. Grundy*, affords scope for interesting acting on the part of Mr. Herbert Druce as Jerry Grundy and Miss Daisy Atherton as Phyllis Hewett. In *The Little Stranger* unstinted praise is due to Master Edward Garratt for his exceedingly droll impersonation of Tom Pennyman; Mr. Athol Forde makes a hit as General Allenby; Mr. Charles Steuart is quite at home as Captain Dick Allenby; Mr. Charles Hanbury deserves high compliments for his portrayal of the Hon. Alec Howard; Mr. Hubert Druce is quite satisfactory in the rôle of Sir George Peacock; Mr. George E. Bellamy is worthy of praise as Paul Vronsky; Miss Mary Allestree is excellent as Mrs. Dick Allenby; Miss Daisy Atherton makes a charming Effie Peacock; and adequate assistance is given by Misses Mary Stuart, May Haysack, Louie Tinsley, and Mr. Charles Goold. A good reception is given to the scene "Fogged," which introduces Mr. John Morris's smart mechanical changes.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Elliott's company in *A City of Sin* is here this week. Mr. Conrad Heywood figures prominently as Paul Torraine; Mr. J. Berresford Innes as Mortain is very good; Mr. Wilfred Grahame does well as Zip Barzon; Messrs. C. W. Spencer and Val. W. Gully create much merriment as Bibi Leboeuf and Titi Culotte; Mr. W. G. Clements is commendable as Grognard, and Mr. A. H. Elliott excellently impersonates Father Mark. Miss Edith Wallis submits a good representation of Alice Bertrand; Miss Jenny Watson is capable as Ilma; and Miss Polly Denville and Miss Elvira Stuart as Zazotte and Cohuette are very pleasing.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—A varied and entertaining list of amusements is billed here. The Ten Loonies, in sketch, *Dotty*, are very quaint; Goodfellow and Gregson are first-class vaudeville artists; Eadie and Ramsden are much above the average in the musical pot-pourri, *Charlie's Visit*; Lionel Vaughan's company in a laughable sketch, *In Trouble*, is well worth seeing; Flo Cecil is a fascinating comedienne and dancer; the Five Casino Girls, brass instrumentalists, are applauded; the Groves do well in comedy act, *The Lady Sculptor*; Lloyd Morgan is a clever light comedian; and J. C. Kurry, comedian, is smart. The pictures on the Bioscope are appreciated.

DARLINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—On Monday, Mr. Charles Darrell's new drama, *Sins of Society*, proved very successful here. A good all-round company includes Miss Bessie Elma. The piece affords her great opportunities, in which she is seen to advantage. Mr. Alfred D. Adams, as the keeper of a gambling saloon, is most powerful in his acting; Mr. Cecil H. B. Churton, in the part of Lionel Bennett, does very well; Miss Maud Le Ray and Mr. Walter Scully ably hit off two conventional Cockneys; Mr. Bartlett Masters is the exponent of an excellent part; Mr. Fred Mace is a good second to Mr. Adams in the chief villainy; Miss Louise Heathfield plays her part admirably; a charming performance is given by Miss Shirley Dalton as the adopted daughter of Sir Harding Bennett; and Mr. C. Chatterstone and Mr. James Carrington are good in their respective parts.

DARWEN. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—The Alberto troupe of equilibrists and acrobats; Mlle. Felda, in a clever musical act; the Sisters de Lacey, operatic vocalists; Molly Doon, comedienne; Bock Pylades, impersonator; and the Theatrescope pictures are the attractions here.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is here this week with the drama, *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Mr. Chas. Franmore, as John Meadows, is in every way successful; and Miss Beaumont Collins cleverly depicts Barbara Wade; Miss Nannie Meade figures agreeably as Nellie Meadows; and Miss Jessica Black is a praiseworthy Constance Cornell; Mr. Wilson Gunning plays well as Jack Livingstone; and the Cuthbert Lumley of Mr. Gerald Jordan is a capable assumption. The comedy element is provided by Mr. Fred Ingram as Toby Turvey and Miss Lena Delphine as Tilly Vane.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—There is an interesting and well-varied programme here this week. Foremost on the bill come the Martelloni Troupe of lady acrobats and vaulters, who contribute a clever and skilful turn; the Two Hartfords do some wonderful tricks on a bicycle, and are well received; Zaro and Arno cause much fun in their comedy bar act; Walter Wade is an entertaining eccentric comedian; and Bert Williams is a ventriloquist of no mean order; Violet Morgan, character mimic, gives some good imitations of the leading comedians; and Mark Leslie, "The Dusky Prince," provides some good dancing. Several interesting pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—Mr. Morton Powell's company in Buchanan Rogerson's powerful drama, *The Woman who Gambles*, occupies the boards this week. The acting of Miss Gertrude Hunt, as the Countess Steinboch, is a marked feature of the performance; while Mr. Horatio Sinclair, as the intriguing Baron Cratzlaw, Governor of Balaka, is very successful. The Misses Florrie Halton and Florrie Hall, and Messrs Stevenson, Prior, and Duncan also capably fill the parts alloted to them.

DEWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—Mr. F. R. Benson's company in a répertoire of Shakespeare's works and eighteenth-century comedians, is here this week. *The Taming of the Shrew*, staged on Monday night, was so worthily represented, thanks to the thoughtful and artistic acting, that the applause showered upon the actors bore conclusive testimony to the profound impression created. *Macbeth* drew a large audience of attentive and appreciative listeners. To a student of psychology, the character of Macbeth appeals with irresistible force, and so far as Mr. Henry Herbert's presentation went, the changing moods were delineated with a masterful ease and artistic verisimilitude. A performance of uniform excellence throughout was that of Miss Dorothy Green, as Lady Macbeth; Mr. E. Spencer Geach contributed some notable and valuable work in his rendering of Macduff; Mr. Reginald Davis proved a very satisfactory exponent of Banquo; and praise is also due to the acting of Messrs. Barker (King Duncan), Gerald Ames (Malcolm), Sherrard (Donalbain), Philip Merivale (Rosse), V. Holman (Lenox), Esme Filmer (Seyton), Ross Shore (First Witch), Miss Beatice Terry (Fleance), Mr. Henry Morrell (Second Witch), Miss Mary Webb (Third Witch), Miss Louise Graeme (Hecate), and Miss Rosa Burgess, as a gentlewoman. The week's bill includes, *As You Like It*, *Henry V.*, *The School for Scandal*, *Merchant of Venice*, and *Hamlet*.

DONCASTER.—NEW THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*A Woman's Pluck* was delightfully presented here on Monday evening by Mr. James Willard's company. Mr. Austin Mortimer gave a fine rendering of Dick Darrell; and Mr. Frank Etheridge was a valuable asset as Sir Noel Fordyce, the mad squire; the Winston Dale of Mr. Harry T. Wood was well embodied; and Mr. Fred Norburn, in the dual rôles of Mark Scanlon and Jim Daremont demonstrated the wisdom of his being assigned these characters. A choice reading of Matthew Popo came from Mr. Harry Emmerson; and real humour was displayed by Mr. Dicky Bird as Roger Pippin. Miss Tina Shaw was particularly smart in her interpretation of Bertie Daredevil; a careful handling of Mrs. Pope was given by Miss Elsie Maitland; and a distinct triumph was secured by Miss Violet Carr, whose gentle and inteligent impersonation of a rustic maid was appreciated to the full. Miss Nellie Freeland was alert and engaging as Ophelia Pippin; Miss Helen Elmar has all the qualifications for undertaking with perfect success the part of Lady Daredevil; Miss Grace Lester displays ability as the plucky woman, and gives an exhibition of "the noble art" that earns for her vociferous recognition.

DOVER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. Leicester Jackson's company is here this week with *Her One Great Sin*, a drama of the conventional type. Mr. John Cecil is a satisfactory Ruben Warhurst, and Miss St. Albans as Grace succeeds in gaining the sympathy of the audience. Two excellent character-studies are given by Mr. Charles E. Lambert and Miss Louie Walton as Dan and Bet Humble; while Mr. Harold B. Ford is effective in the rôle of their son Jack; a good deal of natural humour is brought into Mr. Fred Hudson's impersonation of Jerry Jumble; and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson is good as Arnold Thornhill. A clever sketch of a flower-seller is contributed by Miss Phyllis Damian. Miss Nellie Lambert, a vivacious and convincing Nancy Winpenny, is successful; and the part of Little Gracie is admirably undertaken by Miss Maudie Lambert.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Vaudeville Syndicate Co.; Manager, Mr. B. H. Harland; Secretary, Mr. Chas. R. Standfield.—An excellent programme is submitted this week, with Robbie Roy, an amusing Scotch comedian, at the top of the bill. Cravetta and Parr score with their clever and entertaining pot-pourri act; Susie Marney, descriptive vocalist, gives well-rendered songs; and Mac and Hill, comedians and patterers, meet

Ross Warren as Coco Tachoski and Miss Alice Buckland as Nina Pattalake are warmly applauded, and Mr. Hill Cromer meets with approval as Paul Starevitch. Other parts are entrusted to Mr. Charles Bickell, as Michael Mischla; Mr. Frank Orchand, as Fedor Strellitzke; Mr. Arthur Swain, as Colonel Linievitch; Mr. Arthur Conroy, as General Drakensburg, and Mr. Alfred Mimms as Sergeant Kranz.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The principal turn here this week is supplied by Harry Cadle's company of midgets in the eccentric act, entitled *Casey's Court*. Maxwell and Francis, vocalists and dancers, score a big success; and the Dusky Comedy Queen, May Henderson, is as good as ever; Henry Taylor Trio Mexican Equilibrists find an appreciative reception of their clever entertainment; and May Fallowfield is a chic comedienne who has many admirers; Walter King is an amusing comedian with good patter; and Nellie Farrell sings some Irish songs, which are well received. Walter Curtis, a comedian of more than ordinary merit, is well to the fore, and the Empire pictures are up to the usual standard.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The attraction here this week is MacDonald's Melody Makers in their phantom scena, *The Burglar's Dream*, which receives due recognition; the Five Saxonias, in a refined musical act, are deservedly applauded; and Frank Coyle, comedian, achieves a big success; Mr. H. Flockton Foster's company, in the sketch, *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, provides much fun; and Jeanette Hall, lady baritone vocalist, sings admirably; Cartza and Mirtziania give a smart and sensational gymnastic act. Other turns include J. C. Scatter, a capital comedian and dancer; Carlo Bianchi, foot equilibrist; and Lily Vane, a clever comedienne and dancer. The Bioscope is also interesting.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here:—The Barries, duettists; Little Dandy, versatile comedian; Gertie Clark, ballad vocalist; Frank Doyle, comedian; Henri Hartz, conjurer; and Marcelia, with illustrated songs.

DUMFRIES. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. E. Potts; Manager, Mr. Payne Seddon.—For the first three nights of this week we had Mr. Percy Worman's company, in the military drama, *A Woman Worth Winning*. Mr. Sydney Barton as Czar Nicholas was very good; Mr. Gilbert was well placed as Amos Pauloff; Mr. A. B. Makay made a capital Fergus Lovinskie; Mr. Percy Norman ably sustained the part of General Bovinsky; Miss Maud Buchanan was an ideal Roma Pauloff; Miss Ida Mackay a smart Katerina; and Miss Iris Daventry a pathetic Lola.

DUNDEE. — HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—*The Perfect Lover*, by Mr. Alfred Sutro, is presented here this week. Mr. Harold V. Neilson does full justice to the part of Joseph Tremblett; Mr. W. Lemmon Warde is responsible for a clever embodiment of William Tremblett; and Miss Beatrice Forbes-Robertson artistically enacts the part of Mrs. William Tremblett.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—Mr. Harry Lauder continues his triumphant success of last week. He is supported by an excellent company, which includes Matt. Wilkinson and company, the Wolihafs, Fanny Robina, Florrie Cooper, Billie Bint, Bernardo, Steinway Quartette, and Miss Onra.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—*A Thousand Pounds Reward* is being presented by Mr. Charles Rogers, jun., who gives a clever impersonation of Dick Springthorpe; Miss Daisy Halling looks well as Madam Sanson; Miss Lynn Darlington, in the character of a flower girl, sings "Eileen Alanah" in artistic style; and Inspector Gilbert is played with humour by Mr. Frank Dallas. The Saletos introduce a daring acrobatic pedestal act.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Mr. Sydney Prince pays a welcome return visit with his cinematograph entertainment. Several novelties are introduced, including, "A Day in Burns' Land," "A Visit Below," &c. Mr. Frank Newbury, whistling comedian; and the Sisters Lorraine, song and dance artists, appear with success.

EASTBOURNE.—DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. Standen Triggs.—Three performances of *Old Heidelberg* have been given here by local amateurs with considerable success. The proceeds are to be given to the Princess Alice Hospital Funds.

PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Weedon Grossmith's success, *The Night of the Party*, is being staged here during the week. A large part of the general success falls to Mr. Sebastian Smith, who, as Crosbie, is consistently excellent; Mr. Frank H. Denton plays with distinction and polish as Mr. Frayne; Mr. Douglas Munro realises many of the possibilities of the part of Mr. Flambert; and Mr. Stanley Arthur is a quaint and amusing Bogle. Mr. Aidan Lovett appropriately fills the rôle of Sir Charles; Mr. Ernest Rivarz is an entertaining Hargen; and Mr. Eric Bell a satisfactory Alec. Miss Evelyn Howard as Lady Hampshire is admirable, both in acting and appearance; Miss Stanley Rolands is a praisworthy Gipsy; Miss Lillian Williams as Pauline works hard and well; and Miss Lena Graham ably helps as Mrs. Young.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—Dr. Carl Hermann heads the bill here, and again surprises and amuses the audience with his electrical experiments; Harwood's Juveniles sing, dance, and provide an excellent item; Mr. Frank Leon is one of the neatest and most expert dancers seen here; Miss Zetland sings capitally; Mr. George Bendon is entertaining as a white coon; the Three Bostonians dance in fine style; Miss Lizzie Kirk is a pleasing comedienne; and new pictures are shown.

ECCLES.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Manager, Mr. Ernest Hales.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company in *The Manxman* are playing to crowded houses. Mr. Cross, as Pete, appeals powerfully to the emotional part of the audience; Mr. Sydney C. Kearns, as Philip Christian, is praiseworthy; Mr. Richard Hutton, as Cæsar Creegeen, acquits himself cleverly; the Ross Christian of Mr. Dudley Stuart is satisfactory; Mr. Tom Bowron makes an ideal Dr. Mylcreest; Mr. Joe Wallace, as Tom, the Postman, acquits himself well; and the part of Monty Missitt is done full justice to by Mr. Edward Cartell; the Kate Cregeen of Miss Minnie Watersford is all that can be desired; as Miss Christian, Miss Mona Spearing is good; Miss Dorothy Duncan takes the character of Nancy admirably; and as Bella Kelly, Miss Kitty Livesey is taking.

EDINBURGH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—*Sergeant Brue* is no stranger in Edinburgh, and, as presented this week by Messrs. E. Lockwood and R. Crossman's company, the piece still retains much of its earlier popularity. Mr. Arthur Reynolds as the doughty Sergeant, and Mr. Charles M'Lagan in the rôle of Crookie Scrubbs keep the fun going in rollicking style; and Mr. Charles Sims is exceedingly humorous as Mr. Crank, the magistrate. Mr. E. Percy Rogers gives a smart and effective impersonation of young Michael Brue; the part of Aurora finds a pleasing representative in Miss Mary Hay; and Lady Bickenhall, in the hands of Miss Hebe Bliss, is portrayed with much charm and grace, the songs falling to her share being successfully rendered. Admirable work is done by the chorus; and most of the numbers receive hearty encores.

ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard Wyndham, Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—*The Prodigal Son* is being played here this week by an admirable company, which includes Miss Lily Hall Caine and Miss Alma Murray. Miss Lily Hall Caine is always an actress who gives proof of careful study and intelligence, and she is graceful, powerful, and pathetic in the dual rôle of Thora and Ellin. Miss Alma Murray's sympathetic, delightful style gives distinction to the part of Anna; and Miss Cecil Cromwell is a handsome, vivacious Helga. Strong work is done by Mr. Herbert Hewetson as Magnus; and Mr. Norman Partridge is singularly effective as Oscar. Mr. Howard Russell gives a fine performance as Stephen Magnusson; and amongst the other members of a large cast, highly laudable sketches are presented by Mr. Charles Douglass Cox as Dr. Olsen, Mr. Charles Maynard as Neils Finsen, Mr. Fred Epitaux as Oscar Neilson, and Miss Mima Renouf as Margaret Neilson. The drama is beautifully staged, and it is attracting good houses.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Dramatic sketches are prominent in the programme here this week. Mr. John F. Preston and company appear in a piece entitled *Rogues of the Turf*, a capital bit of acting as an alert trainer being given by Mr. Preston, who is well supported by the members of his company. Ginnett's *Rejected Remounts* causes the liveliest amusement; and Mr. Charles Fisher and company are admirable in a clever operatic sketch, *The Music Master*. Miss Marie Duma arouses much enthusiasm by her cultured rendering of several ballads; Miss Clarice Netta sings sweetly; Mr. Harry Herbert is an entertaining comedian; Miss Ray Maskell dances with grace and skill; and the Clarkes afford much pleasure by their deft manipulation of the banjo. The Glenroy Troupe are exhilarating in their exhibition of international dances; Mr. Alec Thorne sings expressively; and the American Bioscope provides a fresh series of interesting pictures.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Cooke.—Changes in the programme serve to maintain the attractions of this popular place of amusement at the usual high level. *Dick Turpin's Ride to York* forms a leading feature in the bill for the current week, the rôle of the formidable highwayman being undertaken in spirited fashion by Miss Ida Ginnett. Mr. Leicester Alfred introduces the remarkably well-trained horse Cleveland, who shows extraordinary intelligence; Hinton and Wooton give a smart display of football on bicycles which proves very exciting; the Hamels' double equestrian performance ranks among the cleverest exhibitions of horsemanship; Stelling and his dog show a wonderful development of canine sagacity; Du Calion continues his extraordinary ladder-climbing; and Miss Elliott introduces some agile skipping-rope dancing; while Gilbert's Bioscope, and comic interludes by Neddy Vokes and Frank Anderson, add interest and humour to the entertainment.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company is here this week in the drama *Held Apart*. Mr. Alderson himself is clever as the villain James Douglas; Mr. Leonard Laurence does well as John Douglas; Mr. Ernest G. Batley as Hugh Trevor is all that can be desired; Miss Ruby Loneraine as Sybil Grey, the heroine, acts well; and Miss Ethyle Murray as Quita Garcia ably sustains her part.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—During the first three nights of the week the fare provided was of a miscellaneous kind. A capital cinematograph exhibition was given by the Royal Imperial Electric Animated Picture Company. Some excellent variety turns were supplied by the Dunlops, clever comedy cyclists; Miss Marie, ballad vocalist; Mr. T. E. Walter, tenor; and Miss Lillian Sivado, whose performances as a gymnast were daring and skilful. For Thursday, the company of Mr. Matthew H. Glenville and Mr. Fred Osmond in the American drama, *The Still Alarm*, was billed.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry J. Snelson.—This week Messrs. A. Hamilton Warden and Chas. V. Sandford's company is here in *A Woman's Past*. Mr. Henry Hargreaves is admirably suited as David Heath; Mr. Chas. V. Sandford makes an excellent Frank Dellannoy; Mr. A. Hamilton Warden is seen to advantage in the part of Clement Harper; Mr. G. Moreton Williams ably portrays Uriah Craven; Miss Era Bertram makes a remarkably good Clara Darrel; Miss Violet Ennis Lawson is appropriately "fetching" as Dorothy Heath; and Miss Maisie Hanbury as Bessie does well.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company is here this week in *The Midnight Mail*. Mr. Arthur Whitehead as Harry Steyne acts with force and feeling; great praise is due to Mr. F. G. Eveson for his efforts as Billy Brewer; Mr. Robert Gray is satisfactory as Leonard Royle; Mr. Arthur Gilroy depicts the villainous Hassam Padisha realistically; Mr. Charles McCann does well as Donald Graigg; Miss Ada Oakley plays the somewhat arduous rôle of Mary Steyne in a capable manner; Miss Mildred Carr as Nancy Brewer scores a success; Miss Phyllis Dailley is all that could be desired as Lady Phyllis; and Miss Dolly Gilroy is a bright Patty. On Tuesday there was a special attraction in the shape of Mr. H. Bernhardt's flying matinée.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Arthur Carlton Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—For the last three nights last week we had Messrs. Shinton and Greenwood's company in the sensational drama, entitled *The Price of Her Soul*. Mr. John B. Shinton gave a manly and dignified rendering of Lieut. Mandeville, and Mr. Annesley Hely was excellent as Skoboloff; Miss Ada M. Ryder, as the Countess, played a difficult part in an effective manner. The comedy element was in the hands of Mr. Will Percy, Miss Ethel Rainforth, and Miss Grace Garside.

GATESHEAD.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—Fascinating *Kitty Grey* is staying at this house for a week. Mr. Geo. Stephenson's company is an excellent one, and good business is being done. Miss Hilda Guiver is deserving of warm praise for a charming performance in the title-part; the impossible King of Illyria provides Mr. Lauri Lisle with an opportunity of exhibiting his admirable humour; Mr. Leslie Steward, as Lord Plantagenet, is also highly amusing; Mr Herbert Ranson does well as Sir John; Miss Dorothy Sephton as Lady Binfield is very popular; Mrs. Bright receives capable treatment at the hands of Miss Nellie Lauraine.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee, Mr. Edward Johnson; General-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Starring here this week are the Davis and Gledhill Trio, in their cycle and motor racing on a patent track. The exhibition is much appreciated. Daisy De Roy, a dainty comedienne, is paying a return visit, and augments her already huge list of admirers; Lawrence Barclay is a comedian in the true sense of the term; Austin and Cowan, vocal entertainers, get a hearty reception; an entertaining Scotch comedian is found in Jock Walker; Bliss and Bliss, knockabouts, submit a good turn; Frank and Violet Payte have a comedy duologue which appeals to a section of the audience. A funny picture named "Humours of a river picnic" is depicted by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—*The Drama of Life*, presented by Mr. Lingford Carson's company, is drawing large audiences. Mr. Edward M. Hamilton gives an artistic rendering of Harry Beech; Mr. John J. Hooker may be congratulated upon a capital impersonation of Walter Beech; Mr. H. Maxwell Payne submits a careful study of Jack Lawton; Mr. Sydney Fiennes makes an excellent Dane Crane; very amusing is Mr. Harwood Roberts as Dobson Wilde; Mr. George Child cleverly portrays Brenton; a deep impression is made by Miss Kate Hallam, whose Sylvia Beech is excellent in every respect; Miss Marie Pardy represents Master Robert admirably; Miss Nellie Birchenough (Betty Black) and Miss Florence French (Lady Jane) are effective in their respective parts.

GLASGOW.—KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Mr. Leonard Boyne received a hearty welcome here, after a long absence, on his appearance with Mr. Chas. Frohman's company in *Raffles*. As the amateur cracksman Mr. Boyne has a part that suits him to a nicety, and as the easy-going society lounger he was admirable, while in more exciting incidents he roused the enthusiasm of the audience to a high pitch. The contrasting picture of Crawshay was strikingly given by Mr. Dalziel Heron. Mr. Lewis Edgard made a manly young Harry Manders, and the languid Viscount Crowley was cleverly acted by Mr. Edmund Breon. Mr. Clifford Brooke appeared as Curtis Bedford. Mr. Arthur Willoughby made a handsome old aristocrat as the Earl of Amersteth. The ladies were all well suited, and the acting of Miss Hazel Thomson as Gwendoline, Miss Amy Thomas as Lady Melrose, Miss Madge Murray as Lady Ethel, Miss Hilda Stewart as the vindictive Mrs. Vidal, and Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald as a typical French maid helped greatly in the success of the play. A clever comedietta, specially well acted, *A Lesson in Shakespeare*, was given in front.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—*Are You a Mason?* on a return visit, is proving an attraction here this week. Mr. E. H. Paterson is amusing as Amos Bloodgood, and the Frank Perry of Mr. Howard L. Tracy is a praiseworthy performance. Mr. Ernest Cossart is seen to advantage as George Fisher. Miss Adelaide Grace is excellent as Mrs. Bloodgood; Mabel Durrand capitally sustains the part of Eva Perry; Lulu and Annie find charming representatives in Misses Babs Stuart and Madge Merrique; Miss Gwen Clifford does good work as Lottie. The farce is preceded by the one-act play *The Ruby Heart*, which was much enjoyed.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdock.—Miss Lillian Beszant's company is here this week in the American drama *An Actor's Romance*. The part of the popular actor Harold Davenport is played with considerable ability by Mr. E. Eardley Howard; Miss Beatrice Hone gives a sympathetic rendering of the part of Mrs. Davenport, whose little daughter Phyllis is pleasingly represented by Miss Marion Ryder; Miss Lillian Beszant gives a bright and vivacious performance as the pretty actress Dotty Dillingham; Miss Florence Nelson presents a strikingly dramatic impersonation of Florence Hastings; as Charlie Cummins Mr. Harry Wren is responsible for much hearty laughter: Robert Livingstone and Jack Woodford have able exponents in Messrs. E. E. Clive and Harry Agar-Lyons; good character work is done by Mr. Percy Warlow as Ikey Isaacs; and Mr. Ernest F. Wallace acts with excellent effect as Lester Bond.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Arthur Carlton's company in the successful drama *The Span of Life*. The cast includes several capable artists, notably Mr. R. S. Trelawney, who, in the character of Richard Blunt is highly successful. Mr. Sanderson Moffat, as Dunstan Leech, the deceitful villain, is also seen to great advantage; while Miss Phyllis Hamilton, as Mrs. Jelf, receives many expressions of approval. Able support is given by Messrs. Walter Dale, James Jarrett, and Misses Ella Wilmer and Kitty Russell; while the Stebbing Brothers look after the acrobatic requirements of the plot.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company has been transferred from the Princess's to the Lyceum with the popular *Worst Woman in London* in which Miss Florence Dalton sustains the character which gives the play its name, as she did last week, the other parts being also represented by the same artists as before.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—That amusing playlet, *Three of a Kind*, as presented by Ethel Arden, George Abel, and company is a thoroughly enjoyable item. The Courtiers give a clever and picturesque vocal entertainment, with a spice of comedy; Phil and Nettie Peters are a smart American couple; Frances Letty dances neatly; the Stavordale Quintette give a pleasing musical turn; Holden's Mannikins get a well-deserved recall for a smart marionette show; Syd Myra and his dog Nell add to the enjoyment; as also does Greta May, comedienne, while the foot-balancing of Frank Maura is as deft as ever. The Bioscope pictures, with views of Bonnie Scotland, are much appreciated.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Carl has proved a great success here. He reminds the audience of Little Tich. His business is very similar, and equally clever. An undoubtedly clever turn is that of the Paxton Trio. The hand and foot balancing is marvellous. Jordon and Harvey score with funny patter, and give a display of cycling, comic and sensational. The Villions have had a reception well worthy their skill and daring. "An Old Man's Darling" on the Bioscope is one of the most enjoyable items on the programme. Selma Brantz repeats her brilliant Cinquevalli business. Sydney Dolf has a fine reception for his varied performance as mimic, juggler, &c. Jessie Burnett, comedienne, the Delomes, in "The Phantom Clogs," Jas. Heron, in illustrated songs, and the Three Clarions, comedy artists and dancers, are the others on a very attractive programme.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—A particularly good programme is drawing crowded houses here. Daisy Jerome, in half a dozen impersonations, fetches the audience every time. Another star turn is that of Gertie Gitana, whose dainty and neat style is appreciated. Jessie Huddleston, the well-known comic opera prima donna, contributes several attractive songs. The Royal Opera Singers give a most enjoyable extract from *Maritana*. A lively sketch, *Barmaids*, by Lowther, Hodgson, and company causes hearty laughter. Tom E. Hughes, comedian, is a strong favourite; the Charles Troupe give a smart and well-staged acrobatic turn; Rose Waller sings well; and George Foster's comic ditties are cleverly rendered.

COLISEUM.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The chief attraction this week is undoubtedly Fred Karno's company in *Moses and Sons*, a spirited piece of amusement, in which Mr. Fred Kitchen plays with great success. Violet Ray in her vocal and 'cello selection is well received, and Sylvie Du Barry in her rendering of "Sing me to sleep" evokes much applause. The Four Indian Fakirs, in their exhibition of conjuring, astonish the audience, and Shawlene, in his whistling act, scores a great success. The Molasso Quartette give a good exhibition of cyclonic dancing, which is well received, and Les Voces gain hearty applause for their vocal act. The Bioscope gave the usual display of interesting scenes.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Max Rubens and Mlle. Doro give a capital musical turn, entitled "Superba"; Emily Warren, soprano vocalist, sings charmingly; Billie Burford, comedienne, does well; Arthur Stacey scores capitally, and his dances do him credit; while the boisterous absurdity, "Everyday Cyclists," by Frank Keegan and company, convulses everyone. Jack Mackenzie and company have come across the city, and are repeating here their burlesque musical comedy, *The Belle of Barcelona*. The Brothers Huxter are a big draw; as acrobats they are in the forefront. Dolly Harmer is a favourite, and her imitations are received most warmly; and Ross and Grayson submit a versatile act.

HARMONIC CONCERTS.—Musical Secretary, Mr. Wm. Biggam.—A well-varied Scotch programme is given here, the chief item being a sketch, *Tam o' Shanter and Soutar Johnnie*. Bennett and Martell gain hearty applause for their amusing business as "lost mariners." J. K. Macfarlane and Tony Black do well in comic ditties; J. M. Hamilton, Nellie Clark, and Jessie W. Fraser score in sentimental songs; while the dancing of the Murray Troupe and the musical items of the Scottish Troubadours are also much enjoyed.

GLOSSOP. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Miss Ida Millais' company (under the direction of Mr. Henry Herne) is here this week. Mr. Herne capably sustains the part of Harry Oaklands; Mr. H. Pyne Warburton, in the dual characters of Gilbert and Capt. Norman Bathurst, gives a good reading; Mr. Frank Denis scores as the adventurer, Silas Moore; and Mr. A. G. Lytton, as Mat. Marsden, is successful; Mr. Wm. Mallalieu is amusing as Dr. Buxton, and together with Mrs. Mallalieu as Mrs. Poodle causes hearty laughter; Mr. Alfred Byron is to the fore as Thomas Poodle; Mr. Eduard Adams is good as Owen Rushton; Mr. Chas. Young (Long Tom Grinder), and Mr. Vaughan Rowe (Jem Carnip) do ample justice to their respective parts; Miss Ida Millais gains warm applause as Mary Bathurst; Mr. Neuton Pearce (Solomon Jacops), and Miss Nancy Mitchell (Bessie Poodle), are also excellent.

GLOUCESTER.—PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—M. Tschernoff introduces a wonderfully clever act with ponies, dogs, and pigeons; Hanvarr and Anna Lee are billed, but on Monday Miss Lee was not well enough to appear, and Mr. Hanvarr submitted his single-handed juggling with great success; the Harrison Bros. are expert dancers and smart comedians; Mr. Fred Vallance, ventriloquist, introduces his *New Page* to an accompaniment of laughter; the conjuring of Moteni meets with a good reception; Miss Ethel Yorke has good songs, and an interesting sketch is given by Bayne and Hope, entitled *An Emperor's Divorce*; the Miltons are capital skaters; Mr. Clem. Lisbon, comedian, appears; and the Bioscope presents the interesting film "Black Beauty."

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John E. Tomlinson.—*A Mother's Love*, played by Mr. F. L. Connynghame and company constituted the attraction at this house for three nights. Mr. A. Mervyn acts with power and ability as Paul Wingate; Geoffrey Mannering, an unscrupulous character, is cleverly portrayed by Mr. A. E. Pringle; Mr. F. L. Connynghame is highly successful in his impersonation of the eccentric Mat. Ruddock; Mr. R. Lynne wins favour as Joe Jackson; Miss R. Mervyn plays the rôle of Winnie Wingate in a charmingly sweet and sympathetic manner, which speedily won the favour of the house; Miss M. Barrett, as Ellaine Mervain, acts the part with much pathos and verve; Miss D. Monkhouse is bright and attractive as Mary Smart; Miss H. Haslewood deserves a tribute to her charm and ability as Paul Wingate's child.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Messrs. J. B. Shenton and Alexander Greenwood are paying a return visit with the powerful Russian drama *The Price of Her Soul*. Lord Rolf Mandeville, V.C., is depicted in earnest, manly fashion by Mr. John B. Shinton; General Lanovitz is well played by Mr. Archie Gear; and Mr. Annesley Hely ably represents Major Skoboloff. Zouroff is capitally enacted by Mr. Fred White, and Mr. Sydney Ross as Captain Jack Lawton and Mr. G. Marriott, jun., as the Hon. Algy Fraser are both successful. The humorous element is well sustained by Mr. Will Percy as Pat Murphy and Miss Ethel Rainforth as Polly Perkins. Miss Ada M. Ryder is effective as Countess Inez Steinmetz, Miss Daisy L. Connell is excellent as Vera, Lady Jemima is admirably presented by Miss Grace Garside, and Miss Kate Walfred acts cleverly as Olga Lavonitz.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert.—The principal turns this week are the Five Whiteleys, who win loud applause in their clever acrobatic, wire-walking, and musical pot-pourri, and Ben Hur, the ideal athlete, who astonishes with his wonderful feats of strength. Other artists appearing are Rosa Tilley, versatile artist; the Lynches, with American picture songs; Tate and Tate, comedy artists; Zelding, equestrian; Shiela McNeil, the lass frae Killiecrankie; and Gregory, Albini, and the Boy Doodles, clowns.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company is here with *The White Chrysanthemum*. The musical comedy is staged with much liberality, and the company is a highly competent one. The chorus is strong and tuneful, and the music is satisfactorily rendered by the orchestra. Miss Muriel George, by her graceful acting and cultured singing, makes a hit as O San; Kitty Kenyon is delightfully rendered by Miss Emily Taylor; and the Cornelia of Miss Nellie Groves is another outstanding feature of the performance, her dancing being very effective; Mr. Charles Schmiedt makes an excellent Admiral, his vocal numbers being much appreciated; Mr. H. Langdon Bruce fills the rôle of Lieut. Reggie with credit, singing his numerous items very nicely; and Mr. H. E. Garden makes an ideal Lieut. Chippy; Mr. Richard Telford, as Sin Cheng, is a general favourite, and interprets the part of the Chinaman to perfection; while Mr. Jamie Dallas as Private Perks is very amusing.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—A good all-round programme includes Harry Tate's No. 1 Company in a laughable sketch, entitled *Motoring*, which is well received; Paul Courtney and company submit a cleverly-worked sketch, entitled *The New Doctor*; the musical turn provided by the American Comedy Team is of exceptional merit, their singing and dancing being much appreciated; the Brothers Carpo are smart head and hand balancers; Viviana is an exceptionally clever dancer; the Fimans are heartily received in their sketch, *In the Fire Station*; while little Rose Pink is a pleasing vocalist and dancer.

PAVILION THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—An excellent programme is submitted here this week, the premier position being taken by Mr. George Lashwood, who had a cordial reception; Kloff and Ramsay submit a novel musical turn; Herbert La Martine is a clever vocalist, dancer, and baton manipulator; Osburn and Brookes sang and danced well, and have some good patter; and Queenie May, "the Juvenile Prize Packet," is much applauded for her charming singing. The Paviscope pictures are also interesting. At an interval on Monday evening the manager intimated that a special matinée under distinguished patronage would be given here on Wednesday afternoon, the net proceeds to be handed over to the Greenock Charity Organisation Society for the relief of families in the town in destitute circumstances.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—*The Love That Women Desire* is presented here by Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company. Mr. Wallace himself takes a prominent part, appearing as Richard Abingdon; Mr. Fred Lloyd portrays Philip Carnaby in manly fashion; and Miss Lalla Stanhope fulfils all requirements as the much persecuted Sybil Thornburn. Mr. J. O. Stewart is sufficiently grim as Squire Abingdon; and others notable for good work are Mr. Leonard Montgomery as Frank Hardy, and Miss Cicely Desmond as Madge Abingdon, whilst the comedy is well looked after by Miss Nita Imeson as Pattie Swift, Mr. John Hignett as Dennis O'Rourke, and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson as P.C. Sowerberry.

CURRY'S TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The astonishing gyrations of the Achmed-Ibrahim Troupe of Moroccan acrobats have greatly delighted the Tivoli audiences. The feature of the performance is the rapidity with which one feat follows another, and the members of troupe are equally expert in tumbling and pyramid work. Charles Austin's songs and funny business established him a favourite; and Julian Mack, a quaint female impersonator, also causes much merriment. Ragius manipulates tennis balls in a novel and smart manner; the Three Whirligigs accomplish pretty dances, coupled with excellent songs; the Morton Trio combine comedy with pleasingly harmonised vocalism; Rappo and Ella contribute a capital equilibristic turn; the Dunham Trio scored as bar performers; and A. Minor is an entertaining ventriloquist.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—The Seven Savonas and Elliotts have made a welcome reappearance. As the Savonas they give a musical speciality that is more enjoyable than ever, whilst their brilliantly illuminated stage setting is of surpassing beauty. As the Elliotts they introduce new business into their clever cycling act. Millie Howell, a descriptive vocalist, wins admiration for her charm of style; Wheeler and Wilson give an acrobatic specialty, and accomplish some wonderful lifting feats; a graceful gymnastic act is also presented by Senorita Eloina; comedy is provided by Fred Dunstone, whose parodies are amusing; and Grant and Allen are a couple of laughable eccentrics; whilst the Sisters Neilson, dainty song and dance artists, complete the programme.

THE HIPPODROME. — Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. T. Haydn Reano.—Drama was again the attraction here, *At the World's Mercy*, played by Mr. Carr Loates' company. Mr. Loates was good as Captain Manley, and was well supported by Miss Lillian Beaumont as Alice Lloyd; Mr. Percy Beresford as Jabez Barber; Mr. Henry Fergusson as the Jew; Mr. Jesse Boxer as Charlie Smart; and Mrs. Loates as Kitty Knott.

HALIFAX.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Sam Winks.—Mr. Junius Booth opened here on Monday in *Monte Cristo*. Edmond Dantès was admirably delineated by Mr. Junius Booth; as Dangears Mr. Augustin Bowerman proved excellent; Mr. Walter Martin did good work as the Abbé Faria; Fernard was forcibly presented by Mr. C. W. Crowe; Mr. E. H. Templeton created a good impression as Noirtier; Mr. Walter Huron looked the part of the despotic Villefort; and Mr. J. W. Braithwaite did well as Caderousse; Miss Clare Elstob won sympathy as Mercedes; and Miss Emma Robberds was an acquisition as the scheming La Carconte.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Harry Freeman, the popular comedian, has been in a mirth-provoking humour here this week; the Kitafukas Troupe of real Japanese present an astounding act; Milstead and Bell in an original scena, *The Belle of Arizona*, are worthy of commendation; the Four Olympians are full of vivacity; Amy Anderson and company, in the *Banana Queen* meet with approbation; Martinengo is a 'cello player of great promise; and Denby and Dent, the Westons (cyclists), and J. G. Forde (comedian) are also in the programme.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—Howard and Harris have adequate scope for their humorous propensities; Tom Foy and company, in *A Yorkshire Lad in London*, are delightfully quaint; a musical duologue by Hillman and Russell, "The Somnambulist," proves entertaining; and the Almos (acrobats), Friscara (juggler), George Hyam in "Cricket," and Bert Harrow are also popular.

HANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Mr. Tree's company opened here on Monday, in *Oliver Twist*, under the management of Mr. Alfred Wareing. Mr. Mackintosh is once more to be seen as Fagin, a most artistic impersonation; Mr. Cecil A. Collins as Bill Sykes contributes a clever portrayal; as the Artful Dodger Mr. Tom Macfarlane scores successfully; Mr. Christmas Grose does well as Charlie Bates; Mr. Frederick Clive as Tom Chitling is seen to advantage; as Barney, Mr. Max Montesole is capital; Miss Maudie Ray is responsible for an interesting Oliver Twist; as Nancy Miss Marie Polini is exceedingly clever; Betsy is in the capable hands of Miss Edith King; and Mrs. Maylie finds a good exponent in Miss Elsie Carew.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—Mr. Fred Storey and company head the bill this week, in *Rip Van Winkle*. The piece is cleverly enacted. In the title-rôle Mr. Storey's performance is most artistic; he is admirably supported, and the mounting lacks nothing. The Avolos in their novel gymnastic turn contribute a performance of much excellence; Rex Fox in his turn upon the slack wire is much appreciated; Marriott Edgar sings several capital songs; Preston and Balmaine return in their illustrated songs, which are capitally pictured; Stanley and

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—Mr. Walter Howard's *Midnight Wedding* is a drama far above the average. It tells its story coherently, it sustains its interest, and it reveals histrionic gifts of no mean order in its representatives. Mr. Paumier, the head of the company, finds a most congenial rôle in that of Paul Valmer. The comic relief is found in three singing soldiers, Max, Otto, and Bobo, whose struggles to capture the heart of Miss Ada Champion (Kathie) are to the evident enjoyment of the house.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Carter Livesay and Lilian Rosebery make a return visit in *Would-be Actors*. *Iona* is a capital entertainment provided by Charles Fraser and company; Smiler Lee, comedian, has a quaint style; Bob Hamilton appears with much success; Kathleen Gray, a new turn, gains much applause; the Virginians contribute some capital songs and dances.

HULL EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Empress, lady handcuff expert, tops the bill in some smart tricks; Rosie Bartlett has some catchy choruses; Mlle. Meletia is a clever dancer. Other popular artists include J. G. Aitken, Two Leons, Mitzi, Harry Gold, and Sphinx and Sphinx.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Mr. Jno. Tiller's *Mad Minstrels* top the bill. All the principals are new, except Jessie Templeton, a big favourite in Hull, who successfully takes the title-rôle. Minnie Cunningham sings her songs in a dainty manner, as of yore; Lucia and Viata appear in a smart wire act; the Maples and Baker and Balfe are capital turns; and other artists include J. H. Milburn, Bros. Hayes, and Albertine Melicn.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather—Hardie and Von Leer's *Two Little Vagabonds* company is paying a return visit here, to the delight of large audiences. In the rôles of Dick and Whalley, Miss Lucy Beaumont and Miss Gladys Vernon appear to distinct advantage; Mr. Arthur E. Melbourne gives a finished performance as George Thornton; Mr. Edward Maclean displays high histrionic ability as Captain Darville; and Mr. Richard Hicks makes the most of the part of John Scarth. Villainy is capitally personified by Mr. Lionel Ellis as Bill Mullins; Mr. Frank Gordon as Dido Bounce, and Mr. Gerald Valentine as the Coughdrop. Miss Valerie Crespin gives a powerful and telling interpretation to her lines as Marion Thornton; Miss Lilian Stewart is all that could be desired as Barbara Scarth; and a clever study of Biddy Mullins is furnished by Miss Violet Vivian.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in the musical comedy *Florodora* was here the first three nights. Miss Daisy Lake plays effectively the rôle of Dolores, and uses her well-trained voice to advantage; whilst Mr. Howard V. Cropton as Frank Abercoed is the recipient of much applause for his fine rendering of the songs allotted to him; Mr. Gus Danby keeps the house in roars of laughter by his quaint and clever reading of Anthony Tweedlepunch; Mr. H. Carnelly-Joye scores as Captain Arthur Donegal, and Miss Dorothy Dempste is a charming exponent of Angela Gilfain; Miss Rose Sullivan makes a capital Lady Holyrood, and her songs are received with well-earned approbation. Mr. Colin Johnston's Cyrus W. Gilfain is an excellent performance; Miss Dorothy Dance is successful as Valeda, and the same remark applies to Mr. C. A. Road-Night as Leandro. The chorus is under the able directorship of Mr. W. E. Brightwell.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Knightall.—The Danvils render their illustrated songs in a charming way, and also present good animated pictures. The Delemers, comedians and dancers, are applauded; Fred Alberto, vocalist and dancer, has had a good reception; May Tudor, ballad vocalist; George Russell, character-comedian; and Leo Loveday, comedian and dancer, add to the success of the entertainment.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—The musical farce entitled *The Dandy Doctor* is here. Miss Florence Smithers, in the character of Jane, causes much merriment; Mr. James Satter as the millionaire makes a good impression in an eccentric part; Mr. Leslie Martin as Bertie Bolingbroke renders good assistance; Miss Elfie Vincent sings charmingly, and Mr. Walter Nugent as the Doctor and Mr. Herbert Pearce as the Colonel are quite successful.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The most striking feature of the programme here is Madame Claesen's living art bronzes, which include some living replicas of the great masters. Other turns include Joe Archer, with droll patter; Jack Ross, a double-voiced vocalist; the Sisters Hayden, refined singers; Walker and May; Otto and Olger, in a burlesque opera sketch; Sable Fern, comedienne, and Sid Cotterell and Co. in that amusing sketch, *The Substitute*.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jerold E. Reed.—*Between Two Women* is being presented here. Mr. F. Goddard gives a good account of the Earl of Millard; Mr. Howell Travis is most excellent as Harry Millard; Mr. Walter Thornton does full justice to the part of James Durward; Mr. Geoffrey Tearle is quite at home as the Rev. Philip Carton; Mr. Roland Yorke plays with force as Major Strangeways; Mr. Fred Danvers causes amusement as Jack Pringle; being ably assisted by Miss Earle as Polly Popp; Carmen De Savereaux is in the capable hands of Miss Fletcher; Miss M. Malone is a graceful Violet Thornton; and Miss Lulu Bowes gives a capital rendering of the Blind Boy.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—Mr. E. Lockwood and Mr. R. Crossman's excellent company is here in *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. E. Russell's Brue is most praiseworthy; Mr. T. A. Shale as Crooky Scrubbs is irresistibly droll; Miss Kitty Dale possesses a beautiful voice, and her songs are encored nightly; Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy ably undertakes the part of Michael Brue; Miss Lily Lingard is a charming Lady Bickenhall, and Mr. Henry Chichester's Crank deserves praise.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Mr. Ian Maclaren and company are appearing here this week in a round of Shakespearean plays. On Tuesday *Hamlet* was produced, when Mr. Maclaren gave a masterly interpretation of the title-rôle, being ably supported by Miss W. Beresford, who presented a charming performance of Ophelia. *Othello*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Romeo and Juliet* are billed for the remainder of the week.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—For the first three nights this week we have a visit from Mr. Chas. Macdona's company with *A Country Girl*. Miss Violet Leslie is an excellent Marjorie; Miss Hetty Peel is a sprightly Nan; the Princess is in the clever hands of Miss Adelaide Clifton; Miss Madge Campbell is an ideal Sophie. Mr. Frank Weir causes no end of amusement in the part of Barry; and Mr. Martin D. Pitts as Geoffrey and Mr. Bernard Vaughan as the Rajah are respectively good in their parts. The popular musical comedy is mounted and staged in first-class style.

KIRKCALDY.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Burton.—Large audiences are greeting the return visit of Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company in *The Still Alarm*; Mr. Glenville is still to be seen in the rôle of Jack Manley, a part which suits him admirably; Mr. Osmond, as Doctor Wilber, is more amusing than ever; Mr. George Arthur portrays the villainy of John Bird in a way which is most natural and effective; Mr. Lewis Gordon, as Franklyn Fordham, makes a fairly good old man; and Mr. Tom Beasley is capital as Willie Manley, he and Miss Hettie Zillwood as Cad working well together; Mr. J. Sutton Pateman is excellent as Joe Jones; Miss Maud Warburton is charming as Elinor; and Miss M. Veriton a praiseworthy Mrs. Manley. The singing of the Lyric Comedy Four is much appreciated.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hook.—*A Woman's Past* is being presented by Mr. H. F. Housden and company. Mr. Housden gives a skilful study of Clement Harper; Mr. Clifton Earle is forcible as Uriah Craven; and Mr. David Phillips is to be commended as Frank Delanney. Miss Dorothy Wallace in the rôle of the heroine, Bessie, wins sympathy; and Miss Doris Cameron as Dorothy Heath, Miss Irene Carrington as Clara Darrel, and Mr. J. Myron Howard as David Heath are all commendable.

HIPPODROME AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—The Tennessee Guards give a fine exhibition of pyramid-building and wall-scaling; another capital turn is supplied by Whimsical Walker in a sketch, *Captain Hamilton, V.C.*, the talented comedian having the assistance of Little Frances Maddock, a remarkable child actress; the Errols, comedy tumblers, are smart; Bennett and Martell in "Lost Mariners" cause roars of laughter; Bert Bowden is a comedian of the first rank; Bert Kemble, comedian, also does well; and Beau and Belle in "A Pierrot's Serenade," the Three Tivoli Girls, and Walter Payne's new pictures make up a capital programme.

PALACE.—Manager, John Fell.—The bill is headed here by Avon and Crest, comedy artists; York, Mac, and York supply a screaming comedy act, *A Widow's Worries*; Mr. Theodore Jones's company in a vocal scena, *Jack Sheppard*, merit rounds of applause; and Minnie Wren, comedienne; the Three Orchids; the Sisters Astor, acrobatic dancers; Juan and McDue, comedians; and the Edison-Swan Pictures complete a first-rate entertainment.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—A crowded house assembled on Monday to welcome Mr. James Welch and company with Charles Marlowe's farce, *When Knights were Bold*. After struggling through the first act under the inconvenience of an obvious cold, the popular little comedian had to depute his part to an understudy. Miss Audrey Ford and Mr. Edward Sass are particularly effective as Rowena Eggington and Sir Brian, respectively; Isaacson is a clever study by Mr. Arthur Grenville; Millicent, a charming effort by Miss Daisy Cordell; and as the two retainers, Mr. George F. Tully and Mr. Gordon Tompkins, acquit themselves well. In other leading parts Mr. Henry J. Ford, Miss Emma Gwynne, and Miss Enid Sass are most effective. The curtain raiser, *The Lady Burglar*, is capitally played by Mr. Henry J. Ford and Miss Estelle Winwood.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—A revival of that famous old play, *The Corsican Brothers*, is proving a popular engagement here; the condensed version being welcomed by two good houses nightly. The dual rôle of the twin brothers has a fine and capable exponent in Mr. Frederick Maxwell, whose forceful acting is very impressive; Miss Lois du Cane makes a pleasing and winsome Pom Pom; the character of Emilie de L'Esparra is most effectively realised by Miss Louise Biddulph; and other parts are capably enacted by Mr. Charles Levey; Mr. Sam Harcourt and Miss Pollie Marshall.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. C. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Bush.—*Claudian* is the attraction here. Mr. William Maclaren and Miss Lily C. Bandmann's company giving a convincing presentation; Mr. Maclaren's Claudian is a forceful and dignified effort; the Almida of Miss Bandmann is a talented conception; Mr. Edmund Grogan does excellent service in the rôle of the Tetrarch; the part of a young farmer is cleverly depicted by Mr. F. Owen Chambers; and Miss Rosa Webster deserves high praise for a sweet delineation of Serena.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Chung Ling Soo is the chief feature of this week's bill, his wonderful conjuring entertainment arousing great interest; the Horne Bros. are provoking much merriment with their boxing specialty; the Arthur Lloyd Trio are giving a new comedy sketch with success; Hall and Earle score with diverting acrobatic business; Techow's Cats go through a wonderful performance; Charles Pastor finds ready acceptance of clever new items; and Laurie Clare, a new comedian; Daisy O'Malley, comedienne and dancer; and the ever popular picture show complete a strong programme.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Managers Mr. Claude Shayler and Mr. Charles Weldon.—Leo Dryden, the popular actor-vocalist, is starring here, and with fine new items, enhances a big reputation; the Mackweys are diverting in an acrobatic wire act; Mabel Kessler introduces successful bugle solos; the comedians include that popular favourite, Martin Conway and C. Woodward; also Bishop and Hanlon, a clever pair; James De Voye introduces his intelligent horse Billy; and we are further entertained by the Two Eltons, with comedy bar act; Susie and Protti, in a continental specialty act; and the Barrascope pictures.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Fred W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sam Jones.—The usual vociferous welcome is being extended by crowded houses to that talented pair Bella and Bijou, and a record week's business is being done. The Dean Bros. fill the bottom of the bill with a clever dancing act; that smart comedy pair, the Wedburns, are on a welcome return visit; the vocal and electric specialty, Illumino, is presented with success by J. A. Skerrett; the Falcons are pleasing with an excellent comedy act; and the programme also includes an original specialty by King Leo and Jerry; and Lillie Le Bretton, a graceful and expert trapeze performer.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton.—The interesting and successful play *The Fascinating Mr. Vandervelt*, adequately presented by Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and M. V. Leveaux's clever company, is making its first appearance here this week. In the title-part Mr. Reginald Dance is to be complimented on a portrayal of great cleverness and all-round excellence, and Miss Gladys Mason as Lady Clarice Howland wins golden opinions by her charming impersonation. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton is very good as Colonel Rayner, and as Lord Woolham Mr. Edward Coutts is excellent. Both Mr. George A. Seager as Sir Bartholomew Cardic and Mr. Russell Barry as Mr. Goddlestone are amusing. Miss Agnes Gunn is all that can be desired as Miss Pelling, the same remark applying to Miss Mary Weigall as the Marchioness of Hendingby, Miss Eve Titheradge as Aggie Coles, and Miss May Brooke as Lady Clementina Desborough. Mr. George Percy is capital as the Rev. Hubert Langston, and Mr. F. Vernon Travers as Mr. Mellon, Mr. Gerald Henson as Alfie, Miss Helen Tytler as Mrs. Mellon, and Miss Dorothy Haigh as Miss Brevell also deserve a meed of praise. The one-act drama *The Drums of Oude* precedes, the principal parts in which are enacted in good style by Mr. Reginald Dance, Miss Gladys Mason, and Mr. Edward Coutts.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's company, in *When London Sleeps*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. C. P. Wentworth, as the evil genius, Captain Rodney Hayes, plays well, and Mr. Sam Arthur as David Engleheart is excellent. Miss Mabel Scudamore displays her histrionic talents to the best advantage as Queenie Carruthers, and Miss Josephine Melbourne as Lelia is conspicuously successful. Miss Maude Yorke is good as Hilda Carode, and Mrs. Edgar Colona is capital as Signorina Jonesio. Mr. F. E. Thomas does well as Bob Jones, as also do Mr. D'Arcy Kelway as Sammy Blythe, Mr. Frank Howard as the Hon. Bertie Broombead, Mr. Harry Barham as Mark Blackwood, and Miss Bessie Frank as Carrie Jones. The play is staged in the usual praiseworthy manner.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—Fred Ginnett and company, with an improved edition of the romantic equestrian spectacle *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, introducing the marvellously-trained mare "Black Bess," is the leading attraction here this week. To Mr. Ginnett must be accorded great praise for the exceedingly entertaining manner in which he has placed his "show" on the stage. Ludwig Amann, the well-known character impersonator, scores a well-deserved success with his life-like portraits of various famous personages; Victor Travers, a mirth-provoking comedian, keeps the audience in continual laughter; a delightful musical act is submitted by Florence and Lillian; the Five Boganneys, as "The Lunatic Bakers," give a smart, clever, and clean acrobatic performance; the Avrignys are well to the front with a first-class juggling and equilibristic act; Amy Russell is an entertaining vocalist; Roy and Fenton are capital in their laughable absurdity *The Grass Widower*; Lil Hawthorne not appearing here on Monday evening, Alma Obrey, a dashing burlesque artist, filled the gap, and met with a hearty reception. For the rest of the week the Bioscope, with the usual entertaining films, was billed in the place of Miss Hawthorne.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Fred Southern and company are again the principal attraction, and are submitting *The Flag of Freedom* in excellent style. The old favourite, *His Lordship's Birthday*, is also a feature, with Mr. Fred Southern as Hinky. The various parts in both sketches are well played, particularly by Mr. Percy Emery, Mr. Charles Ashwell, Miss May Emery (Mrs. Southern), Miss Gipsy Alexander, and Mr. Fred Southern. The Leotard Brothers, acrobatic clowns and hat throwers, are scoring a well-deserved success with a clever turn. A special feature of the programme is Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope. Other artists who give entertaining turns, are Harry Briggs, a popular double-voiced vocalist; Cissie Schofield, comedienne; and Eric Graham, comedian.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. G. Stanyon.—Mr. Will Catlin's Royal Pierrots entered on their third week on Monday, and continue to delight all with their refined and versatile entertainment.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Mr. Augustine Knight and company are appearing here this week in the stirring drama, entitled *The Assassin*. Miss Ella Vane, who plays the title-rôle, gives evidence of dramatic powers of more than ordinary merit; Mr. Augustine Knight contributes a well-thought out exposition of the villainous Prince Demetri; Mr. Edward E. Ashby plays the hero in a manner which evokes much applause. Miss Hettie Genier scores a great success as Connie Jonathan; Mr. Cecil H. Raymond is a humorous exponent of Baron Alphonse; Mr. Edwin Jenner gives an intelligent interpretation of Capt. O'Neil; Mr. Tom Taylor as Peter has full opportunity of displaying his skill in comedy, his efforts being well seconded by Miss Marie Robertson as Katrina.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Leith playgoers always give a cordial welcome to Irish dramas, and Mr. C. Watson Mills' romantic play, *A Warning to Women*, has been well received. The author-actor has given himself an arduous rôle in Dr. Marcus Dread, to which he imparts much interest; and Miss Rosalind Tate appears to great advantage as Moira Kennion. An excellent portrait of an old Irish squire is presented by Mr. Henry Rutland; Mr. N. C. Slaughter does amusing work as Lord Eversleigh, a sprig of nobility; and Mr. W. Pallisor Acock, in the part of an excitable Frenchman, Ferdinand de Joules, is also responsible for much diversion. Miss Saidie Hilton makes a good Nurse Hellena; Miss Ellen Beverley is effective as Molly O'More, the Wise Woman; and a crowd of minor characters, male and female, find able exponents.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank King.—*Somebody's Sweetheart* is excellently presented by Mr. Edward Marris's company, including Mr. W. H. Kirby, a very amusing Blabbs. Mr. E. H. Bertram as Stanton Ashleigh is excellent, Miss Millie Gordon scores as the perky young brother, and Mr. D. B. Watson makes his mark as Leverton. Mr. R. H. Hamber wins favour as the old negro, Joe, and a bit of good character acting is contributed by Mr. J. Templar Ellis. Miss Molly Hackett enacts the title-rôle with success, Miss Cordelia Knight is a picturesque Zora, and Miss Norah Melton an effective Miss Ainslie. The piece is well staged.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—G. W. Hunter, with his lively songs and amusing patter, is entertaining local audiences this week, and meeting with uproarious applause. Wallace Whitney presents a very quaint fire-brigade ditty, the Brothers Etherien have some intensely funny burlesque work, and Charles F. Best's mountebank number is as interesting and well-thought-out as before. Les Belles Americaine are a vivacious quartette of song-and-dance artists, Beattie Foster is a character low comedienne of ability, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux present several smart new films.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager Mr Arthur Lawrence.—The leading theatre still maintains its reputation for providing the latest London successes. This week its patrons, assembled in great numbers, have thoroughly enjoyed the bright and merry musical play entitled *The Girl Behind the Counter*, and the general opinion was that it ranks exceedingly high among those of its particular class. Foremost were Miss Isabel Jay and Mr. Hayden Coffin, two leading players, who, strange to say, never before appeared in the city on the Mersey. As Winnie Willoughby Miss Jay exhibited a sweetness and vivacity which was exceedingly pleasing to witness, whilst her rendering of several pretty songs induced the audience to strongly demand encores. Mr. Coffin as Chetwynd soon found favour, his acting, manner, and vocalisation being altogether admirable; Mr. J. F. McArdle as General Willoughby was one of the principal mainstays of the play; Mr. G. D. Burnaby got everything possible out of Viscount Gushington; and a large amount of excellent comedy was provided by Mr. Lionel Victor (office boy), Mr. George Barrett (waiter), Mr. Fred Allandale (Mr. Duval), and Mr. Ernest Laceby (commissionaire). Minor parts were charmingly presented by the Misses Maisie North (Millie Moyston), Violet Crossley, Helene Rose, and Kathleen Courtney.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—In the répertoire presented here this week Mr. Edward Terry included *Liberty Hall*, a revival which met with much acceptance. As the old bookseller, Todman, the popular comedian was seen to great advantage, the character being of that type in which Mr. Terry revels. Mr. Allan Pollock was excellent as Mr. Owen, his acting being a strong feature of the play; Mr. William Dexter exercised every discretion as Briginshaw; Miss Fyfe Alexander and Miss Gertrude Tate pleased exceedingly in the rôles of Blanche and Amy Chilworth; Miss Eugenie Vernie afforded the utmost satisfaction as the despotic servant, Crafer; and worthy support came from Mr. George Howard (Mr. Hickson), Miss Ella Dixon (Miss Hickson), and Mr. Frank Cellier, jun (Honorable Gerald). *The Magistrate* and *Sweet Lavender* were in the week's list.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Mr William Greet's company is here this week with *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr. Frank E. Petley acted with dignity and feeling as Marcus Superbus; Miss Marie Leonhard was graceful and sympathetic in the rôle of Mercia; much tenderness was shown by Miss Effie Dane as Stephanus; Mr C. Yorke gave satisfaction as Nero; Mr. Charles Aldred was a capable Tigellinus; and Mr Walter Fleet creditably sustained the character of Favius. The play was well presented.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—Alec Hurley and his company, in the *Coster's Friendly Lead*, is the principal draw here this week; Harrigan and Holt are funny with their up-to-date business; the Sisters St. Julian are smart dancers; Dawson Dewick is laughable; Fatima Diard sings in an artistic manner; and the Arleys are clever gymnasts, and with the assistance of the trained dogs their turn is certainly made very entertaining; Georgina Leonard is loudly applauded for her songs; the Lillian Bros. give a clever acrobatic turn

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—For the first time in Liverpool, the American play *Alaska* has been given here by Mr. Hilliard Vox and company. It met with acceptance, Mr. Vox, in the character of Skookum Jim, displayed ability, keeping a good hold of his audience; Mr. Albert Rogers proved exceedingly humorous as the coon, Pompey Cæsar; Miss G. Hastings Walton exhibited dramatic power as the faithful Indian, Alaska; Miss E. Turner Elliott was a pretty and vivacious Jessie Dalton; Mr. C. D. Pitt made an impression as the villainous Ned Larson; Mr. H Naylor Grimson was a fine Baptiste; and worthy support also came from Miss Winnie Webster (the Widow's Mite), Miss Leslie Wynne (Widow Casey), Mr. Bevan Benton (Father Bernard), and Mr. John Ford (Malumite Kid).

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Manager, Mr. Fred L Arthur.—Mr. C. W. Somerset and company have been here this week with a new version of *The Jungle*. As Jacob Whitmarsh, the mad doctor, Mr. Somerset acted with dramatic effect; Mr. John Hood's assumption of the part of Cyprian Randal afforded satisfaction; Miss Ada Homer played the emotional rôle of Jessie Thyme with care; Mr. Alexander Bradley was well placed as Sir Martin Gerard; Mr. George Barran made an able Governor Beaumont; and Miss Winifred Pearson did justice to the character of Barbara Whitmarsh. The scenery was neat, and the music, from the pen of Mr. Denham Harrison, appropriate.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Another capital all-round programme is offered here this week. Foremost is Irma Lorraine in a series of beautiful picture-tableaux of great masters, which have been witnessed by large and delighted audiences; a cordial greeting has been extended to Alice Raymond (who is assisted by John Kurkamp), the lady cornetist and bugler, whose playing is of a very high order; Ernest Montefiore and company present a pretty musical and dramatic scena, *The Little Colonel*, which is received with much appreciation; Colby and May have a novel entertainment, entitled "The Ventriloquist and His Dancing Doll"; the quaint comedy work of Alf Gibson is richly enjoyed; a popular musical comedy act, *The Lancashire Lass*, is successfully submitted by Zeta Grey and company, much laughter follows the funny trifle, *The Artist and His Monkey*, by the Rallis; W. E. Gibin's humorous and ventriloquial turn earns for him loud applause; Wilton Heriot and company present a pleasing protean act, *An Anglo-American Alliance*; and other artists who appear are Helen Martin, vocalist, and Jennie John, soubrette.

NEW PARTHENON.—The British Imperial Life-Motion Picture company, under the direction of Mr Anthony Brown, is here again this week.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The "Royal" stock company is presenting the dramatic sketch, *Slave of Sin*. Mr. Percy Boucher is a humorous Alphonse D'Arcy; Mr. Cecil Ravenswood carefully presents Prof. Morley; Mr Harry Tresham plays with dramatic strength the part of Gordon Morley; Mr. Sydney Grant is powerful in the heavy rôle of Dr. Josiah Selby; Mr. Robert Wilton makes the most of Stephen Fletcher; Miss Florence Palmer acquits herself as Elsie Beresford; and Miss Beryl Ravenswood does justice to Ida Ross.

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The "Royal" stock company here is giving this week Edward Thane's *Every Inch a Man*. Mr. Vincent A. Briscoe is an admirable Alderman Barnet; Mr. Albert Sember is particularly fine as Dick Barnet; the heavy part of Daniel Barnet is capably undertaken by Mr. Frank S. Strickland; Mr. Walter Foster does credit to Ben Brown; and Mr. H. G. Brandon is responsible for excellent comedy as Teddy Edwards. Miss Lina Nazeby is well placed as Mrs. Edwards; Miss Florence Barnes holds the part of Martha; and Miss Lilian Burns plays discreetly as Vera Maxwell. Mr. Ernest Williams is worthy of mention as Major O'Donovan.

PARK PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Dandy George heads the programme here this week, his funny clowning and the remarkable sagacity of his well-trained dog combining to provide a merry twenty minutes show; the Hebrew character delineator, Gus Harris, brings his latest vocal scena, "The Synagogue"; May Zant and her juveniles have a pleasing exhibition of music and dancing; a smart quick-change entertainment comes from Baroni and Kemp; Leah Arden renders several acceptable ballads; for the second week the Theatrescope shows some first-class moving pictures, and Lady Fauntleroy gives a pleasing example of ventriloquism.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—At the top of the bill here this week are the Beau Ideal troupe of eight juveniles, whose entertainment of mimicry, dancing, and singing is much appreciated; Sammy Shields, a humorous story-teller and vocalist, keeps his audience in a merry mood; Sandy and Carl are particularly funny with their knockabout business; the whistling of Crocker is very good, and his songs much appreciated; May Bruce has several pleasing numbers; and George Edney, actor vocalist, is also in the list. On Thursday Mr G. Montgomery, acting-manager, had a successful benefit.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—The big attraction here this week is the famous illusionist, Carl Hertz, who is assisted by Emeline D'Alton and company. Fresh from his American tour he presents his latest sensation, *The Bridal Chamber*, in the course of which he produces from nothing a complete bedroom boudoir, handsomely furnished, with a lady reclining on a solid six feet bed. The trick created the greatest surprise. Those clever comedians, Griffithe Bros., arouse endless laughter with their antics; the dainty Marie Santoi and her merry little Japs provide a delightful musical novelty, "The Japanese Teagarden by Night"; the singing and dancing of the ladies known as The Eight of Hearts, is loudly applauded; Fred Clements, the well-known comedian, appears in his latest successes; some smart gymnastic work is gone through by the Rio Brothers; and others in the list are Marguerite Broadfoote, a charming comedy vocalist; Les Rubens, operatic vocalists; and L. W. Harris, with his "Elleline" and other songs.

HAYMARKET.—Licensee, Mr. J. S Childs.—The Vandyke troupe of pantomimists are here this week with their laughable sketch, *Sensations*, which is well put on; Tom Garland, the Welsh ventriloquist, gives a pleasing turn; some smart conjuring comes from Professor Anderson; Cissie Carter renders Irish ballads (which are illustrated by the lantern) in capital style, and is heartily applauded; Rowan and Moore present an acceptable sketch, *The First Quarrel*; and the Bioscope has pleasing pictures

OLYMPIA, LTD.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—The doors of this handsome building are besieged for the third week with vast crowds, eager to witness *The Flood*. In the variety part of the programme the famed Kremos troupe of acrobats are prominent, and earn loud applause for their remarkable work; the eccentricities of Ben Albert arouse great laughter; the turn given by the Adeler and Sutton pierrots (Charles Harvey, Elsie Steadman, and Clifford Morgan), is much appreciated; Parker and Parr, Welsh vocal entertainers, prove very diverting with their trifle, *Taffy and the Toff*; Percival, "the piano shifter," submits a funny turn; some humorous and smart work is performed by the Mezzettis on the triple bars; and also in the list are Tripello saxophonist; and Lena Willard, comedienne. On Thursday a special charity matinée was given, in aid of the funds of the Food and Betterment Association.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Miss Winifred Maude and company are here once more. This time they present *The Sins of a City*. Miss Maude herself takes the part of Seaweed in excellent style; Mr. William Vane as Sandy is exceptionally good; and as Joe and Jasper Woodleigh Mr. Norton Shields works hard and successfully. Miss Ethel Tinsley is a capable Lesbia; Miss Lily Mason a good Mrs. Miggs; and Miss Jenny Hackett a charming Midge. *The Stowaway* is billed for the second half of the week.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Mr. F. S. Gilbert's opera company has paid a return visit this week, opening with Wallace's *Maritana*. Mr. Gilbert is ably assisted by Miss Elsia May, Miss Faith Laborde, Mr. J. Kneale Campbell, Mr. H. Blagrave, Mr. James Knox, Mr. F. Featherstone, and others. The operas produced were *Faust* (Miss Laborde as Marguerite, and Mr. E. Stevens the title-rôle), *Il Travatore*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, finishing up the week end with the ever-popular *Bohemian Girl*. The principals are all in excellent voice, and numerous encores were demanded during the various performances.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—Mr. Hoggan Armadale and company are here with a répertoire, which includes *David Garrick*, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, and *The Bells*. In the first-named piece Mr. Hoggan Armadale gave a delightful performance of the title-rôle, and was well supported by Mr. David Beattie as Joshua Bedford, Mr. Arthur Rose as Squire Overdon, and Miss Violet Macaree and Miss Nancy Roberts as Laura Bedford and Lydia respectively.

MACCLESFIELD.—THE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Miss Hettie Jeffries' company is paying a return visit with the realistic play, *A Nobleman of Nature*. Prince Ivan is capitally played by Mr. Whitmore Ledger, ably assisted by Miss Hettie Jeffries as Vera; Mr. Geoffrey Broughton is excellent as Barrie Forsyth, and Mr. Clifford Spencer admirably depicts Bill Drinkwater; Mr. Tom Handley is seen to advantage as Phillip Hampton; Miss Evelyn Terry acquits herself with distinction as Olga; and Miss Eva Elwes is successful as Katuski Vodski.

MAIDSTONE.—CORN EXCHANGE.—Manager, Mr. J. Beslee.—The Biograph Animated Photograph Company is drawing crowded houses here this week. The pictures are clear and steady, and the subjects well chosen. The following artists appear during the evening: Mlle. Renee, lady juggler; Roy Beavis, illusionist; Gilbert Serrony, comedian; and Miss May Burkett, soprano.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Baskerville.—The good programme provided here this week includes Celest, a clever wire-walker and baton spinner; the Laure Brothers, French acrobats, who combine comedy with smartness; Martinett and Wallace, coloured instrumentalists; Miss Daisy Morell, a popular comedienne, on a return visit; Katie Marsh, mimic; Rowland Hill, comedian; the Sisters Stratton, duettists; and the Reed-Oetzmann Troupe of Pantomimists in *A Day in the Tyrol*.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—Mr. Robert Courteidge's production of *The Dairymaids* is repeated here another week with deserved success.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—*The White Chrysanthemum*, presented here on Monday by Mr. Frank Curzon's company, proved acceptable to a large audience. The piece does not aspire to originality, but it is performed in entertaining style, the principal laughter-makers being Mr. Horace Mills, whose impersonation of Lieut. "Chippy" Belmont is a quaintly characteristic piece of work; Mr. W. H. Rawlins also looks well and acts amusingly as the Admiral; Mr. O. E. Lennon, who, as the Chinese cook, works very hard and dances with remarkable agility; and Mr. Harry Paulton, jun., who is funny as Private Perks. As Sybil Cunningham, Miss Ruth Lincoln, acts and sings with nice feeling; and Miss Katie Vesey as Cornelia Vandercken makes the best of her lines, and exhibits particular grace and accomplishment as a dancer; while a good impersonation of Reginald Armitage is given by Mr. F. Pope Stamper; and Miss Dorothy Le Hay is charming as Betty Kenyon, the Admiral's *vis-à-vis*. The piece contains some smart and pretty songs and good work for the chorus, and the staging and dresses are brilliant.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Acting-Manager,

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—A splendid reception awaited Georges Hackenschmidt here on Monday, and the champion is wrestling all comers during the week with the usual excitement and hard-fought success. Whit Cunliffe makes a hit, especially with his latest success, "Hello! hello! hello!"; and clever and entertaining turns are given by Leo Tell, the mimic of equine and other sounds; Phil Herman, the Anglo-Dutch comedian; Charles Prelle, who presents a troupe of marvellously-trained dogs; Barrett and Knowles, smart comedians; Vince Clements, mimic; Lady Mansel and Juveniles, in a cleverly-done speciality entitled *A Concert Rehearsal;* and Frank Gee, comedian. The Palace pictures portray, as usual, all the latest events of interest.

HIPPODROME.—Managing Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Albert and Edmund's comedy troupe are to the front here this week in an absurdity, entitled *Neighbours*, which causes plenty of laughter; Alexandre and Hughes are humorists of a high order, their patter and concertina playing being greatly enjoyed; the Imperial Russian Troupe are exceedingly good dancers and singers, and are received with loud applause; Bonnie Goodwin and her Apollo Piccaninnies give a smart performance; Cairns and Lynch are wonderfully clever dancers; Oswald Williams, assisted by Winifred La Berte and company, does some bewildering tricks and illusions; and enjoyable turns are those of Fred Holland, vocalist; and Fred Daniels, comedian. Two vocal items by the choir, and Bioscope pictures complete.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—A most enjoyable programme is provided here this week, headed by those clever, up-to-date comediennes, the Three Sisters Sprightly, whose turn is entirely successful from start to finish; Ruby and Laws are very interesting in a capital vocal and humorous scena; and the Ellimans (Alice and Van) give a delightful and novel musical turn and meet with a good reception; Ryder Slone, a first-rate character vocalist, contributes an amusiig song; the Crown Trio are excellent singers, and are deservedly well received; and Nat Watkins, an eccentric comedian of the John E. Coyle order, makes a decided hit. Emmie Ames is a pleasing comedienne; Cissie Astbury sings and dances nicely; Simosa San presents a neat juggling act, with trained pigeons introduced; and Harry Bancroft is an actor vocalist of merit. Raymond's Vivagraph pictures are amusing.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A big attraction here this week is George Ginnett and company in a capital production of *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, introducing a well-trained mare. The piece is exceedingly well staged, and is followed with great interest. Another excellent turn is that of the Eight Lancashire Lads, who sing and dance in fine style, and are warmly applauded; the Howards (Ralph and Nellie) are smart in comedy and melody; Davis and Davis are seen to advantage in a novel scena; and Earle and Melville, comedians, are good in patter and dance. Other smart items are offered by Oliver Conroy, comedian; Ray Royal, contralto vocalist; the Bonnettis, comedy speciality artists; and the Bioscope pictures, depicting "When the Stormy Winds do Blow," complete.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Percy Honri, supported by a capable company, is the particular star here this week, and is presenting that superb protean extravaganza, entitled *Concordia*, with great success, and meeting with a deserved big reception; Fields and Lewis are exceedingly smart burlesque artists; the Marions are charming juvenile duettists; the Kroney Brothers do some clever acrobatic tumbling as the "Lazy Coalmen"; Jay Laurier and Fred Casburn, comedians, amuse the audience, each in his own particular style; and Sylvia Martin introduces a highly-trained horse, La Roland; and David Poole, who figures on the programme, did not appear on the occasion of our visit. "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" is an interesting film shown on the Bioscope.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—This week Peter Gotz, "light-weight champion of the world," is the top "star" turn, and gives an interesting exhibition, which commends itself to appreciative audiences. The Scottish Meisters are first-rate glee singers; Leon and Leoni are very good banjoists, and give many pleasing selections; and the Edwards Trio are above the average in feats of juggling and equilibrium; "Lady Julia" is a remarkably clever ape, whose performance is unique; Levano is well received in his sensational double somersault act with knives; and Linton, "the Mexican Wonder," appears with success in a cable walking act. Other good turns are given by J. T. Macmillan, Scotch comedian; and the Sisters Russell, comedy duettists. Will Walton, comedian, and the Bioscope pictures complete an excellent programme.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield Theatre Company; General-Manager, Capt. Cecil Clayton; Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company presented here the first three nights the Russian melodrama, *A Beautiful Fiend*. Mr. Montague Beaudyn in the rôle of Ivan Paulovitch gave a finished interpretation; Wanda Lubenoff was powerfully portrayed by Miss V. St. Lawrence; and Miss Irene Munroe was successful in the part of Nadine Karateff; Mr. Tom Robertson gave a fine impersonation of Count Fedor Karateff; the comedy element was in the capable hands of Mr. Harry Oates as Christopher Crackles; and as Patty Woodlands Miss Annie Clunn was also very successful. *A Traitor Prince* was billed for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Director, Mr. Tom Jennings.—Good houses have been the rule here this week. Mr. Arthur Elvy, the sporting comedian, is a popular turn; Fred Mason, whistling comedian, is much appreciated. Mr. Mason offers a prize for the best imitation of his whistling during the week; Marie St. John gives an interesting turn; Ellis Short wins applause; and the Bioscope presents an up-to-date series of pictures.

MARGATE.—HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. De Frece; General Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Elsie Roby, comedienne pianiste, in her musical comedy act, *The Slavey's At-Home*, is most amusing here. Rich and Rich have scored well, and Keir and Kempton have also been successful as vocal duettists; Dick Kendall, comedian; and Russell Carr, military ventriloquist, are good; and a glove-fight between Gunner Moir and Jack Palmer is depicted by means of Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Harry Starr is here this week with *The Unseen Power*. Mr. Starr submits a finished rendering of Fred Granville; Mr. Wm. Miller plays capitally as Harold Granville; Mr. Edwin Firth makes a sinister figure of Antonio Romano; a clever character study of Horatio Cracklesby is given by Mr. Fred W. Graham; Miss Ella Crossley is a powerful Lucretia Granville; Miss Madge Blundell a capital Anita; and Miss Cissie Hastings does well as Lucy. Carl *the Clockmaker* was given on Thursday.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—The play attracting crowds of people nightly this week is *Under the Russian Flag*, the scenery and stage effects of which are particularly fine. Mr. Edward Avinal as the villainous Michael is a capable actor, and well suited to his part; and Mr. Cecil Melton as Ivan is equally worthy of praise. The part of Vara Vassiloff is rendered with much power by Miss Elaine Vanbrugh, and the portrayal of gentle and winning Luka Marischla is in the capable hands of Miss Marie Rayner. The remaining parts are all well filled, and at times a good many amusing incidents, in which Miss Violet Lytton as Orgarita, Mr. Hal Forde as Peter Poulski, and Mr. Fred Haming as Alexis Souvaroff show to advantage, are interesting. Mr. Chas. Liddon as Woolf Marisch is worthy of mention.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—The first visit of Mr. and Mrs. Kendal to the Grand Opera House has been looked forward to with considerable pleasure. In *The Ironmaster*, which was submitted for three nights, Mr. Kendal is nothing short of magnificent as Philippe Derblay. His acting is ful of solemnity and pathos, which quickly wins the attention and admiration of all. Mrs. Kendal's rendering of Claire De Beaupre thoroughly sustains her brilliant reputation, and supplies a performance of the highest standard. The company altogether is an exceptional one, the humorous passages being effectively introduced by Mr. Ernest Hendrie, who, as Moulinet, is decidedly funny. For the remaining three nights *The Elder Miss Blossom* was billed.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—Billy Williams heads the bill here this week, and creates roars of laughter with his songs. The New York Nippers score in their vocal and dancing scena, *Bedtime*, and the Australian Twin Andersons have a gratifying reception. Harmonious quartette singing is rendered by the Four Avocas, and Harry Thurston, mimic, gives some good impersonations. Mr. and Mrs. George English please in their musical duologue, *In Old Kildare*, and William and Warden cause laughter with their songs and patter. Other turns are provided by Flo Penley, comedienne, Nellie Martell, comedienne and dancer, and the Bio.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf. Graham.—Signor and Mme. Borelli greatly please the audiences here this week with humorous tit-bits, and Wake and Dean are very amusing in their comedy act, *A Dispute in a Lane*. Walter Munroe is a great favourite, and Lou Dunmore, comedienne, does well. Belrose and De Velin provide an excellent vocal turn, and the Three San Remo Girls, comediennes and dancers, please. An interesting feature of the programme is a novelty competition open to local amateurs for the best act of any kind.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant.—*La Poupée* is again here, and played by Mr. Herbert Rallond's company, is proving more popular than ever. Miss Mysie Devine scores a distinct success in the title-rôle. The part of Gwendoline is aptly sustained by Miss Alice Roche; the Hilarius of Mr. Harry Brayne is an impersonation of irresistible drollery; as Lancelot Mr. Arthur Cozens has met with a hearty reception. He is a singer of exceptional merit. Mr. Walter Balfour's fine voice is heard to advantage in the various numbers allotted to Father Maxime; Messrs. Arthur Dennis and Fuller Allen are well suited as the old beaus Loremois, and Chanterelle; Miss Edith Hunter is a satisfactory Madame Hilarius; and Miss Doris Dickens a bright and vivacious Henri. The chorus is exceptionally good.

NELSON.—NEW GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. George E. Mudd.—The play-going inhabitants of Nelson are having refreshingly light and bright fare this week, Mr. Chas. Macdona presenting *The Toreador*. Mr. Harold Batt as Pettifer works with apparently inexhaustible energy; Mr. Ralph Lynn as Sir Archibald Slackett plays the part creditably; Mr. George Austin ably sustains the character of Augustus Trail; a capital study of Carrajola is furnished by Mr. Sydney Granville; Mr. Henry Arthur is to be commended for his representation of the Governor of Villaya; the grotesque antics of Mr. Walter Champney as Sammy Gigg create endless hilarity; Mr. Harry Newman is good as Rinaldo; Miss Leah Howard is lively and comical as Susan; Miss Marie Beresford accomplished and successful as Nancy Staunton; Miss Beatrice Grosvenor cleverly acts the part of Mrs. Hoppings; and Miss Nina Carlton as Donna Teresa deserves unstinted praise.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. F. C. Sutcliffe.—Messrs. A. and S. Gatti and Charles Frohman's company, with *The Belle of Mayfair*, make a most successful initial visit here this week, and are rewarded with a flattering reception from crowded audiences nightly. Miss Alice Russon, an old pantomime favourite here, in the rôle of Julia Caldicott, is very dainty, and sings her songs in sweet voice; Miss Tilley Cunningham, as Corrie Fay, dances in merry style; Princess Karl, Lady Caldicott, and the Countess of Highgate are admirably done by Miss Joan Keddie, Miss Barbara Huntley, and Miss Rosa Snell; the Lady Rocksley of Miss Blanche Massey is a first-class performance; and Miss Dorothy Hanbury was a stylish Lady Gussop; Mr. Charles McNaughton is full of humour as Sir John Caldicott, and finds an able partner in Mr. Percy Yorke as the Earl of Highgate, the pair working together with great success; Mr. Vernon Davidson is admirable as Raymond Finchley; and Mr. Wensley Russel infuses much life into the part of Hugh Meredith; the Bishop of Brighton is a fine study in the hands of Mr. Trueman Towers; and Mr. Robert Whyte, jun., as Comte de Perrier, acts effectively. The scenery is elaborate, and the chorus well balanced.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clarke.—*For Better or for Worse* is produced by Mr. Fred Granville this week to good houses. The company includes Messrs. Scott Leighton, C. E. Clive, Owen Redmonde, Willie Black, and C. Coldcleugh, and Miss Julia Nightingale, Miss Jennie Hallworth, Miss Emily Cussard, and Miss Florence Bates.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bacon and Bolam; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—Mr. Brooke Warren's company is providing the fare this week with the sensational drama, *Mysteries of the Thames*, which affords crowded audiences nightly many thrilling moments. The company is a very capable one, and the performance sustains the interest at a high pitch throughout.

EMPIRES THEATRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Andrews.—Mr. Fred. Karno's company, with *Early Birds*, is top of the bill this week, and proves a powerful attraction. Edward Lauri and May Beattie, assisted by Miss Nina Osborne, in their musical protean mélange, *In Her Boudoir*, brought forth storms of applause; Rosie Archer is a clever mimic, and scored heavily; Mason and Bart, a pair of comedians, in the tramp line, are a great success; Miss Gracie Moore, a local turn, is accorded a flattering reception for her clever singing; Pat Rafferty is as popular as ever in his Irish songs; Dion Wade is a fast rising comedian; Miss Daisy Dormer was absent owing to severe illness, and her place was taken by Mr. Boris Lensky, violinist, who executed some selections in finished style. During the exhibition of pictures on the American Bioscope, the Empire Orchestra, under the able leadership of Mr. J. W. Dawson, rendered Marguerite Marigold's new waltz, which had an enthusiastic reception.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Arthur Prince was received with open arms by a crowded house in the initial performance, on Monday evening, and so clever and humorous was his ventriloquial entertainment that it was with difficulty that the curtain was rung down; Ida Rene delighted her audience with her catchy songs; Maud Prenton, comedienne, has a winning manner, and earned much applause; Great Scott performs some remarkable juggling feats; Morton and Scott, American song illustrators, prove very popular; Harris and Worth, comedians, score heavily; and Fred Gullone's Comedy Quartette provoke roars of laughter; Robins and Collier, in their comedy act, win golden opinions; and the Four Maisavos, in their eccentric musical act are indeed clever; the Barrascope pictures are again a special feature of a good entertainment.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company are playing this week that ever-attractive drama, *The Silver King*, and delighted houses are giving it a warm reception. Mr. Fred R. Davies, who as Wilfred Denver sustains the title-rôle capably, and is seen at his best in his declamatory passages. Miss Daisy Scudamore as Nellie Denver displays such realism in her acting as to bring tears to many eyes, and the faithful Dan'l Jaikes is admirably sustained by Mr. Edward J. George. Miss Flossie Hale Davies acts with a good deal of naturalness the part of Cissy, and Mr. Eric Stone makes a capital Mr. Parkyn. The comedy element is well sustained by Miss Loule Hall as Tabitha, Mr. Walter Anderson making an amusing gipsy traveller. Nothing could have been been more repulsive than Mr. S. St. George Lowther's representation of the Spider, and he is admirably supported by his confederates, Elijah Combe (Mr. A. Wright) and Cripps (Mr. Harris Lindon). The piece is tastefully mounted.

EMPIRES.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Horace Jones, a Welsh comedian, affords much amusement with a representation of a Welshman at a Rugby football match, and Godfrey James, a native of the district, renders a couple of songs in good style. Hale and Francis give a very clever exhibition of hoop rolling and globe walking, and E. J. Sheldon, a nigger comedian, is amusing with his original patter. Harriet Vernon, looking as blithe as ever, and in superb dresses, sings her number with an ease and a dash that catch the house. Maudie Ford dances prettily, and the Los Grenadas are exceedingly smart on the bars. The Althoffs present a comical musical sketch, and the Bioscope completes a very strong bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Seddon.—*The Peep Show Man* is being played this week under the title of *True to his Trust*, with the farce of *His Last Legs*, entitled, *Kiss Your Father, or the Irish Doctor*, the leading parts in both being well represented by Mr. Lonnen Meadows and Miss Lizzie Maddocks, supported by Miss Ada Tilley and Messrs. E. G. Mortimer, Charles Hermann, Julian Gallier, P. Willoughby, Walter Dunlop, and J. Harvey. The principal item, however, is the visit of Les Vesse's Ju-Ju-Jitsers—Professor F Long, senior pupil of Apollo, Ajax, the miniature Hercules, and Omoyo San, champion lady ju-jitser, who give a very interesting and instructive exhibition of physical culture, boxing *versus* ju-jitsu, &c, with a lucid explanation and demonstration of the various Japanese locks and holds. Ellis Barrieton, vocalist; Mr. Charles March, quick-change artist; Halma, the Society juggler; Miss Issa Steel, vocalist; Charles Rowen, eccentric comedian; and Carlo Hicks, Milanese piper, also contribute acceptable items.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Representative, Mr. Edwin C. Jazon; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. A. Evans.—Bosanquet, the violin virtuoso, is a great success here, and the charm of his playing gains great applause. Another good turn is furnished by the Andos, Japanese gymnasts and jugglers; the singing, dancing, and banjo playing of the Sisters Redfern is highly appreciated; and the Bioscope pictures projected by C. Vincent are of intense interest. Welda and Wynne are clever and amusing in a comic speciality; J. C. Morris gains applause for his singing and witty stories; Frank Cumminger is an expert sand dancer; and Hans and Lux are a pair of funny comedians.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Herbert Barrs and Miss Dorothy Oswald and company are appearing here in *Life*. As Stephen Lockhart Mr. Herbert Barrs submits a capital impersonation, and Miss Dorothy Oswald as Beatrice Ferrars is seen to great advantage; Mr. Ronald Grahame is clever as Sir Horace Lester, and Mr. E. Cheetham creates a good impression as Zac Krabbe; Mr. A. B. Lyons is a capable Joe Pippit, and Mr. H. Ashe makes the most of Detective Blake; Miss Edna Hana is an effective Ruth Thorpe, Miss Maude Vincent a pleasing Jess; Miss Ethel Bateman deserves mention as Agnes Mostyn, and Miss Ada Lacey is good as Mrs. Moriaty.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Messrs. Derenda and Green, in their clever and amusing juggling act, are making a great hit here; the Gregsons, comedy trio, in *The Dummy*, cause hearty laughter; Mr. Bert Weston, comedian, meets with a cordial reception; Master Marco, the boy magician, is smart; the Three Cheers, speciality artists, do well; Mr. Bert Tirrell, Dutch and Tyrolean vocalist, has many admirers; and the Bio-Photoscope is still popular.

NORTHWICH. — CENTRAL THEATRE. — Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Secretary, Miss E. Golden.—Miss Bonwin Carlton's company is this week presenting *The Plucky Nipper* to enthusiastic audiences. As the Plucky Nipper Miss Carlton is admirable in every respect, and the company is of all-round excellence.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager Mr. Fred Morgan.—Miss Maud Hildyard and company are here this week in *The Great Awakening*. Miss Hildyard gives a fascinating representation of Lola Selby; Miss Dora Digby is very good indeed as Molly Morton; Miss Iso Bellington deserves praise as Selina Worts; Mr. A. C. Hardie is an excellent James Selby; Mr. Bernard a praiseworthy Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton; Mr. Herbert Evelyn acted with much force as Captain Harry Lambert; and Mr. Charles E. Linney deserves praise as Gerry Rogan. Mr. Willie Scott as Billy Brass, with Miss Bellington, creates the fun.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—The audiences are well pleased with this week's programme. A very attractive item is Barnard's Mannikins in "The Coon's Revelry," the figures being most life-like in their movements; Pigitt and Lizette as magical pantomimists create much merriment; J. A. Wilson deserves his success as a comedian and dancer, assisted by his clever dog; Drew and Alden are highly amusing in their sketch, *The Rival Billposters;* Joe Humphreys is a good comedy vocalist; Collins and Rice deserve praise; and Florence Schuberth is a pleasing burlesque artist. The Hippo Bio also shows some capital pictures.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robt. Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Earl and the Girl* pays a return visit this week, and a crowded house on Monday testified to its continued popularity. Miss Frances Earle gave a charming interpretation of Elphin Haye, singing and acting with refreshing grace and refinement; Miss Gertrude Melville made a bright and animated Daisy Fallowfield; Miss Mary Morison capitally suggested the dignity of Miss Virginia Bliss; Miss Jennie Richards gave a smart character study of 'Liza Shoddam; and Miss Beatrice Anderson created amusement as Mrs. Shimmering Black. The Jim Cheese of Mr. Wm. Stephens was a thoroughly diverting performance; Mr. Arthur Harrold used his fine voice to good effect in the music of Dick Wargrave; Mr. Percy E. Wright gained ready appreciation for his efforts as Crewe Boodle, and Mr. H. Courtin well emphasised the bumptiousness of Bunker Bliss.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company opened here on Monday with *In Holy (?) Russia*. Mr. Arthur Stratton is exceedingly good in portraying Col. Forrest; Mr. Terence Nerrey contrives to put in effective work as Michael Natolski; and Mr. Joe Cuthbertson essays the rôle of Baron Von Plehve with distinction; Mr. Fredk. Lloyd gains many friends as Petrolski, and Mr. Robert Cockroft makes a capable Czar of Russia; Mr. Carl Rovincelli adds vigour and manliness to his part of Lauria Steragoff, and Mr. J. Rice Cassidy gives an amusing representation of Micky Nolan; Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy plays with delicate emotional expression as the long-suffering Renee Rubinoff.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—Miss Vesta Tilley, as dainty, bright, and charming as ever, roused the audience on Monday to a high pitch of enthusiasm, and they would not be denied a neat little speech; Hector showed his adroitness both as a wire walker and hoop manipulator; a gymnastic performance by Paulinetti and Piquo deservedly came in for a large share of applause; the versatility of Clemart was abundantly proved by his exceedingly smart ventriloquial sketch; the Le Cren Trio submitted a burlesque act which produced several merry moments; and the musical capabilities of Will Matcham on the musette and saxophone gained him loud plaudits; Maud Ross proved herself an accomplished dancer; Lilian Warren rendered songs with pictorial illustrations; and the American Bioscope supplied a capital series of pictures.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—On Monday Mr. George Testo Sante opened with *The Life of a Showman*. Mr. Sante as Brian Leader, a circus acrobat, wins hearty applause by his clever feats; M. Aurell Lambert de Lambert makes a capital Hendrick Marais; Miss Amy McNeill cleverly depicts the unscrupulous Agatha Winter; Miss May Warden does well as Lefanette Leader; and Master Harry Warden, as Dickie, is well received.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—A warm welcome was accorded to M. Auguste Van Biene and his talented company in *The Broken Melody* on Monday evening. M. Van Biene sustains the rôle of Paul Borinski in his usual clever style, and his solos on the 'cello are heartily applauded. Mr. Henry Ludlow is excellent as the officious General Ivanoff, and Mr. Chas. A. Morgan is really good as Dickson, the lodging-house keeper; Mr. Faulkner Cox makes an amusing Mortimer, and causes much laughter, and Mr. Lawrence Grove does well as Beaujour. Mr. Archie Selwyn makes a good Hon. Richard Spinnaker, and Mr. W. Thomson is capital as Dr. McGrath. Miss Lena Burnleigh quickly enlists the sympathies of the audience for her excellent rendering of the part of Mabel, and Miss Rosemary Rees plays the Duchess de Verviers in a forcible manner; Miss Mary Mannering does much to amuse as the Hon. Mrs. Soinnaker, while Miss Rosie Lewis is very successful as Mrs. Dickson. On Monday and Friday the one-act comedy *The First Night* was performed, M. Van Biene appearing as Achille Talma Dufard.

COLOSSEUM.—Manager, Mr. W. Eastwood.—Mr. John Gerant and company opened here on Monday with the military drama *At Duty's Call*, and a large and interested audience gave it a cordial welcome. Mr. John Gerant as the villainous Harold Allison was very powerful, his half-brother, Capt. George Allison, being played by Mr. Harry Scott in manly fashion; Mr. Ernest St. John makes a capital General Gordon; Mr. Walter P. Carr is good as Spencer, the pugilist, and Mr. Ivan Mavis is a capital Joey Trott; Mr. Harry Ugar as Terry causes a good deal of laughter; Miss Lily Crammonde is excellent as Dora, and Miss Beatrice Western plays strongly as Salema. Miss Eva Bell is good as Mary, and Miss Emily Cleveland and Miss Hetty Foplin appear as Merrura and Nurse Slater respectively. All the remaining parts are well filled.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—De Dio is the principal attraction in *Terpsichore's Dream*, in which a magnificent display is given. The Leslie Bros give a capital eccentric musical show; the Four Emilions are smart in a novel acrobatic turn, and Florence Esdaile, operatic vocalist, sings her songs in an excellent manner; May Glen is a sweet singer and a capital dancer; Ernie Mayne, comedian, causes roars of laughter; Arthur Croxon is very good as a mimic, and Jean Seul, illusionist, also appears. The Royal Dottoscope is again showing an excellent picture.

HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Nuttall.—Marie Kendall is the star here, and she has a very good reception. The Mazondos create much merriment in a new jumping and tumbling act; Alice Maude is a capital child mimic, and Esme Gordon is an excellent comedienne; the three Sisters Chester are very good banjoists, vocalists, and dancers; L. B. Athol is also effective in a characteristic turn; Steve McCarty is a good Irish coon, and Ross, Rose, and Rosert cause much laughter in *Always Moving*. The Dottoscope concludes with an interesting picture.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—The D'Oyly Carte Répertoire Opera company, under the management of the popular Mr. H. E. Bellamy, is again here. The reception accorded *The Gondoliers* on Monday night by a packed house showed the keen appreciation of the admirable representation given by this excellent company. Mr. C. H. Workman had a great reception as the Duke of Plaza-Toro, and played with all his accustomed skill and humour; Mr. Fred Billington also scored heavily as the Grand Inquisitor; and as the Gondoliers Mr. Pacie Ripple and Mr. Albert Kavanagh sang sweetly and acted effectively; while Mr. L. Tunks did very well as Luiz. Miss Theresa Rassam was an admirable Duchess, and as her daughter Miss Mabel Graham won great praise; Inez found a capable exponent in Miss Norma Russell; and Miss Hope Hastings and Miss Lulu Evans were bright and animated as Jianetta and Tessa, and sang their songs in excellent fashion. The chorus was large and well trained, and the orchestra did full justice to the music under the skilful direction of Mr. T. Silver. The week's bill includes *The Mikado, Iolanthe, H.M.S. Pinafore, Patience*, and *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bentz.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company is here with *East Lynne*. Miss Julie Kennard in the character of Lady Isabel displays considerable power; Mr. Alfred Beaumont as Archibald Carlyle figures admirably; Francis Levison is played in quite convincing fashion by Mr. Monckton Hoffe; a fine portraiture of Lord Mountsevern is given by Mr. Spencer Goodwin; Justice Hare has an able exponent in Mr. C. C. Grattan; Mr. E. Massingham interprets Richard Hare in excellent style; Mr. Cyril Hayward makes a capital lawyer Dill; very amusing and entertaining is the P.C. Bullock of Mr. Alfred Tate; Miss Ethel Saville gives a really fine rendering of Barbara Hare; Cornelia Carlyle is conspicuously well played by Miss Ethel Hardacre; little Willie is carefully and intelligently acted by Miss Jessie Bayes; little Isabel is sweetly played by Miss Ethel Ray; and clever assumptions are submitted by Miss Kathleen Bryan as Lady Mountsevern, Miss Ida Heron as Joyce, Miss Bessie Carroun as Wilson, and Miss Emily Frith as Susanne.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Wilson.—Horace Wheatley, Irish comedian and dancer, is the star turn here this week; Henri Bekker mystifies with his conjuring tricks; the Montague Brothers score in their original sketch *The Sculptor's Dream;* a pleasing and delightful entertainment is Ruby Dahl, with her novel and original imitations of life-sized marionettes; the Olive Trio, vocal comediennes and dancers, have an enthusiastic reception; an excellent turn is contributed by Rastus and Banks, coloured American entertainers; Willie Gardner, skate dancer, is applauded; the Three Panamas give an artistic acrobatic and dancing act; and the Hippodrome Bioscope shows some splendid films.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—A good all-round company is engaged here this week, headed by Cosgrove and Burns (Jack and Ethel), comedy duettists, who perform delightfully; Daisy Postlethwaite sings well and is an expert sand dancer; Mr. Charles Howarth, a favourite here, maintains his reputation; Fred Lyndo, eccentric comedian and dancer, has a good reception; a comedy act by King and Mackay (Tom and Bee) creates plenty of mirth; an excellent turn is given by Gilroy and Gros, comedians and patterers; and Bob Carsewell, boxer, is well received.

PENZANCE.—ST. JOHN'S HALL.—Mr. F. R. Benson's company, under the management of Mr. Alban B. Limpus, has appeared here in *Hamlet* and *The School for Scandal* this week, the tour for Cornwall being under the direction of Mr. S. J. Liddicoat. An appreciative audience welcomed the melancholy Prince after many years, in so far as West Barbary is concerned. Mr. Arthur Phillips fulfilled all expectations, his elocution and grace being most artistically pleasing. The Ophelia of Miss Christie Laws, in the opinion of cultured provincial audiences, is one that will be heard of in the future; Mr. Chas. Donaldson as the King is good; Polonius, as given by Mr. Leo M. Briggs, being also a careful study. Mr. Briggs also appears as the first grave-digger, in which part he shows to much advantage; Mr. Frank Darch as Laertes acted with considerable force; Mr. Charles Maunsell is an ideal Horatio; and Miss Lucy Hare as the Queen is dignified and impressive.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Miss Elaine Verner's company, including Mr. Harding Thomas, is here this week in *The Middleman* and *Saints and Sinners*. In *The Middleman* Mr. Harding Thomas assumes the rôle of Cyrus Blenkarn, and makes a decided hit in his clever portrayal; Mr. Frank Lyndon is also seen to considerable advantage as Joseph Chandler; Mr. Percy Brown is well adapted to the rôle of Captain Chandler; Mr. Edward de Vere acquits himself creditably as Batty Todd; and Mr. Edgar Kent is received with special favour in his pleasing impersonation of Jesse Pegge. Miss Maud Bearr is effective as Mrs. Chandler; Miss Ruby Romen is a charming Maud Chandler; Miss Ada Clarke evinces ability in her successful portrayal of Nancy; and Miss Elaine Verner's Mary elicits unstinted approbation.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Langdon Lee.—Sir Francis Burnand's diverting farcical comedy *A Lady of Ostend*, has furnished amusement for large audiences during the past week, and the members of the capable company under the management of Mr. Lawrence Brough do full justice to their opportunities. The vicissitudes of Dick Whortles, admirably played by Mr. Henry Hampson, create unending merriment; Mr. Charles Groves, jun., is admirably adapted to the part of Joseph Carbury, the gay old father-in-law; Mr. Watkin Wynne as Toby Krockitt, the prize-fighter, has a style as original as it is amusing, and Mr. Lawrence Brough ably sustains his well established reputation as the Baron de Longueville. Among the ladies Miss Kate Milford as Dorothy Whortles and Miss Bessie Harrison as Matilda Carbury share the honours for distinctly clever acting; the lesser parts of Millie Grace, Jane (a maid), and the Lady of Ostend being carefully and correctly dealt with by the Misses Evelyn Ormonde, Ida Vynall, and Daisy Cook respectively. The piece is preceded by a pretty yet touching curtain-raiser entitled *At the Risin' of the Moon*, in which the leading parts are sustained by Messrs. Harry Collier, Chas. Groves, jun., H. Douglas Cottell, and Miss D. Cook.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Yukio Tani, the well-known exponent of the art of Ju-Jitsu, is the principal attraction, and his interesting exhibition is followed with rapt attention; Goggin and Davis, eccentric soldiers, introduce some clever tumbling feats; Fyne and Hurley, in their sketch *The Coster and the Dude*, provide a humorous boxing exhibition; and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden are successful in their farce *Two to One*. The Herald Comedy Four were handicapped by the absence through indisposition of a leading member of their quartette. Other turns are A. G. Spry (comedian), Charles Vincent (comedian), and Vernon's Pictures.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—A great attraction is provided this week in Mr. J. A. Campbell's *The Sin of her Childhood*. Mr. Chas. Fancourt finely portrays the Rev. Alan Grey; Stephen Haysel is admirably assumed by Mr. Austin Milroy; Mr. Wordley Hulse shows to advantage as Capt. Thornton; Mr. Hugh Brady as Barney O'Reilly is a host in himself; Miss Mary Fulton displays ability as Mary Haysel; little Dot Moss is a clever Hannah Spry; and Miss Nellie Hook shines as Eliza Muggins.

PORTH. — THE PALACE (LATE OPERA HOUSE).—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—A good all-round programme is submitted here, and includes the following: Atroy, society juggler and hoop roller; Violi, lady istrumentalist; Pueblo and Cropp, versatile creole artists; Carl Rosine, magician; Karr and Kooney, comedians and vocalists; the Athlones, in classical poses; Vere and Royal, vocal comedy duo; Yetta, in her speciality act, "The Cake Walk on the Wire"; May La Vella, versatile instrumentalist and dancer; and some capital pictures are also shown on the Electric Bioscope.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—*Florodora* is being presented here this week by Mr. J. B

thur S. Dudley also gave a clever portrayal as Count Ulric Uzeda, and Mr. Percy Horton was an excellent King of Spain; Mr. Henry Edlin was exceptionally good as Michael Sancha, and as Manuel Mondega Mr. Fred G. Ingleby gave a clever impersonation; as Inez Alvarez Miss Gladys Murray submitted a delightful interpretation, especially in the later acts, and Miss Aimée Grattan-Clyndes was exceedingly good as Cora Casilda, her acting being powerful and realistic; Miss Annie Stewart was seen to great advantage as Parquita Marcella, and Miss Ethel Whitely was a most acceptable Mother Maria Teresa.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Michael Dempsey.—The well-worn but still popular drama, *The Streets of London*, is again attracting good business this week. The play is produced in excellent style by Mr. Eade Montefiore's company. Mr. William Rokeby gives a clever rendering of the part of Badger; Mr. Riddell Robinson as Gideon Bloodgood, Mr. Charles O'Connor as Mark Livingstone, Mr. Clifford Amitage as Captain Fairweather, and Mr. C. Kean as Paul Fairweather all sustain their parts well. Miss Winifred Ingham plays very artistically as Lucy; Miss Dorothy Casey is effective as the banker's daughter; Mr. Joe Bracewell as Puffy, and Miss Adelaide Gracey as Mrs. Puffy are both very amusing; and Miss Florence Moore is capital as Dan. The Street Urchin's scena in Act 4 is effective, and the fire scene in the last act realistic.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*Two Little Sailor Boys* occupies the boards here this week. Mr. Jerrold Heather acts with distinction as Com. Noll Tregarthen; Mr. Horace Booth cleverly interprets the part of Lieut. Richard Redstone; Mr. Oscar Power and Mr. Tom E. Sinclair are amusing as Jack Jolly and Ben Baxter; Mr. Ambrose Horton submits a typical impersonation of Jim Royston, a burglar; in the title-rôles Miss May Day as Cyril Grey and Miss Ethel Frances Green as Tom Yorke are both conspicuous with their realistic acting; Miss Alice Defoe is winsome as the faithful and loving Mildred Grey; and Miss Blanche Steele acts with powerful effect as Lola Grey.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Co.—An attractive bill of fare is submitted here this week. E. B. Dainez, with performing animals, has a capital show; the Three Seabornes, equilibrists and acrobats, are loudly applauded for their clever feats; J. C. Jacques, comedian, the Sisters Volbesque, the comedy couple, the Camerons, in *The Plough Boy and Lady Guide*, Will Memory, mimic, Les Fallowfield, comedian, and Vernon's Bioscope complete the list.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Miss Ella Shields possesses a charming personality, and fairly brings down the house with her delightful rendering of coon songs; Oram and Major are old favourites here with their racy patter. Other artists appearing with success include the Haydees, with their miniature vaudeville theatre; Frederica's performing terriers and pony; Mlle. De Rose, lady baritone vocalist; J. H. Hawtrey, actor vocalist; and the Empire Bioscope.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company is here this week with *The Indian Mutiny*. Mr. Cyril Harrison is smart as Captain Manley, and Mr. George Steel is seen to advantage as Lieut. Manley. Mr. John Davidson is deserving of mention as Major Ingleby, and Mr. G. Birch scores as Ensign Blake. Mr. Cecil Morand is humorous as Terry O'Brien, and Mr. F. Anderson is a typical Sergeant Thompson. Special mention should be made of Mr. Villiers Stanley as Nebu Singh, and Mr. John Shedden as Abul Khan. Miss Lillie Gray is a pompous Mrs. Major Ingleby, and Miss Agnes Kingston is pleasing as Kate Ingleby. Miss F. Melrose Millet as Ghuz-nah gives a highly finished rendition of the part. Mr. Holbery Hardy took his benefit on Wednesday, when the house was crowded in every part, and special turns were given by the company from the Grand Palace, Sheffield.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Drew Mackintosh.—Messrs. Montague Beaudyn and Sidney Crowe's company is this week presenting the drama, *The Way of the World*. Mr. Herbert Shardon is excellent in every way as Cecil Montague, circus rider; and Mr. Lawrence Bauer as Captain Slade gives an artistic rendering; Mr. Malcolm J. Cummings is good as Matthew Malyon; and as Horatio Bluff, Mr. Augustus Hammond causes much amusement. Mr. F. J. Edwards as Joe Sparrow is extremely funny; Mr. Pat Quinn as Silas Montague is good. As Kate Montague, Miss Marie Fontaine is well placed and gives a charming exposition; Miss Clara Steele as Dolly Bell is smart; Miss Laurie Deering is good as Marion Fanshard; and Miss Sidney Crowe wins applause by her refined and clever rendering of the part of Adela de la Roche.

RYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, J. Bannister Howard, Ltd.—*Caste* was given here on the first three nights of this week by a company under the management of Mr. C. Otter Hind. Mr. Alfred Ibbesson gave a striking delineation of Eccles; Miss Blanche Lynd did excellently as Polly; Mr. C. Otter Hind was well suited as Captain Hawtrey; and Mr. Cecil W. Parke was responsible for a good portrait of George D'Alroy. Miss Ethel May, in the part of Esther Eccles, was pathetic, and Miss Lucy I. Cherson discharged faithfully the duties attached to the rôle of the Marquise. Mr. Arthur Terris was responsible for much amusement as Gerridge.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Frank Lindo always finds a ready welcome when he visits this house, and on Monday general satisfaction was evinced by a full house when he took his usual lead as Stephen Armitage in *Home, Sweet Home*, an interesting drama, written by himself. Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle as old David Armitage gave a good study of an old lifeboatman; the Duke of Ancaster was portrayed with dignity and ability by Captain Gerald Gambier; the villainous Lucas Lyle was carefully played by Mr. F. Miles Hodgson; Mr. Jack Patrick as the Hon. Percy, Mr. Ernest E. Owens as Lord Silvermore, and Miss May Rochefort as Sybil Fay kept the comedy incidents to the fore. The part of Joan fell to the lot of Miss Cecil Warde, who successfully took the place of Miss Marion Wakeford, who was temporarily indisposed. Miss Daisy Rochefort was a charming little Dora; Mr. George Overs made a good impression as Dick Redmayne.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner: Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—The clever acting of Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas of scenes from Dickens is much enjoyed; the Cumberlands are smart and daring in their cycling act; pleasing turns are also provided by Agnes Asher, comedienne; Little Barney, Scotch comedian; Clark's Nippers, in their club manipulation, ball punching, dancing, &c., act; Harry Vernon, comedian; Patty Yole, comedienne and dancer; Billy Hobbs, coon comedian and dancer; Regan and Ryan, in their comedy act; Ida Kathrena in a doll scena; James Shingleton, singing collier; and Johnny Holland and company, in sketch, *The Millionaire*.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—An enjoyable programme is headed by the amusing skit, *Muscles; or, Muscular Development Personified*, by Herbert Darnley's combination; Flo Hilton gets much applause for her male impersonations; the Three Boccacios give a smart vocal and instrumental turn; Mack Ollive, assisted by Miss Daisy Baldry is well received in "The Candy Store" whistling scena. The other entertainers are Edie Gray and White Coons; Vera Mayne, Canadian comedienne; Lily Watson, comedy patter artist; Charles Rigwell, character comedian; and Tod Lowan, the very funny fellow

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. E. Lockwood's company is doing excellent business here this week with *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. J. Harold Carson sustains the title-rôle with much drollery, and receives excellent support from Michael Brue as impersonated by Mr. Robert Selby. Matthew Habisham receives capital treatment at the hands of Mr. Cecil Strickland, and Mr. Harold Godwin is officially impressive as Inspector Corringe. Mr. F. Laceby causes much mirth as the eccentric and innocent Mr. Crank; Mr. Lamb is well looked after by Mr. T. Wyman; and Captain Bay by Mr. Gordon Wright. Mr. Maitland Dicker plays the exacting part of Crookie Scrubbs with considerable skill, and Miss Reydon Dallas gives an excellent rendering of Lady Bickenhall. Aurora Brue (Miss Florence Spurgeon), Daisy (Miss Dora Taylor), Mabel Widget (Miss Kathleen V. Grey), and Vivienne Russell (Miss Kate Sabine) all receive intelligent rendering. Mr Vernon C. Booth gives a satisfactory reading of Gerald Treherne, and Miss Hilda Sane does well as Louise Claire. Miss Lil Hodson as Eva Graham and Miss Nellie Burn as Stella Conroy complete an excellent company.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—*The London Fireman* is being played here by Messrs. Garside and Knowles's company. Mr. J. Forbes Knowles is equally good as Colonel Fleming and Hal Curtis, the young fireman; Viscount Fleming is carefully portrayed by Mr. Oliver Birrell; Patty is realistically drawn by Mr. Edward L. Garside; as Abel Fortnum, Mr. Wm. Burgess is well placed; and Joe Bluener is successfully played by Mr. Walter Wilby. As Niney Stinger, Mr. Harry C. Momber is responsible for much merriment; Ida Curtis is presented in excellent style by Miss Nellie Shirley; Miss Nellie Waddington is a capable Countess; and Grace Curtis is effectively presented by Miss Beatrice Sinclair.

SHEERNESS.—THE HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. F. Leighton.—Amongst the most prominent turns appearing this week are Roy Cochrane and company, in the farcical act, *No Parson Required*, which they present in creditable style. Dan Thomas, comedian, makes a popular re-appearance, and gains a capital reception; Souplessi, aptly described as the Flying Serpent, submits a clever entertainment; Fred Keeton, eccentric comedian, gains hearty applause; Nina Elms, comedienne, is much admired; Fred Harrison, comedian, and Irene Meldon, serio and dancer, also score. A choice selection of pictures by Vernon's Bioscope completes the bill.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—A capital company here includes Mr. F. Godfrey, character comedian, who is well received; Nellie Morton, a sweet singer of sensible songs; Mr. Horace Sade Leggett, a champion dancer; the Maynard and France company, in their sketch, *A Sister's Devotion*; Miss Topsy Levane, a neat dancer; and the farce, *Families Supplied*, by the Elshaw company.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Miss Claudia Lasell's company appeared on Monday in the new musical play *The Sweet Girl*. Well staged and excellently played, the piece gave pleasure to a large audience. The title-rôle was charmingly acted by Miss Claudia Lasell, whose vocalism received due approbation; Miss Alice Lethbridge, pretty, graceful, and accomplished, appeared with her usual success, and her artistic dancing was truly the "poetry of motion"; Mr. Fred Eastman was the quintessence of drollery as the Count, and scored a big success; Mr. George De Lara was first-rate as the Count's secretary; and other characters were efficiently represented by Miss Muriel Harding, Mr. Leonard Russell, Mr. Algernon Newark, and Mr. W. H. Page. There was an excellent chorus.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The historic boards of the Royal are occupied this week by Mr. Julian Malvern's company in the semi-military drama *I Defy the World*. Mr. Percy Ballard as Leon Darville, Mr. Chas. Conway as Laroche, and Miss Violet Crawford as Blanche do good work; and all the other characters are cleverly acted.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—The combined attractions of Frederick Melville's drama *The Ugliest Woman on Earth* and the talented artist Miss Beatrice Homer resulted in a packed and enthusiastic audience on Monday. Miss Beatrice Homer again magnetised the house by the strength and intensity of her acting as the "veiled lady," and the support was good all round.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The famous Boisett Troupe appeared to large audiences on Monday in the pantomime *A Trip to the Continent*, which for over thirty minutes kept the spectators almost convulsed with healthy hilarity. The Latonas, Jim and Jan, do a pleasing humorous and refined musical act; the Haytors are old and deserved variety favourites, and are always welcome; Conway and Leland are two smart and amusing performers; the Macarte Sisters are graceful and clever artists; and other turns this week are Mr. Harry Carsdale, mimic; Miss Lilieth Leyton and her company, the Bros. Obo, the Knick-Knacks, and the American Bioscope with new pictures.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—The company here includes Mr. Tom Kelso, a laughter-provoking comedian; the Zampas, in a novel act; Ellis and Watts; Mr. S. S. Peake's company, in a sketch; Miss Rita Resden, a graceful comedienne; Pallister's Biograph; and Mr. Charles Gardener, vocal comedian.

ALBERT HALL.—Mr. Geo. Burton's popular concerts are successful here.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's powerful company was here on the first three nights of the present week with the evergreen drama, *The Silver King*. Mr. Horace E. Herbert was talented in the title-rôle; Miss B. Doyle played with grace and expressive feeling as Nellie Denvers; Mr. Percy Foster made a most capable Jaikes; Madge Gillard was a sweet little Cissy; Mabel Reid a clever Ned; Mr. Oswald Cray a capital Capt. Herbert Skinner; Mr. Ralph Leo a smart Henry Corket; Mr. Wm. Dempsey acted with care and success the part of Elijah Coombe; and numerous other male rôles were satisfactorily taken. Miss Beatrice Blagdon was an amusing Mrs. Gamage; Miss Dorothy Laine a bright Susie; Miss Janet Bullworthy merited praise as Tabitha Duerdon; and Miss Dorothy Black as Olive Skinner acted creditably.

SMETHWICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Mr. Fred Melville's attractive melodrama, *The Beast and the Beauty*, was presented here for the first time on Monday. The company is a very strong one, including Mr. W. S. Hartford, who plays cleverly and with success as Jack Barrymore; and Miss Alice Bowes, who does all that is possible with the rôle of Violet; she acts with grace and dramatic power. Mr. Wm. E. Passmore is good as the Earl of Loman; Mr. Bernard Mervyn is convincing as Henry Denver; Mr. H. Talbot is amusing as Tom Chicken, and is ably assisted by Miss Mamie Rendle as Mimi; Mr. Eric Campbell gives a capital interpretation of the rôle of Ned Samson; Miss Daisie Gwynne is a handsome and alluring representative of Delilah Vane.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr F. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. Norman V. Norman's company is appearing here with decided success in a répertoire. On Monday *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* was charmingly played. Mr. Norman met with a flattering reception as Sir George Sylvester, and Miss Beatrice Wilson, in the title-rôle, was winsome. Capable support was given by the other members of the cast. On Tuesday and Friday *David Garrick* was presented, and on Wednesday and Thursday the romantic play, *Robin Hood* was enacted.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. William Trussell.—The pièce de résistance here is supplied by Mr R. A. Roberts in his sketch, *Ringing the Changes*, which is very successful. Mr. Roberts impersonates no less than eight distinct characters, and his acting and the mounting are excellent. The Dayton Family, Risley performers, are exceedingly clever, and others who do well are Tom Yorke, coster delineator; Nash and Noll, comedians and dancers; Ethel Loftus and Janet Reynolds, comediennes; and Tom Lloyd, comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Freece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Freece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—Tom Grave's daring cycling feat, "Whirling the Wheel," calls forth uproarious applause here; Dora Lyric sings several catchy chorus songs, and Flo Deighton is a gifted songstress; Larola does a really clever turn, his jugglery and jumping being remarkably smart; Wal Pink and Jeff Vendome's pantomimists, in *The Day-breakers*, evoke hearty laughter; and Dezmonti and Mora, triple bar performers, and Rose Cabani, comedienne, also do well.

VICTORIA HALL.—Mr. Jacob Studt's World's Fair is being well patronised. The Bioscope pictures are excellent.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—The attraction for this week is provided by Mr. Herbert Hollister, whose powerful company is giving *The Lights of London*. Mr. C. F. Collings is thorough and interesting as Harold Armytage, and has capital support from Miss Jennie Burgoyne, whose interpretation of Bess is sympathetic. The three Jarvises are worthy characters, well taken by the Misses Violet Temple and Renée Douglas and Mr. Herbert Lewis. Mr. Raymond Thomas as the villain (Clifford Armytage) shows ability, and Seth Preene has a talented and forcible impersonator in Mr. Herbert Hollister.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. E. Angless; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—So immensely popular did the Skating Rink appear last winter that the management have now laid a magnificent maple floor for this season. The opening towards the end of last week drew a large number, and the season promises to be another successful one, judging by the attendances. The length of the floor is 100ft., with a width of 50ft., being 10ft. larger than last year. The rink is opened three times daily, and the fancy skating exhibitions during intervals are greatly liked and appreciated. Music is supplied by the talented Red Band, whose services have been re-engaged. A Badminton hockey and lawn tennis club is in course of formation, under the personal direction of the acting-manager.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—An attractive entertainment is provided here this week in the engagement of Mr. George Alexander's capital company, in Mr. Pinero's comedy, *His House in Order*. Miss Jean Stirling MacKinlay depicted the rôle of Nina with great histrionic power and skill, and was warmly applauded; Mr. Stephen T. Ewart was successful in the part of Hilary Jesson, his interpretation of the character being marked with realistic effect; Miss Maisie Richardson found favour with the audience by her portrayal of Derek Jesson; Filmer Jesson, M.P., had a distinctly successful representative in Mr. J. Edward Pearce; the Ridgeleys were cleverly and characteristically represented by Miss Augusta Haviland, Miss Elaine Sleddall, Mr. George Fitzgerald, and Mr. Ernest R. Holloway respectively; Mr. Lloyd Lowndes submitted a commendable study as Major Maurewarde; whilst Miss Eve Grand and Mr. Luke Foster did well as Mdlle. Thome and Dr. Dilmott.

ALBERT HALL, WINTER GARDENS.—Lessee, Mrs. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—The bill here for the current week is headed by Harry Tate's comedians in *Golfing*, a highly-diverting sketch. Other excellent turns are contributed by J. W. Hall, comedian whose rollicking humour is appreciated; the Fitzroys, society gymnasts, in their smart trapeze and rope speciality; the Westwoods, cyclists; and Elton and Elma, in a comic bar act. The programme also includes Bertha Norwood, comedienne; Jack Neil, comedian; Alice Blandford, the "New Zealand Nightingale"; Vasey and Ramsey, eccentric dancing act; and the Bioscope with the latest films.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—A realistic drama, *For Life—and After*, by George R. Sims, is being performed to good houses by Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company. Mr. Vernon Sansbury convincingly enacts Richard Grey; Marion Grey is sympathetically and ably rendered by Miss Grace Heywood; the dual parts of Jack Huggett and Jim Huggett are ably accounted for by Mr. Henry Hare; Mr. Charles Osborn is good as Rube Hexham. Ample comedy is supplied by Mr. Caris Mason as Joe Grimper and Miss Edith Barwell as Mrs. Grimper. The situations are good, and the scenery effective.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The chief turn is a new and original musical extravaganza, entitled *Where's Aubrey?* in which a good deal of comedy is introduced. George Newburn, in his impersonations of Lashwood, Lauder, Formby, and others has an excellent reception; Ella and Dacie Hope contribute a successful comedy act; Lee and Kingston cause great fun; and May Orchard, juvenile comedienne, was much appreciated. The remaining enjoyable items are Rosie Revel, comedienne; Ambrose Thorne, actor-vocalist; Pat Carey, comedian and dancer; and the bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. K. Hall and Jos. Sweeney; Business-Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—Carl Mysto, the handcuff manipulator, heads the bill this week, and is creating a good impression. Percy Curry, North Country comedian, is paying a welcome return visit; the Kimberley Boys keep the house in good humour; Bruce and Ross contribute a good comedy sketch; the vocal efforts of Master May are appreciated; Will Bell is a good Irish entertainer and dancer; and the Tivoli Bioscope completes the bill.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—A second visit of *Her Fatal Past* has to be recorded this week. As on its first appearance here, Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is responsible for its presentation. One of the most prominent parts, Honor Symes, provides Miss Ward with ample opportunities to display her undoubted histrionic abilities; Mr. Stuart Lomath submits a manly and natural portrayal of Mark Desmond; as Gilbert Fernside, a villain of the deepest dye, Mr. Wilson Coleman is distinctly successful; Miss Adeline Raby as the callous and frivolous Belle de Lara renders a good account of herself; Little Len has a pretty and charming exponent in Miss Audrey Sutherland. The lighter side of the play is admirably accounted for by Miss Gertie Reid as Kitty, Miss Ettie Spalding as Martha, Mr. Ward as Nobbs, and Mr. Sidney Bryant as Dickie Bird. On Friday night *Her Wedding Day*, with Miss Ward as the Bride, was staged.

STAFFORD.—EMPIRE AND LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Dinah Morris and her troupe of Southern Belles, in the musical comedy sketch, *The Lost Coon*, top the bill; Mozetto and assistant are clever and amusing jugglers; the Revell Troupe, in their wonderful knockabout absurdity, *Mischief*, evoke genuine laughter; Mlle. Lucretia is a smart and pleasing serio and dancer; and the pictures of the Empire Bioscope are an additional attraction.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is here on a return visit, in the popular drama, *A Royal Divorce*. Miss Edith Cole repeats her admirable performance of the Empress Josephine; Mr. Fred Victor acts in convincing style as Napoleon; Miss Agnes Finlay's interpretation of Marie Louise, and Miss Helen Richmond's assumption of Stephanie, both merit high praise; Talleyrand finds a capable exponent in Mr. Percy Vernon; Mr. Graham Woods is an excellent Marquis de Beaumont.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. T. Barrasford, Will Sley, and Fred Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—The bill of fare provided here this week includes Mdlle. Von Jossa, protean and quick-change artist; Frank Cass, comedian; Miss Blanche Marion, comedienne and dancer; the Gladenbecks, clever hand-balancers; Jack Hylton, eccentric comedian; Mephisto, contortionist; the Dugros Trio, gymnasts; and the Barrascope, with new pictures.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Bright and entertaining is *The Prince of Pilsen*, and large audiences have been delighted with its many pleasing features. Mr. Baron H. Harriss's company is one of exceptional excellence. As Hans Wagner, Mr. Harry Kilburn causes abundant laughter; Mr. Frank Crimp as the Prince acts and sings in most acceptable style; and Miss Sophie Harris is a distinct success as Mrs. Maddison Crocker. A clever impersonation is that of Miss Connie Leon as the French maid, Sidonie; Mr. Roy Sydney portrays the character of Lieut. Tom Wagner admirably; and Miss Peggie Franklin makes a lovable Nellie Wagner.

EMPIRE, LTD.—Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Leoni Clarke, with his numerous cats, rabbits, monkeys, rats, mice, canaries, &c., is the chief attraction here, and has provided a most amusing entertainment; a clever performance in the silver tank is given by Dickinson and Johnson, ornamental swimmers; Lavello Brothers, comedy acrobats, are amusing; Miss Arabella Allen's impersonations of Dickens characters are greeted with much appreciation; Wyndham and Waters, in their sketch *The Professor and His Pupil*, cause hearty laughter; Renson and Waite, comedy duo; Lotte de Abbey, vocalist; and Harry Barclay, comedian, are highly successful; whilst the reception accorded Harry Drew, a capable baritone vocalist, is of a most gratifying character.

ALBERT HALL.—Mr. Frank Abbott's "Times" animated pictures continue here this week, with satisfactory success.

STOURBRIDGE.—ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Managerées, Miss Maude Lynton.—Mr. Charles H. Phelps and company are appearing here this week in two dramas, *The Blind Foundling* and *His Dishonoured Wife*. On Monday the former piece was presented, and thoroughly enjoyed. The title-rôle was entrusted to Miss Mabel Hall, and she proved herself one of the most efficient child artists we have seen here. Miss Belle Tilbury had an important character to delineate in that of Isabel, but she acquitted herself admirably. Mr. Chas. H. Phelps won unstinted applause by his embodiment of the part of Gerald Dalton. Others conspicuous in their rôles were Messrs. Lawrence Brien, Alfred G. Fry, Bernard Webb, Harry Tilbury, and Misses Amy Dalby and Milly Doris.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Director and Manager, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—*Sherlock Holmes* is paying a welcome return visit to Wearside. Mr. Hamilton Stewart enacts the rôle of the cool, calculating, and intrepid detective with quiet force; Mr. W. F. Stirling submits another strong interpretation of Professor Moriarty; Mr. Stanley Logan is a natural Dr. Watson; Mr. Fred Bell an effective John Forman; Mr. Ernest Gray capably sustains the part of James Larrabee; Mr. Edward Mervyn is a satisfactory Sydney Prince; and Master Cedric Sutherland is smart as Billy. Miss Lindsay Fincham, in the unsympathetic character of Madge Larrabee, comes through with considerable credit; and Miss Constance Leigh deserves commendation for her conception of the difficult rôle of Alice Faulkner.

ROYAL THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jos. Hemingway.—*Bound to Win* is being presented here by Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Kimberley's company. Harry Lyndon, the gentleman sport, is adequately portrayed by Mr. F. G. Kimberley; Mr. Charles Vivian succeeds in the heavier rôle of Phillip Ayre; Mr. J. Franklin admirably represents the part of Ned Oakley; Miss Eva Elwes as the heartless Gladys Orme shows considerable power; and Miss Violet Langley submits a charming interpretation of the heroine.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees and Manager, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. Browne and Stringer.—A nicely diversified bill is headed by W. J. Ashcroft (accompanied by J. W. Morton), who receives a most hearty reception. The Lukushima Troupe of Japanese artists submit a clever entertainment; Bijou Russell, sand dancer, is another excellent turn; the beautiful Lillian Power performs some exceptionally clever feats with her safety bicycle; Rosa Rossetti's selections on 'cello and violins are pleasing items; and Lee Lung, Chinese illusionist; George Bernard, actor-vocalist; Lauri Wylie, with his mimicing mannikins; Little Don, the mirthful mite; and Vernon's Bioscope pictures make up the remainder of the programme.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—The first three nights of this week Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company appeared here in the drama, *A Traitor Prince*. The play was well received by a large audience on Monday night. It is well mounted and dressed, and the acting is all that could be desired. The principals include Mr. G. M. Montamni, as the Prince; Miss Livesey, as Vashti; Mr. T. P. McBride, as Lieut. Derrick; and Miss Rose Routledge, as Lola Vam.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—That popular musical comedy, *The Earl and the Girl*, is paying this town a first visit, and is proving a genuine attraction. Mr. William Greet's company, under the business-management of Mr. Francis Hawley, is a strong one, while the elaborate dresses and scenery form a leading feature. Miss May Yates as Elphin Haye is charming; and Miss Ida Stratham is particularly pleasing as Daisy Fallowfield, both ladies scoring high honours with their vocal efforts. Mr. Thomas Kennard must be highly commended on his distinct success as Dick Wargrave, being deservedly applauded for each song; and Mr. Leslie Owen does good work as the Hon. Crewe Boodle. As Jim Cheese, Mr. Alfred Donohoe is irresistibly amusing, and with Miss Lina Hicks, an ideal 'Liza Shoddam, evoke roars of laughter. In the part of Mrs. Shimmering Black, Miss Kathleen Gerard is very good; and Miss Winnie Plumpton as Virginia Bliss is all that can be desired. Mr. Ernest A. Plumpton must be complimented on his good work as Downham; while Mr. G. Hayes and Mr. Sam Lysons, in the parts allotted to them, deserve special mention.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—This week the boards are occupied by Mr. F. Marriott-Watson's company in *A False Wife*. The part of Lieut. George Mansfield is well placed in the hands of Mr. Howard Barlow; Mr Marriott-Watson is seen to advantage as Jean Beraud; Mr. Elton Morgan keeps the house in good humour as Ben Rattle; Miss Florence Florence is excellent as Lady Mansfield; Miss Minnie Leslie is very amusing as Bessie; and Miss Annie Hylton is a charming Agnes Weyland.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company presented *Public Opinion* for the first time to a Torquay audience on Monday. Miss Hutchison took the principal part very successfully, and was well supported by Mr. Charles Harley, who acted with considerable ability as Spencer Traughton. Mr. Percy Marshall gave a clever impersonation of Horace Wibsey, and the character studies of the Hon. Mr. Justice Mulley by Mr. Fred Lewis and Sir Babington Mulley by Mr. Douglas Hamilton were exceedingly well done. Miss Mary Beresford was a pleasing Pansy Bligh, and Miss Connie Deane a pretty Phyllis Dagenham; Mr. Douglas Greet as Viscount Pomfey and Mr. Ashton Pearse as Lord Percy Kilgour also deserve mention.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. C. Carey; Manager, Mr. L. J. Gunnell.—On Monday Mr. Bannister Howard's company commenced a three nights' visit with *The Earl and the Girl*. Mr. John Clegg was as funny as ever as the dog-trainer; Mr. Frank Wilson as the real heir and Mr. D. FitzGibbon as the supposed heir were both excellent; Mr. H. Cotter as the uncle and Mr. A. Godfrey as the Yankee solicitor furnished humorous studies; Miss Alice Nixon gave a vivacious impersonation of the American heiress; Miss M. Maude, responsible for the Strong Lady and Miss C. Dade as 'Liza Shoddam both contributed strong comedy impersonations; while Miss Florence Brandon as Daisy Fallowfield and Miss C. Stephens as Virginia Bliss also deserved special mention. The full chorus and orchestra (under the direction of Mr. H. Lonsdale) attacked their work with commendable vigour.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, in the drama, *Under Two Flags*, is here this week. Mr. Wellesley Draper gives a spirited rendering as Bertie Cecil; Mr. Lionel West does full justice as Barklie Royellieu; Mr. Charles Brook is suitably placed as Lord Royellieu; and Mr. Fred Pawl enacts the part of Lord Rockingham in an able manner; Mr. Arthur Elwyns proves capable as the Black Hawk; and Mr. Harry Benson is admirable as Rake, the valet. Miss Mary Thorne submits a clever portrayal as Cigarette; Miss Mabel Ormonde makes a pleasing Princess Corona; and Miss Amy Maitland is successful as Lavinia the maid.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Mons. De Ora, gymnast, heads the bill this week with a startling turn; Wisper, comical juggler, is amusing; Fox and Melville, illustrated song vocalists, merit appreciation; the Two Lauriers, conjurers; Miss Beattie Bloom, comedienne; Miss Amy Allnutt, comedy artist; and Mlle. Fontaine's Mannikins, and Fred Dice, comedian, ably contribute.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Interesting variety characterises the programme here this week. Heading the bill is *The Globe of Life*, the performers being "Wizard" Stone and Irene Stone, who are marvellous. Madge May, comedienne; the Bros. Vetter, in a vocal and equilibristic speciality entitled *The Page's Recreation*; Daisy Mayer, comedienne and sand dancer; Silent Tait, the eccentric wizard; Hesketh Meade, in animated picture songs; and Little Ganty, who creates great fun, are other attractions of the bill.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Miss Annie Bell and company are here this week in *Sapho*. Miss Bell, in the title-rôle, proves most successful; Mr. Otto Minster does well as Jean Gaussin; and Mr. Pringle Roberts is capital as Caoudal.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. Joseph Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—At this theatre on Monday a capital house gave Mr. Mouillot's company a hearty reception on its appearance in the tuneful musical comedy, *The Geisha*. The rôle of O Mimosa San was acted by Miss Lydia Bland in a style sufficient to satisfy even the severest of critics, and her excellent voice was well suited for the songs which fall to her share. Miss Doris Langdon gave a capital representation of O Juliette Diamente; and Miss Edith Adeson, as Molly Seymour, acquitted herself extremely well and sang admirably; Miss Winifred Knightly was a fine, handsome Lady Constance Wynne; and the Misses Lucy Kipling, Evelyn Powell, and Daisy Notting appeared as her guests. Charming Geisha Girls were Misses Ada Silvester, Kate Holmes, Maud Holmes, and Winnie Brooke. Mr. Melford Hook presented a highly commendable portraiture of Reginald Fairfax, and he acted and sang as the fickle naval officer with admirable effect. Mr. Edward Pollard was good as Dick Cunningham; and Messrs. Ryton Hoare, T. Squires, and Miss Emily Lovell (a dashing young "middy") were all well in the picture as young officers on board H.M.S

Willie Hicks does sound work in the attractive part of Tom Holmes; Mr. Geoffrey Cleate as the unscrupulous Vivian Ormonde fills a difficult part well. Miss Nelly Howitt, who plays the title-rôle, has been a happy selection, playing with rare force and keen insight; Miss Evelyn Robson is quite at home as Felice; Miss Marie Ada Downing as the crippled Christina wins all hearts.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co. — Mr. Samuel James's company present *As Good as Gold*, a drama which is admirably staged, inclusive of some sensational mechanical effects. Mr. H. H. Barrington as Mark Williams, Mr. Wm. Heilbronn as Jack Stanton, Mr. Richard Ferris as Sir Richard Wharncliffe, and Mr. Norman Hall as Horatio Spanker, play the chief male parts with conspicuous ability. Miss May Hastings as Nora Williams, whose virtues suggest the title-rôle, represents the character most naturally, and speaks her lines with considerable elocutionary powers; Miss Kate Froude, Miss Irene Tracey (Wharncliffe's son), Miss Florence Lovell, and Miss Edith Carr, also play their parts well.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Chas. Diamond, harpist; and Miss Beatrice, clever performer on the saxophone, have an excellent reception; and Doody and Wright, "Australian comiques," are clever vocalists and dancers, and score a great success; Karno's Komedians, O'Malley and Brown, Harry Morris, and Tom Fancourt and Rubie, in a sketch, provide capital comedy; the Sisters Poole, society entertainers, dance well; and the Montaldos, equilibrists; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, fancy box makers from the factory, who are also good vocalists; and Lieut. Travis, a very smart ventriloquist and pleasing singer, complete a most acceptable programme.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre. — Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer and company are appearing here in a round of plays. On Tuesday *Mary Queen of Scots* was produced, in which Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer admirably sustained the title-part, and met with a good reception. Miss Katharine Herbert made an excellent Queen Elizabeth; and Miss More Dunphie did well as Hannah Kennedy. The part of the Earl of Leicester was capitally portrayed by Mr. F. Skein; and that of Earl of Shrewsbury was ably filled by Mr. A. Wilson Wynne. As Lord Burleigh, Mr. Leonard Cheetham rendered a good account of himself; and Mr. Sydney Bland was successful as Sir Edward Mortimer. The following plays were also billed for the week:—*From Washerwoman to Duchess, East Lynne, Sapho, Nell Gwynne*, and *Jane Shore*.

Empire Palace. — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—A great treat is provided here this week in the engagement of Ada Reeve, who is drawing large houses, and providing them with much pleasure and amusement by her clever and charming songs. Other artists are Charles R. Whittle, vocalist; the Paolias; Frank and Alice Lurin, comedians; the Bros. Adderley, in sketch; the Sisters Melba, juvenile vocalists; Stephens and Rennior, comedians and sand dancers; and Edie Anderson, vocalist.

Hippodrome. — This week's programme includes two sketches of the burlesque and knockabout order, the one entitled *Moving In*, and the other *The Skirmishers*. Both provide plenty of fun. Other attractions are Arthur Aldridge, vocalist; Maidie Scott; Forest and King, the elastic couple; Alf Barton, the story-teller; Tom Moore, comedian; Olga Kean, juvenile fairy dancer; and the Hippodrome pictures.

WORCESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—*Florodora* has always enjoyed considerable popularity with Worcester theatregoers, and the performances of Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company are as bright and enjoyable as ever. Mr. Alfred E. Passmore is admirable as the Professor; Mr. Stanley White is well suited as the millionaire perfume proprietor; as Frank Abercoed, Mr. Allan Morris finds ample opportunity for the display of a powerful and cultured voice; and Miss Josephine Sullivan makes a charming Dolores. Miss L. G. Gullick is a vivacious Angela, and Miss Kate Leicester makes a great hit as Lady Holyrood.

WORKINGTON.—Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—Colen's Excursions is doing good business. The principal attraction is Mr. Charles Coborn, whose songs are enthusiastically received, and whose welcome as an old favourite is of the heartiest character.

YORK.—Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. S. Dacre.—*The Prodigal Parson* is being played here by Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company this week. Mr. Garrod is an impressive Tom Godley, acting with pathos; Mr. Hugh Carmichael as the villainous Enoch Jaggins plays in excellent style; Mr. H. Newton as the genial Phil Drive causes much amusement; and he is well supported by Miss Lydia Hart as Gretchen; as Fern Godley, Miss Vera Ferdyce is a distinct success, playing naturally and with grace; and a sympathetic Myrtle is seen in Miss Gladys Conover.

Opera House.—Managing Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—Mendel is decidedly the chief attraction this week; Jock Whiteford's witticisms never fail to amuse; and Cullen and Carthey are decidedly smart dancers; Miss Lily Lena, a pleasing singer of tuneful songs, scores a success; the Dagodets are clever; H. O. Wells causes amusement; and the King's College Boys do well; Johnson and Bert and the Bioscope complete the bill.

HOCKEY.

Misses Cecilia Fowler's and Winnie Bradley's Ladies' Athletic Team v. Miss Jessie Clinton's Bath Ladies' XI.

Played near Bath on Saturday, Nov. 10. Misses Kit Montgomery, Lillie Belding, Lilla Carter, Sadie Osborne, and May Collings scored for their respective sides. The following were the teams:—

Misses Fowler and Bradley's XI.—Miss Ethel Bowman, goal; Miss Alice Gibbs and Miss Lilla Carter, backs; Miss Cecilia Fowler, Miss Lillie Belding, and Miss Edie Lawrence, half backs; Miss Winnie Bradley, Miss Kit Montgomery, Miss Florrie Hooper, Miss Rosie Davies, and Miss Nell Lawrence, forwards.

Miss Clinton's XI.—Miss Minnie Lewis, goal; Miss Nellie Osborne and Miss Sadie Osborne, backs; Miss Ethel Tucker, Miss Jessie Clinton, and Miss Mabel Williams, half backs; Miss May Collings, Miss Florence Thatcher, Miss Beatie Cook, Miss Edith Brooks, and Miss Laura James, forwards.

Referee, Miss Ivy Bowman. Result: Misses Fowler and Bradley's XI., 3 goals; Miss Clinton's XI., 2 goals.

Miss Cecilia Fowler's Eleven v. Miss Winnie Bradley's Eleven.

Played near Clifton Downs on Saturday, Nov. 24. Miss Ethel Bowman (goal), who was injured in the match on Nov. 10, very pluckily turned out for her club. The following were the teams:—

Miss Fowler's Eleven:—Miss Ethel Bowman, goal; Miss Ivy Bowman and Miss Irene Dudley, backs; Miss Cecilia Fowler (captain), Miss Lillie Belding, and Miss Rosie Davies, half-backs; Miss Minnie Leonard, Miss Gracie Leonard, Miss Bertha Godfrey, Miss Alice Bernard, and Miss Amy Bernard, forwards.

Miss Bradley's Eleven:—Miss May Fisher, goal; Miss Alice Gibbs and Miss Nellie Stevens, backs; Miss Edie Lawrence, Miss Minnie Hamilton, and Miss Gertrude Thomas, half-backs; Miss Winnie Bradley (captain), Miss Nell Lawrence, Miss Florrie Hooper, Miss Maude Burgess, and Miss Alice Mitchell, forwards.

Referee, Miss Kit Montgomery (of Miss Winifred Bradley's team).

Result: Miss Fowler's Eleven, nil; Miss Bradley's Eleven, 1 goal (scored by Miss Nellie Stevens).

Mr. Surtees Corne is composing the music for the forthcoming pantomimes at the Lyceum Theatre, Newport, Mon., the Theatre Royal, Bristol, and the Pier Pavilion, Hastings.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(from our own correspondent.)

NEW YORK, Nov. 14.—Miss Lena Ashwell's superb embodiment of Deborah Krillet in Messrs. Claude Askew and Edward Knoblauch's play, *The Shulamite*, now running at the Lyric Theatre, has been praised unreservedly by the critics, but the success of the play in London will not be repeated in this city. Miss Beryl Mercer's Memke and the Simeon Krillet of Mr. Edward R. Mawson are excellent characterisations.

Mr. Robert Mantell, whose conscientious work in Shakespearean and classical plays has called forth much favourable comment in the principal cities, is fulfilling his annual engagement in New York at the Academy of Music, appearing in an extensive and varied répertoire and winning the approval of large audiences. Mr. Mantell is supported by Miss Marie Booth Russell (Mrs. Mantell) and an excellent company. The orchestra is under the direction of Dr. Andrew Byrne, of Edinburgh University, who has composed the incidental music for several of the plays.

"Brigadier Gerard," with Mr. Kyrle Bellew in the title-rôle, has been tried and found wanting so far as the metropolis is concerned, and its run at the Savoy Theatre is to be limited to two weeks. Mr. Bellew was in fine form on the opening night, especially when he unsheathed the trusty blade that was laid by during his long engagement in *Raffles*, and engaged in a sword fight with the truculent Major Olivier. Mr. Bellew's personal success was unquestioned.

Mr. James T. Powers, who reigned so long as a musical comedy star at Daly's Theatre, is maintaining his popularity as Private Charlie Taylor in *The Blue Moon* at the Casino. His "Crocodile" song is repeatedly encored, and his comicalities keep the audience in a good humour throughout the performance. Miss Ethel Jackson is a graceful Chandra Nil, and sings "Blue Moon" most effectively. The favourite number, "Burmah Girl," is admirably rendered by Mr. Edward M. Favor as Major Allabone; and Miss Clara Palmer as Millicent Leroy sings and acts bewitchingly. The dancing of La Petite Adelaide and the English Pony Ballet is heartily applauded. The piece is handsomely mounted and is a very attractive offering.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

Mr. George Alexander has decided to be a candidate for election to the London County Council in March next, and, so far as the working staff are concerned, it would be difficult to find a more popular candidate. The stage employees will also have a representative in the field next March. Mr. Jesson, of the Musicians' Union, is already a member of the Council, and there is a probability of a music hall artist seeking election. If all the candidates are successful, London's governing body will not lack qualified advisers in the control of theatres and music halls.

Theatrical employees generally are reminded that the annual concert takes place to-morrow (Sunday) in the Royal Opera House. Mr. Martin Harvey has added his name to the list of patrons. Mr. George Alexander has a sent a donation of £2 2s., and Mr. William Telbin £2 2s. These donations will be placed to the "Open" Benevolent Fund. The committee regret to announce that, owing to the death of her father, Miss Edna Thornton will not be able to appear at the concert. The programme is, however, of exceptional attraction, and will not be completed until 10 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Harry Norton, stage-manager of the Haymarket Theatre, holds the record so far for the sale of tickets, and the committee greatly appreciate his energetic services. Those who desire to make sure of a seat—and no employee who can be present ought to be absent—should apply at once.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(from our own correspondent.)

KIMBERLEY, Oct. 29.—The visits of theatrical companies to Kimberley during the present year have been like those of angels—few and far between. However, after a lapse of some nine weeks the Leonard Payne company favoured us with a short season of eight nights, and met with extraordinary success. They opened with *What the Butler Saw*, followed by *Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman*, both of which were played to good business. This they followed up with *The Prodigal Son*, which scored an immense success, the company, in order to cope with the demand for seats, having to delete from their programme *The Three Musketeers* and *Richard III.* Mr. Leonard Payne scored as Magnus, while Mr. Frank Beresford was not less successful in the rôle of Oscar. Mr. G. Clifton Boyne's Stephen Magnusson was another clever piece of work. Miss Gertrude F. Godart took chief honours among the ladies with her clever delineation of the part of Helga Neilsen. Miss Freda Godfrey was a charming Elen, and Miss Annie Leaf also deserves the heartiest congratulations on her clever acting as Margaret Neilsen. *The Manxman* was also staged, and drew another crowded house. There are no more bookings for the present year.

DURBAN, Nov. 3.—Theatre Royal (Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler).—Wheeler's London comedy company produced *What Happened to Jones* here this week. Mr. Douglas Gordon represented Jones, and is to be congratulated upon the manner in which he performed that arduous part. Ebenezer Goodly, the quiet-going anatomist, was played by Mr. Rule Pyott, and he gave a clever impersonation of the elderly gentleman; and Mr. David Miller cleverly portrayed the ancient cleric. Miss Hilda Vaughan capably played the part of Cissy; Miss Gertrude Le Sage as Mrs. Goodly was the most henpecking of wives; Miss Violet Greville as Alvinia Starlight ably acted the part of the old maid; and Miss Florence Le Clercq and Miss Marie Housley represented the part of Ebenezer's daughters with effect.

COVENT GARDEN BALL.

The fifth of these series of popular dances was held on Friday evening, the 23rd ult., when a goodly attendance was again in evidence. The fancy costumes were more numerous than usual. There were sixteen handsome prizes, the first being a diamond and emerald pendant, which was awarded for the costume "A Picture of Old Vauxhall. Noticeable amongst others were "In a Southern plantation," "Britain's Bulwarks," "The Trusts," "Zulu Chief and Slave," and the "Duchess of Devonshire."

Mr. W. Clarkson was successful in gaining fourth prize with "The Stage of To-day," fifth prize for "The Golden Pheasant," and others for "Port Ounceless" and other effective dresses. "The Stage of To-day" represented scenes illustrative of stage life and portraits of well-known players. "The Clerk of the Weather" was a prettily-trimmed picture of the seasons, and "The Query" was a charming costume of white satin, with panels depicting life from the cradle to old age.

To the accompaniment of popular music played by Mr. Dan Godfrey's admirable band, the fun was briskly maintained until an early hour.

Mr. Ernest Jones, of Rhyl, has sent us some excellent specimens of photographs of professional subjects. They are exceedingly good *carte-de-visite* portraits, and can be obtained at the remarkably small price of 2s. per dozen.

THE COURT THEATRE CRICKET CLUB ANNUAL DINNER.

The Court Theatre Cricket Club had their second annual dinner on Sunday evening last, in the Horse Shoe Tavern, Tottenham Court-road. Mr. E. Taylor Platt, the business-manager, presided, supported by Mr. J. E. Vedrenne, Mr. Wilfrid Frank (the stage-manager), Mr. Theodore Stier (the musical director), Mr. Edmund Gurney, Mr. Trevor Lowe, Mr. Norman Page, Mr. R. F. Knox (assistant stage-manager), and many other members of the company, the heads of departments and their respective staffs. An excellent dinner was provided.

The entertainment was commenced by a pianoforte selection played by Mr. Harris.

The Chairman proposed the toast, "The King and the Royal Family."

Mr. Trevor Lowe gave "The Cricket Club," and a wild burst of cheering arose, as, with "a beautiful smile on his handsome face," he commenced his speech. Mr. Lowe said when it became known that he was to propose this toast he received advice from all quarters. Mr. Taylor Platt had informed him that he (Mr. Lowe) had been selected to propose the toast because he knew nothing about cricket. With regard to Mr. Norman Page, who had been entrusted with the difficult task of responding to the toast, if one did not know his pads and bat it would be difficult to distinguish him on the field. They all, of course, took great interest in the fortunes of their club, and in conversation with Mr. Page after a match he (Mr. Lowe) was invariably met with the reply that they had "just lost" or "won easily." He found on enquiry that "just lost" meant losing by about 130 runs, and that "won easily" really meant won by a run. After some further banter, which was much enjoyed, the toast was duly responded to by Mr. Page, who gave Mr. Lowe a "Roland for his Oliver."

Mr. Theodore Stier proposed the health of "The Management" of the Court Theatre in an interesting speech full of appreciation of the two partners, Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker, who, he said, possessed all the qualities necessary to secure the most cordial co-operation of everyone in their employ, and their fellow-workers in the production of the wonderful plays which had been presented at the Court Theatre.

Mr. Taylor Platt, responding, said that Mr. Vedrenne had come to the dinner on the distinct understanding he was not to be called upon to make a speech, and Mr. Barker had undertaken to respond, but was unavoidably absent. Mr. Barker had, however, entrusted him (the Chairman) with a letter, which he proceeded to read. In this letter many of those present were referred to in terms of kindly appreciation, many of the allusions it contained also exciting much merriment. The toast was received with musical honours.

Mr. Edmund Gurney proposed "The Visitors," to which the stage-manager of the Duke of York's Theatre responded.

During the evening the following contributed to the musical part of the programme:—Mr. C. McMullin sang "Night and Morning"; Mr. Joseph Rous rendered several of Mr. George Robey's songs in fine style; Mr. Forrest, a member of the Court Theatre Orchestra and "the King's Band," played a 'cello solo, which gained an encore; Mr. Lewis Casson recited "The Battlefield," and in response to an encore gave a poem by Kipling. A feature of the programme was selections by eight members of the company, the second one being a song specially written and composed for the occasion by Mr. R. F. Knox and Mr. Theodore Stier. The song contained illusions in every verse which tickled the fancy of the staff. Two verses run as follows:—

"Then the queue outside the door begins to swell,
And the bulge upon the walls begins to show.
And at every matinée
There are dozens turned away
You begin to call up visions of Soho.

"But there's hardly any room
For another Barker boom,
And Shaw requires a bigger world to land in;
So that is why last June
We went up in a balloon,
And we found a lot of air we can expand in."

Mr. R. F. Knox gave an amusing sketch of a rehearsal at His Majesty's Theatre, when Mr. Tree called in the aid of the late Mr. Dan Leno and Mr. Herbert Campbell, and Mr. George Robey and Mr. Joe Elvin. Mr. George Mozart told some humorous stories, and presented a drama in several acts—and scenes—under the title of the "Woman who Took the Wrong Turning; or, the Man who Changed His Mind," the many tragic episodes exciting roars of laughter. Mr. Douglas Beaufort succeeded in completely mystifying his audience with some wonderful sleight of hand tricks. The whole evening was most enjoyable, and the proceedings throughout were characterised by a sociability as valuable as it was delightful to witness. The concert was under the direction of Mr. Theodore Stier. Mr. F. McMullen, the electrician, acted as secretary, and to him and his co-workers in making the arrangement great credit is due.

FREEMASONRY.

At the meeting of the Bow Lodge of Instruction on Monday a most interesting and instructive paper on Lady Freemasons was read by Past-Master Henry Harris, J.P. Before proceeding to give various details not generally known as to the cause of the Hon. Miss St. Leger being initiated into the secrets and mysteries of Freemasonry, the speaker read a treatise by eminent writers as to the reasons women were not permitted to enter the Masonic order, and gave instances of the American "adoption" Lodges, into which ladies were admitted, and in which all the offices were filled by females. He also read extracts from the reports of their proceedings as published in the papers devoted to the craft in the United States.

Mr. Harris then endeavoured successfully to show, from data obtained from the descendants of the Hon. Miss St. Leger, accompanied by a ground plan of Doneval Castle, showing the position of the Lodge-room and the library in which she was reading when the episode occurred what led to her being made a Freemason, thus setting aside the many incorrect versions that have from time to time been published, as well as the numerous imaginative tales which have been circulated upon the same subject. Mr. Harris traced the history of the lady from her birth to her death, and from the former to the period at which she was married, and arrived at the conclusion that she must have been about the age of eighteen when initiated. A photo of an oil-painted portrait of the lady in full Masonic regalia was also exhibited.

At the conclusion discussion was invited, when several questions were asked, to which Mr. Harris satisfactorily replied. The meeting ended with a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker, who was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Lodge. It is very pleasing to know that so much interest is taken in what may be termed the crux of Freemasonry, and we understand that a very exhaustive lecture on the utensils used in the Temple is shortly to take place at the Israel Lodge of Instruction.

Mr. Daley Cooper, who has been scoring so decisively for some time past in the part of Tweedlepunch in *Florodora*, has been engaged by Mr. Ernest Dottridge to play Abanazar in his *Aladdin* tour.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"MADEMOISELLE JOSETTE MA FEMME,"
Comedy, in Four Acts,
by MM. Paul Gavault and Robert Charvay,
Produced at the Gymnase, on
Nov. 16.

Josette	Mme. Marthe Regnier
Myrianne	Mlle. Fèlyne
Mme. de Saint-Assise	Mme. Dherbeuil
Mme. Dupré	Mlle. Claudia
Léontine	Mlle. Helenne Maia
Totoche	Mlle. Montavon
André Ternay	M. Dumeny
Théodore Panard	M. G. Dubosc
Aristide Valorbier	M. Luguet
M. Dupré	M. Arval
Joe Jackson	M. Jean Dax
Saint-Assise	M. Rablet
Jalavert	M. Paul Edmond

(from our own correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday, Nov. 21.—MM. Paul Gavault and Robert Charvay's new piece, brought out at the Gymnase, is new; yet it can hardly be termed original, for it bears a strong family likeness to several plays we have seen, and especially to a vaudeville called *La Poire*, by M. Artus, that enjoyed a long run at the Palais Royal. André Ternay is a bachelor, and, of course, has a mistress, Myrianne, a young actress, who plays in a revue in the Variétés. Myrianne likes André, but is not faithful to him. As to André, he is fond of the girl, without troubling as to how she spends the time during his absence. Not so Panard, his friend. This gentleman pays his court to Myrianne in quite a respectful manner. It is he who escorts her to and from the theatre; who listens patiently to her small-talk; who looks after her little dog, &c. Between his easy-going mistress and his faithful friend, André leads a happy, comfortable life. Alas! it was not meant to last. Josette Dupré, his god-daughter, who is passionately fond of him, asks him to render her a service. She likes Joe Jackson, a young Englishman. She wants to become his wife; but her parents object to the match because Joe's father is their opponent in business. And, to complicate matters, Josette's aunt Agathe has bequeathed to her twenty thousand pounds, on condition that she marries before she has entered her eighteenth year. In two months she will be eighteen, so that there is no time to be lost. And then Josette exposes to André her plan, or rather the scheme Joe suggested to her. She asks André to become her husband—only *pro-forma*, of course—and when Joe returns in a year from his business tour through the United States, they will divorce, and she can then become Joe's wife. André says it is absurd, and gets cross. Josette cries, and looks so sweet and sad, that he relents. The romantic side of the affair also appeals to him, and when, true to his promise to Josette, he asks for her hand, M. and Mme. Dupré give their consent. Joe, on the eve of his departure on his long trip, thanks André for his kindness, and everybody is happy. André and his wife start on their supposed honeymoon trip, and André begins to think he is playing a rather ridiculous rôle. According to the arrangement entered into, he cannot, and does not, claim marital rights; yet he suffers when he sees Josette flirt with every man she comes across. In fact, he discovers, to his dismay, that he has fallen in love with Josette, and that this platonic marriage was a mistake. Pretending an important appointment, he returns to Paris alone. This act would have been almost sad, but for Panard, who puts in an unexpected appearance. This extraordinary man did not care to remain behind, close to the fascinating Myrianne, and, sooner than betray his friend's trust, he has stampeded off to Switzerland, without luggage, in a high hat and a frock coat. The moment André arrives in the capital he sends a message to Myrianne to call on him that same evening. To his surprise it is Josette who walks in. She took the next train. She shows him a letter she just received from Joe, informing her that he got himself into trouble in New York, and will not return to Europe for four years. She sits on André's knee, kisses him, until finally poor André loses his head, and presses the flighty girl to his heart. And little Josette looks triumphant. The play might, and ought to, have ended there; but the authors added a useless fourth act, wherein Joe turns up. His trouble, it seems, arose with a woman, and he was compelled to marry her. As regards the interpretation, the greatest praise is due to M. Dubosc, whose impersonation of the wonderful Panard was splendid. He kept the audience in a constant roar of laughter. M. Dumeny seemed somewhat heavy for the rôle of André. Mme. Marthe Regnier and Mlle. Félyne were both excellent.

"LE CŒUR DE SYLVIE,"
Comedy, in Three Acts, in Verse,
by M. Gabriel Nigond,
Produced at the Bouffes-Parisiens on Nov. 25.

Sylvie	Mlle. Jeanne Rabuteau
Prunelle	Mlle. Fergaudy
Le Chevalier	M. Gaston Severin
Le Comte..	M. Pouctal
Briquet	M. Henry Lamothe
Framboisy	M. Berthelier fils
Un Laquais	M. Jalabert

PARIS, Thursday, Nov. 29.—At the rate we are going this will certainly be a record season as regards theatrical novelties. Premières are following one another in rapid succession, but it must be regretfully owned that the quality is rather below the usual standard. *Le Cœur de Sylvie*, the work of a young poet, is prettily written, and his ideas on love, on the old songs of Lulli and Rameau, on the flowers that fade too soon, are delightfully expressed. Unfortunately the author does not possess the elementary notions of the stage, and his personages came and went in a manner that bewildered the audience. The heroine, Sylvie, is a dancer at the opera. An elderly nobleman has fallen in love with her, and she has followed him to his country seat, where they live happily. But Framboisy, Sylvie's former teacher, discovers her retreat and implores her to return to Paris. The public, he says, are clamouring for her. In vain. Sylvie is fond of her elderly friend, and does not want to leave him. The latter, however, commits the mistake of introducing to Sylvie his nephew, the brilliant Chevalier. The young people fall, of course, in love with one another, and the Count thinks it prudent to separate them as promptly as possible in order to avoid a catastrophe. This is a terrible blow to poor Sylvie. Her little heart is pining for love; and as it cannot remain idle, she starts flirting with Briquet, the handsome young gardener, and allows him to kiss her hand. Sylvie promises the Chevalier to elope with him; but the Count, an old philosopher, reasons with the giddy girl, and explains to her that what she takes for love is only a passing fancy. He tells her that she will soon forget the Chevalier, whose heart she will break, for he really loves her. Sylvie does not believe him. Love, she says, does not kill. But she is mistaken. A noise is heard in the distance, and we learn that Briquet has drowned himself in the lake. And Sylvie, who wants all the affection she can get without being able to love anybody, returns to Paris with her faithful Framboisy to resume her work at the opera. She has already forgotten the Chevalier. Mlle. Jeanne Rabuteau was admirable in the rôle of the flighty Sylvie. The part of the Chevalier suited M. Severin to the ground; and M. Pouctal supplied a fine sketch of the philosophical Count.

"Le Major Ipeca," the new farce, produced at the Cluny Theatre, is anything but a satisfactory production. Moreover, it was very badly played by a cast who did not seem to take the slightest trouble with their rôles. The only exponent who took his part seriously was a little sucking pig which a countrywoman offers to a chemist's assistant. It is to be hoped that the success it achieved will not turn its young head.

"LE FILS A PAPA."
Vaudeville, in Three Acts, by MM. Antony Mars and Maurice Desvallières, produced at the Palais-Royal on Nov. 27.

Aurélie	Mlle. Lucienne Guitt
La Baronne des Aubrais	Mme. Alice Bery
Rose Croix	Mlle. L. Delmay
Mariette	Mlle. Christ. Desroches
Jaqueline Boislurette	Mlle. Rosny
Le Baron des Aubrais	M. Numès
Pomarel	M. Hurtraux
Alexis	M. Treville
Hubert des Aubrais	M. Hamilton
Boislurette	M. Jullien
Charancey	M. Diamand

For the last few years the Palais-Royal has been proverbially unlucky, and the friends of that old house were, therefore, all the more pleased to see that the new managemnt had "struck oil" with thir production *Le fils à Papa*, which met with an excellent reception. It is a vaudeville on time-honoured lines, with numberless doors and cupboards, and people who play hide-and-seek; but it contains some shriekingly funny situations, and raised peals of laughter. Baron des Aubrais is a scientist. He is a firm believer in atavism, and has written works on het theory of "So the father, so the son." He is married, and has a son, Hubert, on whom the mother watches with jealous care. Hubert, a youth of about twenty, would like to go out with his friends, but his mother, fearing the dangers of the gay city, only gives him enough money to keep himself in cigarettes. Moreover, whenever Hubert meets a pretty woman and feels attracted towards her, his impulse receives a sudden check, for he cannot help thinking of his virtuous father, who has written such beautiful books on heredity; and, to the surprise of the object of his flame, he withdraws from the contect. The Aubrais have a nephew, Berlurette, married to a charming young woman, whom he deceives disgracefully. And we also meet there Aurélie, the wife of a perfumer, a flighty lady, with whom Hubert falls violently in love. And then we witness a strange spectacle. Mme. des Aubrais and Mme. Berlurette have both retired for the night—in fact, in that highly respectable house, all the inmates ought to have been asleep by that time. But when everything is quiet we hear doors open softly, and we see Berlurette slip out on tip-toe and leave the house to meet a lady with whom he has an appointment. Next comes Hubert, for whom Aurélie is waiting; and, lastly, we see the Baron des Aubrais! Yes, the austere scientist, member of the Academy of Science, on pleasure bent! As a matter of course, we meet all these people in a well-known night restaurant, where all kinds of adventures await them. But Des Aubrais, senior, when he sees his son with a lady, feels happy. His theory on atavism is right. Hubert does the same as his father. He is "le fils à papa." As a rule, the final act in a vaudeville, when things are put right, is rather dull. In this instance, however, the authors have enlivened it by introducing an amusing personage. At the before-mentioned restaurant the two Des Aubrais and Boislurette have been served by a head-waiter who showed himself particularly smart and attentive; and, to their terror, they see that man next day at the Baron's house. The Baroness, in want of a servant, has engaged him. The Baron, acting on his friend and son's advice, gives the fellow at once notice; but the later, having recognised in them the three gentlemen he served the night before, threatens to betray them. And the three men, trembling with fear, are compelled to put up with the man's insolent behaviour until all difficulties are overcome, when he is promptly bundled out. The interpretation was first-class, and the piece is likely to run for many nights.

"La Ponette" is the title of a four-act comedy, by MM. Artus and Fuchs, brought out at the Athénée. It plays in the world of bookmakers, whom the authors take severely to task. The story is well told, and appeared to give pleasure to the audience, a large portion of whom are interested in matters concerning the Turf. The heroine, Blanche Carpezat, is the daughter of a bookmaker, who has nicknamed her "La Ponette." Her mother, who died before the story begins, belonged to an excellent family. Blanche, being in poor health, the doctor has prescribed her a prolonged stay in the country, and she has gone to her aunt, Mme. Martin, her mother's sister. The latter, a religious and austere woman, is somewhat shocked at Blanche's free-and-easy manners, which, however, she hopes to improve in time. Mme. Martin has a son, Pierre, a young officer, and he and Blanche soon lose their hearts to one another. Things might have gone well had the bookmaker not hit upon the unfortunate idea of paying his sister-in-law a visit to see Blanche, his little "La Ponette," of who mhe is very fond. Mme. Martin hardly knows Carpezat, and her notions as to the profession o fa bookmaker are anything but flattering to the man. When, therefore, he comes to see her, with a crowd of men and women whose conversation and attitude upset her, she has a violent discussion with him, and calls him a cad, and even a thief! Blanche and Pierre's matrimonial prospects are, of course, knocked on the head; and Pierre resigns his post in the army to come to Paris in order to be near Blanche and to try to make his fortune. The quickest way for this, he thinks, is to gamble on the racecourse; and, having discovered an infallible "system," he tries his luck, with the result that he lose every cent. he possesses. But it discovered that Pierre has lost his money through Blanche's father, who cheats the public by running horses under false names. And then we have a strong scene, wherein "La Ponette" compels her father to refund Pierre's money. Mme. Martin also relents, and the young people are married. The work, well staged, was spiritedly acted. We were glad to welcome Mme. Judic, with whom time deals gently. She was most pathetic in the rôle of Mme. Martin, and Mlle Diéterle was a bewitching Blanche. The other parts were also well sustained.

THEATRICAL PATENTS.

These particulars have been supplied us by Messrs. Hughes and Young, patent agents, 55-56, Chancery-lane, London, W.C., who will give advice and assistance free to our readers on all matters relating to the patenting of inventions:—

Mr. J. C. W. I. E. Burges, of 26, Cumberland-terrace, Regent's Park, and Messrs. Gamages, Ltd., have invented an improved apparatus for exhibiting optical illusions. It consists of a chamber with an opening which can be closed by a curtain, and through which can be viewed reflections from a mirror. The reflections have the appearance of a room or stage, and to further the illusion the platform which represents the floor has articles of furniture fitted to it by means of projections fitting into holes or slots. The stage, which represents the back walls, is preferably made concave and the sides are inclined, and fitted with windows and doors, footlights being also arranged. A ball may be inserted through a door and allowed to run down the side and across the stage, thus giving the appearance of the ball running along the floor and up the side of the room, the ball appearing to rest finally in the middle of the sides of the room.

Mr. Ernest A. Rowe, who for so long has acted as advance manager for the Osmond Tearle Shakespearean company, is now the representative of Mr. Fred McCrea, of Gloucester.

DEATH OF MR. WYBERT REEVE.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Wybert Reeve, at his residence, Walmer, Newport, Isle of Wight, on the 14th ult. The deceased was born in London in 1831, and entered the dramatic profession at Bradford, Yorkshire, in 1849, playing the part of Frederick in *The Wonder*. Afterwards he joined the York circuit, appearing in various juvenile leading parts, as Azael, Sir T. Clifford, &c. In 1852, at Plymouth, he produced his first dramatic piece, a farce, entitled *An Australian Hoax*. In 1855 he joined the Bath and Bristol company. The same year he wrote and produced a farce, entitled *Supper Gratis*, acted during the summer months in Mr. Roxby's circuit. In 1857 Mr. Reeve became a member of the Theatre Royal, Manchester, company, with whom he acted for four consecutive seasons as light and eccentric comedian. During this engagement he produced a comedietta, entitled *A Match for a Mother-in-Law*, and was also part author of the successful pantomime entitled *Blue Beard*. On leaving Manchester to enter upon the management of the Cardiff, and subsequently of the Swansea and Ryde Theatres, Mr. Reeve was presented with a testimonial by his professional colleagues of the Theatre Royal. In 1862 he managed the Theatre Royal, Sheffield, under the lesseeship of Mr. Chas. Pitt, a position which Mr. Reeve resigned in 1865 for the purpose of opening the new South Shields Theatre. In 1867 he became lessee of the Theatre Royal, Scarborough. At Sheffield he produced *Pike O'Callaghan*, an Irish two-act piece, which was afterwards played in London at the Surrey Theatre; a three-act comedy, *Not So Bad After All*; and the three successful pantomimes, entitled *The Dragon of Wantley*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and *Little Red Riding Hood*, of which pieces he is author. He made his first appearance on the London stage in Oct., 1869, at the Lyceum Theatre, as John Mildmay in *Still Waters Run Deep*. Subsequently Mr. Reeve produced and appeared in his comedies of *Won At Last* and *Not So Bad After All*, at the Charing Cross Theatre, with success. In 1871 (after playing in the provinces) he returned to London and appeared at the Olympic Theatre as Walter Hartwright, on the production of Wilkie Collins's play *The Woman in White*. Shortly afterwards, during Mr. George Vining's illness, Mr. Reeve sustained the part of Fosco in the same play, and so satisfactorily that he performed this character more than fifteen hundred times in various cities of the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America, and in the Australian Colonies. For some years Mr. Reeve has lived in retirement at his residence in the Isle of Wight. He was a member of the Dramatic Authors' Society, and wrote, amongst other pieces, *Never Reckon Your Chickens*, &c., a farce performed at the Olympic Theatre, and received with much favour; *Parted*, a four-act comedy-drama; *The Better Angel*, a four-act play; and a piece entitled *I Love You*; and he has also produced dramatisations of *George Geith* and *No Name*, the latter made at the request of Mr. Wilkie Collins.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The concert given by the students on Wednesday evening was more successful in its instrumental than vocal items, as some of these were far beyond average students' acquirements. For instance, Miss Marion Watkins, who has a voice good in quality but not powerful, essayed Donizetti's recit. and aria, "O mio Fernando," from *Favorita*, an air that not only requires power, but operatic experience; while Miss Nellie Wilson attempted no less difficult an aria than "Caro Nome," from Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Other students, however, in less exacting works, as Molloy's song "The Vagabond," sung by Mr. W. C. Lee; "Dream Ships," by Waddington Cooke, cleverly sung by Miss Fanny Cuthbert, A.G.S.M.; and Tosti's "Parted," expressively rendered by Mr. H. D. Spratt, were pupils who did themselves and their professors credit. Miss Amy Bean was also much applauded in Purcell's song, "From Rosy Bowers," and Miss Mary Seaman bravely attacked Bemberg's "Hindoo Song," the violin obbligato being skilfully played by Mr. L. Seaman, these performers being associated in Gounod's duet, "Oh, that we two were Maying." Master Leonard A. Connabeer displayed good training and ability in Max Bruch's violin solo, "Adagio and Finale from Concerto in G minor," a difficult composition for so young a player; and Miss Muriel Herbert was entirely successful in her pianoforte solo of "Two Concert Studies," by Godard. Mr. Albert Cazabon, a most promising pupil of Mr. Johannes Wolff, displayed great freedom of execution in his violin solos of Sinding's "Romance in E Minor" and "Carnaval Russe," by Wieniawski. Mr. Norman Attwell also was warmly greeted for his 'cello solo, "Polonaise," by De Munck. In Brahms' charming "Scherzo," Op. 4, Miss Evelyn K. Harrison as a pianist showed great ability and brilliant execution. Miss Jenny Hyman, the official accompanist of the School, most ably performed her duties.

MISS DOT STEPHENS' FUND.

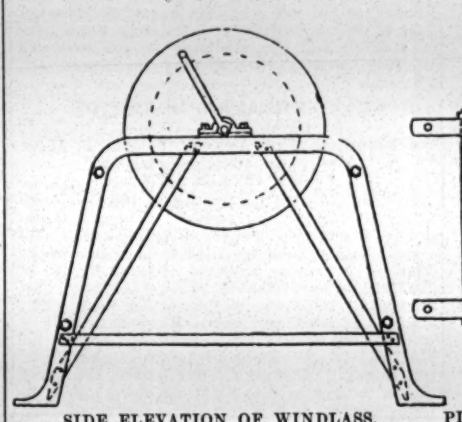
Amount already acknowledged ..	£829	10	6
J. W. Boughton	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Alf. Ball	0	5	0
Collected at Fulham Theatre, per F. Merer :—			
Mr. and Mrs. Redmond	0	5	0
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stephens ..	0	5	0
F. Merer	0	5	0
Jennie Richards	0	2	6
W. H.	0	1	0
Total	£831	15	0

MR. DYBALL'S INVENTION.

IMPROVED METHOD FOR WORKING TABLEAUX CURTAINS.

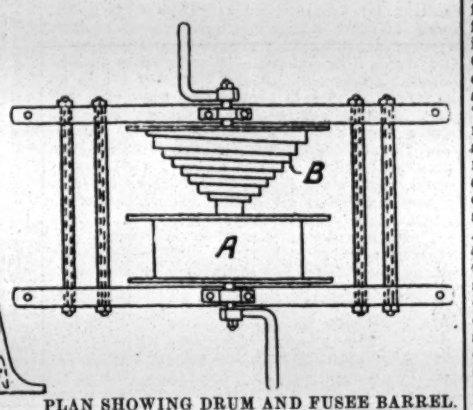
Mr. George H. Dyball, the stage-manager of the Tivoli, has invented an apparatus which opens, raises, lowers, and closes tableaux curtains. The apparatus in question opens the tableaux curtains to the full width of the proscenium opening, then raises them, if necessary, right out of sight, thus giving the full width and height to the opening, as well as a clear line of sight from the boxes and side seats in the auditorium. At the conclusion of an act or scene the curtains descend, first touching the stage floor at the sides, then closing together, which leaves the centre of the stage picture disclosed until the last moment. This is a great improvement upon the old method, where one only sees the performers' feet at first, and the scene grows gradually upwards, and vice-versâ in the lowering of the curtain. In Mr. Dyball's contrivance the two movements—opening and raising—are worked on one drum. The idea hitherto employed involved the use of one drum for opening the curtains and another for raising them, which of course meant additional labour. The Dyball Compensator—which is the name of the new invention—can be worked by hand or electro-motor. In the latter case, the whole contrivance could be controlled by a switch at the prompt box, which means that the stage-manager or the prompter himself can operate the curtain quite as easily as touching the bell and depending on the flyman.

FIG. 1.



SIDE ELEVATION OF WINDLASS.

FIG. 2.



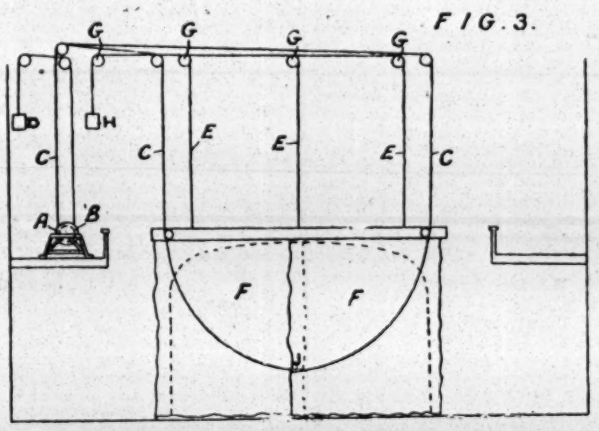
PLAN SHOWING DRUM AND FUSEE BARREL.

Asked how the idea of his compensator came to him, Mr. Dyball stated that it was conceived while he was taking an old verge watch to pieces. He noticed that the watch contained a fusee barrel used for the purpose of equalising the tension of the spring on the movement. Then it occurred to him that an advantage would be gained by utilising the fusee barrel in place of the old cone, which was then, and is now in all other cases, used for operating the counter-weight line, and is much handicapped by the fact that the counter-weight line slips from the greater to the lesser circumference. Anybody who understands this will realise that Mr. Dyball's system is immeasurably superior to the old. The new apparatus was first put into operation at the Tivoli some years ago, and has worked successfully ever since. The Dyball Compensator was improved upon by its inventor and installed at the Chelsea Palace early this year, and has given entire satisfaction. The main difference between the apparatus at the Tivoli and that at Chelsea is that the former is constructed of wood and the latter of steel. We may mention that the patent—specifications and drawings of which we here give—is for disposal.

SPECIFICATION: This invention consists of an iron framed windlass, with drum and fusee barrel or variable volute compensating balance, and may be made of wood, iron or other metal, can be worked by hand or motive power. Hitherto tableaux curtains and such like have been raised by a drum and cone, but as the lines are apt to slip on to the smaller end of the cone, all power is then lost in the compensating balance. But by using the volute the lines travel true and cannot slip, therefore no power is lost.

The method of opening and raising the curtains F is by winding the lines C, which are fastened to the curtains F at J, and pass through rings attached to the curtain, on to the drum A, assisted by the compensating balance D, the line of which is wound off the fusee barrel B by this movement. When the curtains F are opened to their full width they are raised automatically by the counter-balance weight H, the lines E of which are attached to the top of the curtains F and carried over pulleys G to the counter-balance weight H, which may be hung at some convenient point. On unwinding the gear the whole weight is then thrown on to the curtains F, which, being heavier than the counter-balance weight H, causes them to descend to the stage level, and then close. The curtains F are prevented from descending too low by check lines.

FIG. 3.



METHOD OF APPLYING THE INVENTION.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, Oct. 23.—*The Squaw Man* still draws large audiences to Her Majesty's Theatre, and Mr. James Waldron and Miss Ola J. Humphreys are prime favourites. Every character in the story is adequately acted, and it now remains to be seen whether these artists, so much at home in rough American life, will do justice to *The Christian*, which Mr. Williamson announces for the 27th. Mr. Waldron will be the much-tempted and finally conquered John Storm, with Miss Humphreys as the temptress, Glory Quayle.

MR. BLAND HOLT'S naval drama, *A Sailor's Knot*, rouses enthusiasm at the Royal, especially as, just now, two sets of self-advertising Imperialists are celebrating the anniversary of Trafalgar.

"THE FATAL WEDDING" is still crowding the Criterion, and Messrs. Meynell and Gunn are reaping the reward of their exact gauging of Sydney's taste.

THE Tivoli is kept plentifully supplied by Mr. Harry Rickards with the very best to be had in the realm of vaudeville. Almost every week we have newcomers from England, America, and the European Continent. The latest is Harry Tate's company, five in number, in the funny sketch, called *Motoring*. Miss Phyllis Chrystal, song and dance artist, and Miss Jessie Lee, singer, are also new to us, both being favourably received. Cassie Walmer, Duncan and Godfrey, Augustin and Hartley, Casselli and James, Harry Bedford, Olive Fenton, Victor Kelly, the Ibsens, and others, are still in the bill. Mr. Rickards is expected to arrive from England on the 25th by the Mooltan.

MR. EDITOR.—SIR,—In your notice of *The Broken Melody* at the Prince's, Poplar, last week you said the piece is staged and produced under the management of Mr. Gilbert Heron. May I ask you to state that I have the entire direction of the stage?—Yours faithfully, ARCHIE SELWYN, Empire Theatre, Oldham, Nov. 27.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DIE FEINDE."

Play, in Three Acts, by Maxim Gorki, produced at the Kleines Theatre, Nov. 24.

Sascha Bardin	HERR LEITINGER
Polina	FRAULEIN GRUNNING
Jakob	HERR ABEL
Tatjana	FRAULEIN HOFMANN
Nadja	FRAULEIN GOERICKE
Petschenjegoff	HERR NOLLET
Kleopatra	FRAULEIN OLLY
Nikolaj	HERR JOHN
Sfinzoff	HERR WALTHER
Pologif	HERR HEINSCH
Jogodin	HERR EISFELD
Lewschin	HERR LICHO
Konj	HERR HELMER
Agrafena	FRAULEIN VON LORRE
Bohojedoff	HERR KLEIN-RHODEN
Katsch	HERR DU BOIS-REYMOND
Leutnant	HERR APPELT
Richter	HERR HAASE
Kommissar	HERR SONNECK

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Nov. 29.—We have had a week of novelties which—truth compels me to say—have proved more or less disappointing. Gorki's new piece (modestly termed by him "scenes from Russian life") is perhaps the most disappointing of all. The Germans have overrated the Russian author, who became—in consequence of the surprising success of his first play, *Nachtasyl*—the fashion here. *Die Kinder der Sonne* was a distinct falling-off on *Nachtasyl*, and *Die Feinde* (enemies) is even less meritorious than its predecessor. Gorki is at his best when he is depicting the condition of the lower classes of his compatriots; as soon as he starts to descant upon the doing of "Society" he gets out of his depths—as is but natural—and becomes abusive. In his rugged, simple manner he tells some home-truths, and if many of the scenes are desperately wearisome, several are very interesting, while a few of the characters are admirably drawn and appeal to our sympathies. The plot is briefly the following:—A tyrannical manufacturer named Bardin, after a conflict with his workmen, is shot by one of them. He expires after he has only had time to say his murderer has red hair, and as more than one of the men answer to the description, the culprit is not discovered for some time. In the second act nothing much takes place. The persons of the play come and go, drink tea or something stronger, philosophise, vituperate, and come and go again. The third act—which is the best—shows us a Court of Justice where the case is being tried. The real murderer is a married man with a family, and the deed having been committed in the interests of his fellow-workmen, a young fellow has been persuaded to declare himself the assassin and to take upon himself the consequences. As the case is proceeding, however, the real criminal rushes into the hall; he will not accept his friend's sacrifice, and acknowledges his guilt. Now comes the culminating point—the sentiment round which the piece has been written. Nadja, the niece of Bardin, and the representative type of Young Russia, jumps to her feet and thunders out the words—addressed to judges, jury, police, and all whom they may concern—"Not he, but you are the murderers; you, who drive the poor to desperation"; and Lewschin (a similar type to Luka of *Nachtasyl*) speaks the closing sentence thus: "It is true; not he who strikes the blow is the murderer, but he who drives him to it." The piece was satisfactorily interpreted, and met with a cordial reception, even the monotonous and deadly-dull middle act meeting with respectful attention. The manager appeared on behalf of the absent author.

AT the Royal Schauspielhaus Dr. Blumenthal's latest play was produced on Tuesday last. It is a three-act comedy, entitled *Das Glashaus*, and the popular author was applauded with much heartiness. It will not bear comparison with Blumenthal's earlier works, but it is full of good-humoured satire, and, acted as well as it is by the first artists of the company, it may enjoy a fairly long run. The chief point of interest centres itself in a literary trap for amateurs who are willing to pay anything to enter the "glass house," or, in other words, to come before the public notice. A speculative publisher, who lost a fortune through talented writers, seeks to build it up again by means of the untalented ones, and succeeds until his unscrupulous dealings are brought to light. Amateurishness, exemplified in many types, is satirised by the author with a good deal of humour, and some time-honoured jokes are skilfully interspersed, helping to the success of the piece.

DR. HERBERT EULENBERG'S astonishing play, *Ritter Blaubart*, has been withdrawn—as I predicted would be the case—from the bill of the Lessing, and two things remain a matter of wonderment: that the management of our "first" theatre could produce such a piece, and that an author of undeniable talent could write it. There are surely sufficient horrors in real life without bringing them on the stage. That the heads of Bluebeard's six murdered wives were realistically presented to our notice was not the chief reason of the indignation of the audience, but rather the depressing details of a funeral they were called upon to witness. The first night was a record in our annals. A storm of hisses and cat-calls drowned all attempts at applause raised by the author's friends, and the play had to be shortened in consequence. Such prominent members of the company as Fräuleins Triesch and Orloff and Herren Rittner, Sauer, and Marr could not, by their masterly acting, save the piece from its inevitable fate.

AT the last moment on Thursday the performance of *Der Fledermaus*, at the Central, had to be postponed, and the money for a full house returned. A fire-brigade man, in a well-meant endeavour to test the precautions against accident, opened a pipe, and in a few moments the whole stage was knee-deep under water. Great damage was done to the new scenery and properties, to say nothing of the actual money losses. It will be interesting to hear who will be called upon to defray the expenses.

"DIE HOCHZEITSFACKEL,"

Comedy, in Four Acts, by Max Dreyer, produced at the New Schauspielhaus, Nov. 16, 1906.

Kurfürstin-Muteer	FRAULEIN ARNOLD
Dorothea	FRAULEIN SORGER
Der Rangraf	HERR SIEBERT
Barbara	FRAULEIN MAREN
Kurfürst	HERR STARNBURG
Kurfürstin	FRAULEIN MORLAND
Fürst Ulrich	HERR WALDEN
Prinz Günther	HERR SLABECK
Von Wartendarf	HERR RETZBACH
Gräfin Wellhausen	FRAULEIN VON SEYFFERTITZ
Hofmarschal	HERR BORES
Komödiant	HERR ARNT
Alter Schauspieler	HERR ANSFELDER
Junger Schauspieler	HERR KLEINKE
Selinde	FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER
Gesandte	HERR KLEIN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Nov. 22.—Herr Dreyer is one of our popular playwrights. He calls his present comedy "The play of a May night"; the action passes in the seventeenth century. The young Prince Ulrich has led to the altar the fair Barbara, daughter of the Rangraf, and niece of the Elector. All the pomp of the period has been employed in the wedding festivities, and the rigid and tiresome ceremonies considered necessary by the Electress are observed to such an extent that the young husband loses patience. He would prefer to carry his bride off from the Palace to the dainty garden pavilion, to be alone and solitary with her, but Barbara upholds—or pretends to uphold—the customs of her rank, and as they enter the bridal chamber the boom of cannon thunders out. In consequence of all these obstacles to his peace Ulrich quarrels with his wife, and rushes out alone into the park, and Barbara lets him go with a forced smile, though at heart she is longing for love. The beauty of the May night is being enjoyed by the mighty Rangraf and a troupe of travelling actors. Ulrich joins them, and makes violent love to Selinde, a charming singer and dancer of the troupe. The Rangraf, seeing how matters are, saves Barbara's honour—not unwillingly—by getting Selinde to elope with him, and after a while the young wife comes to look for her husband. She has cast off all pretence of caring for Court etiquette, and, overjoyed at the reconcilation, Ulrich leads his Barbara to the garden pavilion. In the meantime, the Electress, in her foolish imitation of ancient French customs, goes with a train of veiled matrons at midnight to the door of the bridal chamber to pronounce a blessing. The young couple—as we know—are not within, but another pair of lovers (to whose wooing the Electress is opposed) have a rendezvous there, and so receive the blessing of the unconscious lady. This scene was very amusing, and created roars of laughter. The acting was not altogether satisfactory, but the reception was very friendly, and there were many calls for the author, who was unavoidably absent from town.

THE Royal Schauspielhaus produced a genuine novelty last week—an event so rare that it is worthy of record. It was a five-act tragedy by Gustav Renner, entitled *Merlin*, and it would have met with a more cordial reception had it been less long and heavy. The author, who is justly esteemed here for previous writings—not plays—was called before the curtain and heartily applauded early in the evening, but the majority of the audience grew weary, and took to their heels before the end of the play. The mystical Merlin has been the theme of many writers, from Nennius in his "Historia Britonum" up to our own day, but nobody has ever been much the wiser. Herr Renner has drawn his version from a mixture of many others. His Merlin is discovered on the island of Avalun by King Vortigern's Knights, and taken to the ruler. The youthful Queen for sakes her marriage vows for Merlin, whose fascinations are greater than those of her elderly husband. Merlin, feeling his magic power diminishing, succeeds in dethroning the King and proclaiming himself ruler. Vortigern dies of sorrow, and the Queen, having been again proved faithless, is slain by Merlin, who, later on, loses his reason. Ganieda—who loves him too—is stabbed, and finally Merlin, forsaken by all, seeing the Saxon invaders at the door, places the crown upon the jester Rodri's head and throws himself into the flames of the burning palace. As the curtain falls Hengist is proclaimed King. This pot-pourri of tragic events is depicted in verse of interminable length, and I do not fancy *Merlin* will occupy the bill for long. The most interesting feature of the performance was the reappearance of Herr Otto Sommerstorff after an interval of several years. The famous actor is as sympathetic and convincing as ever, and in the title-rôle his great powers were tried to the utmost. Frau Willig as the Queen was fairly satisfactory, and the remaining numerous characters were adequately sustained. The mounting was tasteful and effective.

MISS KEITH WAKEMAN, who will be remembered in London as a comely woman and a fine dramatic actress, is making an enviable reputation in America in Henri Lavedan's play, *The Duel*, with Mr. Otis Skinner in the leading part. Miss Keith Wakeman has roused great enthusiasm in the rôle of the heroine, the Press being loud and emphatic in her praise.

CHAPPELL & CO.'S PANTOMIME SUCCESSES.

Songs for Principal Boy:

"WHISPERS OF LOVE," by Harry Fragson.
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"LOVE'S LAST WORD," by Octave Cremieux.
"THE LILY OF BOULTER'S LOCK," by Bernard Rolt.
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"LA MATTCHICHE" (Maxixe), by Ch. Borel-Clerc.
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N.B.—We can confidently recommend all the above, as they have been placed with most of the principal Pantomimes throughout the country. Professional copies will be supplied to recognised artists upon receipt of professional card and six stamps for each song required.

Instrumental:

"THE WHISTLER AND HIS DOG," Caprice, by Arthur Pryor.
"HOP-SCOTCH," Two-Step, by Paul A. Rubens.
"HALLO! HALLO!" March, by P. Mario Costa.
"CHRISTMAS," Valse, by Alfred Margis.
"FOLIE D'AMOUR," Valse, by Paul Fauchey.
"FASCINATION," Valse, by F. D. Marchetti.
"WIENER FRAUEN," Valse, by Franz Lehar.
"REVE DE JEUNESSE," Valse, "SOURIRE D'AMOUR," Valse, by Frank Lambert.
"LA MATTCHICHE" (Maxixe), by Ch. Borel-Clerc.

N.B.—The above are particularly recommended for Ballets and Marches.

CHAPPELL & CO., LTD., 50, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."

The Private Secretary is being played here this week by Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's brilliant company. This being the twenty-second year of tour, with over 13,000 performances, the play must be familiar to most of the habitués of this popular house, and that it has lost none of its attractiveness was manifest from the large and enthusiastic audience which assembled on Monday to witness it. As the Rev. Robert Spalding Mr. Donald Price-Evans never fails to keep interest and amusement at a high pitch. Mr. J. P. E. Hussey, as Harry Marsland, and Mr. Randolph Reade as Douglas Cattermole play their parts excellently. After twenty years' performance of the part, Mr. Wm. Hargreaves cannot be said "to act the part," he is Mr. Cattermole from India. He is in high favour with the audience all through; continued and unrestrained laughter is evoked by this clever comedian all the time he occupies the stage. Mr. W. T. Elworthy is excellent as Mr. Marsland; and Mr. V. Gilbert sustains the part of Mr. Sidney Gibson, the tailor, in a strikingly effective, unctiously humorous manner. Miss Dora Gray continues to charmingly portray the rôle of Edith Marsland; and Miss Beth Elliott is a winsome Eva Webster. Miss Cecily Wade is well suited as Mrs. Stead; and as the elderly spinster, Miss Ashford, Mrs. Alfred Davis makes the most of her opportunities. John, a servant, and Knox, the writ-server, are capably undertaken by Mr. D. Benford. Buckstone's comic drama, in one act, entitled *Good for Nothing*, precedes *The Private Secretary*. Miss Dora Grey as Nan, and Mr. W. T. Elworthy as Tom Dibbles, particularly shine, ably assisted by Messrs. Randolph Reade (Harry Collier), J. P. Hussey (Charley), V. Gilbert (Mr. Simpson), and D. Benford (James).

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Play, by A. Conan Doyle, entitled
"BRIGADIER GERARD."

The soldier-like qualities of Captain Gerard were bound to make him a general favourite with his audiences, and, therefore, on his arrival at the King's on Monday evening, the crowded house enthusiastically applauded the exploits of the valiant Captain of Hussars, at the same time benignantly overlooking his boastful manners. The hero of Conan Doyle's play is an attractive personality, and in his love-making with the Comtesse de Roquelaure he has always the good wishes of the audience. The company organised by Mr. Lewis Waller is a strong one. For the Brigadier a better exponent could not be found than Mr. Loring Fernie, who has all the attributes necessary to display Gerard to the utmost advantage, and it is needless to say that his impersonation is thoroughly well appreciated. Mr. Arthur Somers gives a realistic representation of Napoleon, and Mr. Cecil Wynne as General de Caulaincourt is excellent; Colonel Guerin is ably handled by Mr. Frank Powell; and Mr. Fenn Hamilton deserves much praise for a masterly performance of Mons. D'Albert. Mr. James Crowe is a satisfactory Mons. Bassompierre; Mr. Reginald Mason is successful as Pierre; and an extremely clever rendering of Talleyrand is presented by Mr. George Mallett, who scores a decided hit. The officers of the Hussars are well acted by Messrs. J. Henry Twyford (as Major Bron), Edwin Bennett (as Major Olivier), and others. Mr. Arthur Bowyer acts capitally as Trumpeter Papilette. Miss Maude Hoffman wins a conspicuous success by her magnificent acting as the Comtesse de Roquelaure, and numerous are the plaudits gained by her. Miss Gertrude Beattie makes a pleasant Agnes; and Miss Florence Denbigh capably undertakes Mére Lafitte. The scenery is in excellent taste.

THE CORONET.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Play, in Four Acts, entitled
"CHARLOTTE CORDAY."

Mrs. Brown Potter and her company, under the direction of Mr. Robert Crossman, are appearing this week in the historical play in four acts, entitled *Charlotte Corday*. Mrs. Brown Potter is seen to advantage in the name part as the deeply religious maid, burning with patriotic fervour and hatred of the tyranny of the so-called "friend of the people." Half angelic, half demoniac, eaten up with the intensity of her purpose, and believing herself to be an instrument of vengeance sent from Heaven like Judith, who slew Holofernes, her mysticism turns to fanaticism and her gentle disposition to demoniac fury at the contemplation of Marat's hideous excesses and lust of blood. Love is not for her, nor marriage or maternity. All must be staked on her heavenly mission of vengeance, and therein she closely resembles her great prototype Jeanne d'Arc. Such is the complex character which Mrs. Brown Potter essays to interpret, and she comes out of the ordeal with flying colours. Her gentle, girlish appearance, her seductive smile, her self-absorption and mysticism; and, above all, her frenzy of determination, are graphically and powerfully portrayed. Might we suggest that the introduction of a final tableau depicting the celebrated painting, "Her Last Toilette," would make a magnificent finale to a stirring story? Admirable support is rendered by many members of the company, notably by Mr. Clarence Blakiston as the sinister arch-tyrant and murderer, Marat. His inordinate appetite for the blood of the aristocrats, his craven fear of assassination, and his irritation of restraint are all grimly set forth. Mr. Lawrence Grant is very good as the great painter, Mons. David; and Mr. Edwin Palmer is an able representative of Charlotte's parent, M. de Corday D'Armont; whilst the part of the dear old Abbé Fleuriot is delightfully rendered by Mr. F. Morland. Mr. Esmé Percy acts with boyish impetuosity as the impulsive young aristocrat Adam Lux, Charlotte's lover. Mr. Frank Collins as Potin, the perruquier, provides a little comic relief to the otherwise unrelieved gloom of the play, and he acts with notable discretion. Miss Dora Maitland is a sympathetic sister Rose, and the parts of various deputies and revolutionaries are creditably rendered. Mr. Harold Payne, who enacts the part of the advocate, M. Chauveaux-Legarde, with distinction, sings a romance specially composed by Mr. Sydney Shaw (the musical director of the company) in the second act, excellently well. The courteous Mr. Roger Alwyn acts as general manager, with Mr. John J. Goldsack as an able acting-manager, and Mr. C. T. Doe undertakes the stage-management. Mr. Barclay Gammon and a piano humorously usher in the tragedy of Charlotte Corday. This is the last week of the tour, and Mrs. Brown Potter will appear at certain halls in her successful *Mary, Queen of Scots* impersonation preparatory to putting on a new play for touring purposes.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Musical Play, entitled
"MY SWEETHEART."

Monday evening was *Daily Mirror* night at this theatre, when a very large audience filled the house, and gave Miss Minnie Palmer a very cordial greeting when she appeared in that old favourite musical play *My Sweetheart*, and again appeared in her world-famous embodiment of Tina. Miss Minnie Palmer, who is now making her farewell appearances before going to America, was in her accustomed form, and as full of life and spirits as ever. She sings numerous songs, and plays with tremendous energy throughout the three acts of the piece. Mr. Robert H. Howard lends able assistance as Tony Fauste, his quaint dialect causing much mirth, while his singing is also much admired, and on Monday he was obliged to yield to the demand for encores on several occasions. Dr. Oliver is capitally played by Mr. Chas. R. Haun, who acts in a quiet but most effective manner. Miss Iris Lincoln is captivating as the fascinating Mrs. Fleeter, while Mr. Robert Stretfield is diverting as the dandy, Dudley Harcourt. Joe Shotwell is capitally played by Mr. F. W. Leonard, and Mr. J. T. MacCullum is seen to advantage in the character of Harold Bartlett. Mrs. H. E. Russell deserves great praise for her breezy rendering of Mrs. Hatzell, a clever piece of acting; and Mr. A. J. Mayes is good as Farmer Hatzell. Miss Elsie Forster is very bright as Peek-a-Boo. The play, which is under the management of Mr. Wentworth Croke, is capitally staged, and the Farm scene is picturesque, and could not easily be improved on for its design and general effects. The orchestra, under Mr. W. D. J. Damant, do good work. Mr. Richard Elliott is the business-manager for the company.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Comedy, entitled
"THE FREEDOM OF SUZANNE."

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is playing here this week to good houses in the above West End success. The play is very bright, light, and amusing, and though the causes which appear to justify the heroine in obtaining her decree nisi may appear to the legal mind to be strangely inadequate, the success of the production is undoubted. Miss Mabel Love appears in the part of Suzanne, which was originally played by Miss Marie Tempest, and scores a great success in the rôle of the feather-brained little society butterfly, who is, after all, so dissatisfied at obtaining her freedom. Miss Love is perhaps at her best in the third act, when she has a *tête-a-tête* with her husband, after her long motor ride. Mr. Percy Hutchison acts with admirable lightness of touch, and when required imparts genuine pathos to the character of Charles Trevor. Fitzroy Harding is capitally played by Mr. F. G. Thurstans, who gives a clever character-sketch of the old *bon vivcur*. Miss Charlotte Mead makes a good deal out of the part of the humble companion, Miss Fanny Minching; and Mr. J. Hastings Batson is very droll as the senile lady-killer, the Earl of Datchet. Miss Annie Stalman is a severe Lady Charlotte Trevor; Miss Violet Ley is charming in the small part of Lady Isabel Bury; Mrs. F. Turner is good as the charwoman, Mrs. Putnam; and Miss Dorothy Lart does all that is possible with the rôle of Mrs. Tustall. Mr. Townsend Whitling makes an excellent Captain Harry Cecil; Tommy Keston is well looked after by Mr. Richard Neville; and Mr. Patrick Quill is an urbane and courtly old lawyer. The piece is well mounted and staged.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, November 26,
the Musical Play, by G. Grossmith, Jun.,
Ivan Caryll, and Lionel Monckton, entitled
"THE SPRING CHICKEN."

A good company, under the direction of Mr. Herbert Cathcart, has been appearing in the lively *Spring Chicken*. The central part of Mr. Girdle is taken by Mr. George Gregory, who is responsible for no small share of the laughter, mainly provoked by his remarkable variety of facial contortions. Miss Irene Verona is very successful as Mrs. Girdle, who endeavours to keep her husband in order, and scores with one or two capital songs, notably, "I guess," and "Regent Street." Miss Gertrude Gilliam makes a charming Baroness Papouche; and Miss Nancy Langtyre plays Dulcie Babori in an equally charming way; Miss Jennie McNulty is full of life as a fair client of the lawyer, Babori; as Rosalie, Miss Mabel Russell acts and sings well; and two precocious and inconveniently active children are represented by Mr. William Spray and Miss Nellie Lonnen, the latter showing herself to be an exceptionally graceful dancer. Mr. John Brabourne has much to do as Gustave Babori, the lawyer, who is wont to go astray in the spring. He acts with great spirit and humour, and makes a good central figure. Mr. Frank Hector puts plenty of energy and humour into his performance as the Baron Papouche, and Mr. Jocelyn Hope is equally vigorous as the outraged restaurant proprietor. In the part of Boniface Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., contributes some excellent dancing, of the most graceful and accomplished type. As Felix, the head waiter, Mr. Ernest Mahar is most amusing throughout, and his performance, for real humour, is as good as anything in the play. It remains only to add that the dresses are bright and tasteful; the scenery is excellent—especially the out-of-door restaurant set, and the full orchestra is ably conducted by Mr. Ernest Vonsden.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Play, in Five Acts, entitled
"OLIVER TWIST."

Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is here this week with *Oliver Twist*, and a cordial welcome has been given, both to play and performers, for the excellent entertainment provided. Mr. Stanley Drewitt as the crafty and cunning Fagin gives a clever character-study, with every detail cleverly marked and underlined. Mr. James Skea looks a typical Bill Sikes and acts convincingly; Mr. Charlie Clark does good service as the Artful Dodger; and Mr. R. C. Hunter as Charlie Bates is excellent. As Mr. Brownlow Mr. Fred Penley presents a capital picture of the trusting and courteous old gentleman, and Mr. W. H. Rotherman capably doubles the parts of Mr. Grimwig and Monks. Mr. Paige Laurence makes a manly and earnest lover of Harry Maylie; Miss Dorothy Marsden, in the title-rôle, could scarcely be bettered. She acts the part with singular grace. As Mrs. Maylie Miss A. Lingham gives a careful and well-studied rendering of the part. As Rose Maylie Miss Dorothy Mayhew is dainty and graceful; Miss Edith Anton Laing as Nancy wins golden opinions for her interesting performance; her work bearing the imprint of careful study. The play is well staged, and the incidental music is rendered under the capable leadership of Mr. Stephen Blythe.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, November 26,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Z. Korenblith,
entitled
"TRUE LUCK."

On Monday night a good house welcomed the Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company in Z. Korenblith's drama, *True Luck*, and although the play being essentially of a domestic character, claims no special literary merit, yet some capital situations are presented, and the audience is kept fully interested until the fall of the curtain. Mr. S. Feinman again showed himself to be an actor of great force in his performance of Motie Melech Egber; he grasped every opportunity, presenting a conception of the honest cabinetmaker that was almost perfect. Jane was played very naturally Madame F. Waxman; her acting in the scene where Jane is turned from her father's home was particularly good. Mr. M. D. Waxman acted the poet, Morris Bleichman, with earnest sincerity, and thoroughly carried the audience with him, and Mr. N. Hamburger lent prominence to the character of Mr. Wolfsohn. The good-hearted but loquacious Mirel was rendered with excellent effect by Madame Goldstein, and Mr. J. Fineberg deserves great credit for a sound impersonation of the villainous Henri Lichtenberg. Mr. Schilling was exceedingly clever and irresistibly funny as Mordechy Izic, and an amusing study of Beni was given by Mr. J. Scherman, whose catch-phrase was provocative of much merriment. The scenery and mounting were fully in accordance with the story, and praise must be awarded to Mr. J. Fineberg for his stage management. During the week *Mirele Efres, Sulamitha, The Jewish Revolution*, and *Solomon Scharlatan*, have been successfully performed.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Drama, in Five Acts, by the late Frank Harvey, entitled
"THE MILESTONES OF LIFE."

Mr. J. M. East is presenting this week the drama, *The Milestones of Life*, to Elephant and Castle patrons, who have been flocking in great numbers to see the last presentation of the season of their very popular and eminently successful stock company, all the members of which on Monday evening were accorded a tremendous ovation. Mr. Albert Ward and Mr. W. H. Hatchman are seen as John Gower and James Staples. Mr. Ward gains much approbation for his perfect rendering of the successful young workman, whilst Mr. Hatchman, by his clever character-study, excellently shows the misery and remorse brought about by drink.

As John Gower's wife Miss Kathleen Russell, by her tenderness and charm, captivates all hearts; and as Annie Staples Miss East Robertson, in a complex character, does good work. Mr. Horace Hunter as Charles Belton lends distinction to the part; Mr. Edward Boddy is effective as Nicholas Belton; Mr. H. J. Crane makes a cheerful old father-in-law as Simon Crane; Mr. Teddy Coleman causes much amusement as Tom Weeder; Mr. Brian Daly gives a capital reading of Alec Webb, a ne'er-do-well. Mrs. Calhaem as Mrs. Sinnaker scores throughout. Whenever she is on the stage the house is kept in loud peals of merriment. Miss Agnes Paulton, although suffering from a nasty cold, is a bewitching Nelly Spinks. Miss Irene Ross is a successful Minnie; Miss Jones speaks distinctly and makes a good boy as Gerald. The piece is excellent staged. Quite a feature in the first act is the wedding breakfast, in which nearly all the company take part, roars of laughter greeting the clever bye-play. On Saturday evening each member of the audience will be presented with a souvenir of the stock company.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
The Musical Play, entitled
"THREE LITTLE MAIDS."

Mr. Charles Macdona's company has proved to be one of the most successful engagements of the season here, and certainly that success was deserved by all the members of the cast, who worked hard and well to achieve it. As the three little maids, Miss Cora Lingard, Miss Daisy Sylverton, and Miss Eva Weigh respectively pourtrayed Ada, Hilda, and Edna Branscombe, making a pretty trio, acting brightly and singing archly, their songs in many cases being brought up-to-date by the introduction of topical verses, which went very well. Miss Kate Graham-Beck was a stately Lady St. Mallory, making a very appropriate guardian for her three protégées, Lady Rosemary Beaulieu, Venetia Grafton, and Lady Marjory Chrichton, charmingly represented by Mesdames Hilda Stericker, Daisy Goldsack, and Edith Maynard. Miss Laura Wright infused infectious mirth into the part of Gretchen, the Dutch servant; and Miss Maud Madle, as Miss Price, made an efficient manageress of the tea-shop. Mr. Victor Kerr was a great success as Lord Chyne, giving full effect to all the Huntleyian points in this character; Mr. Guy Williams made a manly and unaffected Bryan Molyneaux; and Mr. Eric Barrington sang tastefully as the amorous French attaché. Mr. Charles Leverton gave a discreet rendering of the Rev. Mr. Branscombe, the father of the three little maids. As Cupid, the caddy, Mr. Charles Caffery was a quaint and laughter-making oddity, his dances with Gretchen and others being encored several times. There were many demands for the repetition of favourite songs, and the entire production had a most cordial reception.

LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Drama, entitled
"EAST LYNNE."

The fine old drama, *East Lynne*, has filled the Lyric to overflowing this week, an excellent production being furnished. The Archibald Carlisle of Mr. Arthur Bawtree is praiseworthy in the highest degree. He combines polish with manliness, and his rendering is eminently successful. Miss Beatrice May as Lady Isabel also acts her part with ability, and proves her emotional power. Barbare Hare, played by Miss Nellie Lane, is a fine impersonation of a difficult character. In the villainous part of Francis Levison Mr. D. G. Noble appears to full advantage. Cornelia Carlisle is entrusted with good judgment to Miss Nell Gilmore, who makes the part very humorous, and a fine exhibition of juvenile acting is given by Miss Florrie Graves, whose interpretation of Willie is full of pathos. The characters of Justice Hare and Richard Hare are placed in the reliable hands of Mr. J. P. Dryden and Mr. J. E. Manning. Others who deserve a word of commendation are Mr. James Johnson as Lord Mountsevern, Mr. James May as Lawyer Dill, Miss Annie Mead as Wilson, Miss Hettie Graham as Joyce, and Miss Maud Ethelda as Susanne.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Drama, by W. J. Patmore, entitled
"SONS OF ERIN."

This popular and interesting Irish-American military drama has been very well received by the folks of Rotherhithe. Mr. Ashley Page makes a decided hit as Val Desmond, a Federal captain, and his dash and spirits are a notable feature of the performance. Mr. Alfred Harding acts with much determination and force as the villain, Ralph Vincent; Mr. Tom Taylor gives a capital rendering of the part of Michael Corrigan, a poor Irish doctor; Mr. Johnny Chippendale, an old favourite at this theatre, is humorous as Terry O'Hagan, and receives much applause; and Miss Mattie Everett causes plenty of laughter as Bridget Maloney. Mr. John Sargent is seen to advantage as the grim, unscrupulous soldier, Cass Kennedy; Miss Marion Denvil makes a sweet and refined heroine as Kathleen Corrigan, and gains the sympathy of the house; Miss Georgie De Lara is dramatic and pathetic as the Spanish-American adventuress, Margarita; Mr. C. A. Chandler makes a favourable impression as the good-natured military swell, Captain Delaware; Mr. Gerald Morgan supplies a good character-sketch as the negro, Abel; Mr. Frank Woodville is amusing as Cornelius Septimus Brown. The scenery and effects are beyond reproach. On Thursday Miss Marion Denvil and Mr. Ashley Page took their benefit, when *The Lady of Lyons* and other attractive items were in the programme.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Musical Play, entitled
"THE BLUE MOON."

Mr. Clarence Sounes has certainly booked a strong attraction here this week, in the shape of *The Blue Moon*, which, attractively mounted, and capably handled by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's talented company, has been drawing excellent houses. In the title-rôle Miss Clarice Lockstone is responsible for a tender and effective rendering of the poor singing girl who places her duty before her love; her voice, though not strong, is decidedly sweet, and she makes a hit with several delightfully rendered numbers. Miss Ethel Callahan as Evelyn Ormsby is a thorough English girl, her clever acting, and especially her singing, soon making her a firm favourite, her happiest effort being, perhaps, her song, "Sometimes." Miss Florence Imeson plays the maid, Millicent Leroy, with much vivacity and a fund of good spirits that goes far towards making the play the success it is. Miss Leroy was in excellent voice on Monday night, and her song, "She didn't know," was perhaps the best-received number of the evening. Miss Kathleen Carteret is a distinguished Lady Augusta Brabasham; and Miss Louie Lochner gives prominence to the small part of Orma. Mr. Alec Fraser makes a dashing Captain Ormsby, and sings in excellent style. Mr. Alfred Clark plays Major Vivian Callabone with good-humoured extravagance, and scores heavily with his song, "The Major." In the character of Moolraj, idol maker, juggler, and jack-of-all-trades, Mr. Alfred Beers proves himself a gifted comedian, his unceasing efforts in the cause of laughter being heartily responded to by a delighted audience. Mr. A. Wykes Ashdowne as Bobbie Scott is a typical example of the newer journalism, and plays with a vivacity and light-heartedness admirably, indicative of Scott's mercurial temperament. In the rôle of Private Charles Taylor, Mr. Reginald Switz evokes much laughter, his song, "Mother," being loudly re-demanded, while his "Crocodile" song, sung and danced with the assistance of an energetic "tail" of ladies of the chorus, fairly brings down the house. Mr. Frank Halett plays well as the Hon. Archie May, and sings "The Burmah girl" with good effect. Mr. Arthur Soames does as well as possible with the somewhat thankless part of Prince Badahur Samatsinjhi. The chorus is tuneful, and the rendering of the concerted numbers, notably that opening the second act, excellent.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by William P. Sheen and F. S. Jennings, entitled
"WHY WOMAN SINS."

The current week's attraction at the Grand exhibits all the familiar features of popular melodrama—a consistent plot, good comedy reliefs, and a rapid succession of those incidents so dear to the heart of a popular audience. Hence, Mr. F. S. Jennings, whose company present the play, can reasonably anticipate a satisfactory tour. Mr. Harry Cullenford as Harry Maxwell acts in a bold and manly way that carries the house with him, and is an established favourite. Mr. Jackson Hayes, as Captain Carlton, enacts the heavy rôle in the approved manner; Mr. George Ellis, as Cecil Spencer, is acceptable in a humorous rôle; and Mr. George Claremont submits a very clever study of a ne'er-do-well as Jim Rainbird. Mr. Edwin Wilde, as Oliver Desmond, merits commendation; and Mr. W. Hawkins is satisfactory as Major Algy Belton. Messrs. Harry Thorne and H. C. Brooks submit two effective little sketches as the Admiral and Captain. The lighter relief finds capital exponents in Messrs. Will Skelton, Charles Grant, and Fred May, who have a loyal ally in Miss Hettie Graham as Miss Nibble; Miss Bertha Baker presents a clever little study of poor Boy; and Miss Nellie Sheffield is alert and amusing as Lily de Vere. Miss Hilda Baynton acts with a sympathetic touch as Nell Desmond. Miss Gertrude Netterville as Ida Valette is commendable in the heavy rôle; and Miss Queenie Conway does well as Mr. Benbow. The remaining smaller parts are all in able hands, and a good house extended a hearty reception to the production, which has the additional distinction of being very well mounted.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, November 26,
the Drama, by Walter Melville, entitled
"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."

The immense popularity this excellent drama gained when first produced, has in no way diminished, and on Monday, when the piece was revived at the Standard, a large and enthusiastic audience paid great attention to the unfolding of a story of power and interest, and at frequent intervals showed appreciation of the good work done, in a manner which could not be misinterpreted. Great praise must be besowed upon Mr. Wingold Lawrence for his powerful and lifelike reading as Jack Felton. Ability of a high order was very evident throughout his delineation, and in spite of the effects of a heavy cold he carried his scenes through in an artistic and finished manner. Special mention must also be made of Mr. Roy Redgrave as Hugh Drayton. The part is one fraught with many difficulties, but Mr. Redgrave puts his great and varied experience to good use, and supplies a portrayal of high worth. Mr. Jack Denton's picture of Vincent Lyle proves of considerable service, and is effective. Mr. J. C. Aubrey has this time departed from his customary rôle, and plays with striking success as James Milford; first of all, as a man blinded with the passion of love, and later with force and spirit when he discovers that he has been nothing but the "cat's-paw" of the lady, who is rightly termed "the worst woman in London." The lighter portions of the drama are safely entrusted to Mr. Willie Reid as Bob Goldfinch, and with the able assistance of Miss Marie McAuley, the ball of fun is kept effectively rolling. Mr. A. P. Kaye plays with power and skill as Philip Armstrong, and Miss Nellie Brunton supplies an excellent study of Jane Nogood. The rôle of Ruth Milford is sweetly portrayed by Miss Jessie Winter. Her acting is full of pathos, and is decidedly successful. Fortunately, Miss Olga Audre has been engaged to present her original rôle, that of Frances Vere, "the worst woman in London." In no part have we seen Miss Audre give more satisfaction. Although difficulties of an arduous nature appear at every point, Miss Audre is quite equal to the task set her, and supplies a finished performance of great value. The many minor characters are each adequately represented by other members of the company, and the scenery and effects are excellent, and quite up to what we might expect to see in a production of Mr. Melville's.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Comedy, by Brandon Thomas, entitled
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."

A good house assembled to welcome a return visit of this famous comedy, and to cheer on Charley's Aunt as she kept running around the Oxford College garden, steadily pursued by her ardent admirer Stephen Spettigue, with as much persistence as in the days long ago, when she gathered up her skirts and dashed off on her first sprint across the stage. The comedy is as bright and as lively as ever, and at the hands of Mr. Thomas's company does not lose in interest with age. The fun is endless, and the laughter on Monday was continuous as one amusing situation succeeded another, to the huge delight of the audience. For plentiful high-toned humour *Charley's Aunt* will long hold the field. There is not much opportunity in the piece for stage effect, but the garden scene is certainly a pretty setting. Mr. Stanley Cooke is the life of the piece as Lord Fancourt Babberly, and proves himself to be a rattling good comedian. He is quite a frolicsome old lady, making the most of the many farcical passages with which the comedy abounds, and winning golden opinions for the cleverness with which he acts. Mr. Hastings Lynn as Jack Chesney and Mr. Richard Mason as Charley Wykeham, the Oxford undergraduate, are excellent. Their embarrassing bashfulness in the love-making scenes is quite delightful, and amused the audience immensely. Miss Lena McNaughtan makes a stately and dignified Donna Lucia, and as her companion, Ella Delahay, Miss E. Boyne was distinctly successful. Miss Kitty Carew as Amy Spettigue and Miss Lilyan Lait as Kitty Verdum are both charming, playing the parts of the undergraduates' sweethearts very gracefully. Mr. Walter Beaumont is admirable as Stephen Spettigue, the solicitor being seen to great advantage in his efforts to capture Charley's Aunt. The character of Sir Francis Chesney is faithfully portrayed by Mr. C. B. Keston, and as Brassett, the College scout, Mr. Sydney Compton deserves praise, his fund of dry humour greatly pleasing the house.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."

A musical comedy, after a few seasons of strenuous theatrical life, generally loses that natural freshness which is so essential to its continual success, and is supplanted in the affections of the public by younger and more up-to-date rivals; but it is very evident that this is not the case with the sparkling musical play *The Belle of New York*, as was amply testified by the enthusiastic reception accorded Mr. Geo. Musgrave's principal company at the close of the opening performance at the Shakespeare Theatre on Monday. The play—which is produced under the direction of Mr. J. Bannister Howard—is excellently mounted, and the dresses, &c., are all that can be desired. Mr. Paddy Duprès caused much merriment by his clever presentation of the millionaire, Ichabod Bronson; and Harry Bronson was excellently sustained by Mr. John Doran. Mr. Max Copeland was successful in the rôle of the polite lunatic, Karl Von Pimpernick; and this remark also applies to Mr. Alfred Sandoe as Doc Snifkins and Mr. Walter Uridge as Kenneth Mugg. Mr. Lionel Yeoman and Mr. R. L. Cody rendered good assistance as the Twin Portuguese, and their extraordinary antics caused much laughter. Miss Empsie Bowman created a favourable impression in the part of the Salvation Army lassie, Violet Gray, and gained much applause for her songs, which were excellently rendered. Miss Lily Maxwell as Fifi Fricot, a Parisienne, quickly won the favour of the house by her bewitching acting and singing; and Miss Nellie Bowman was seen to advantage in the dual rôles of Kissie Fitzgarter and Mamie Clancy. Miss Winnie Browne was eminently satisfactory as Cora Angelique, the prima donna of the Comic Opera Co. The minor parts were all capably sustained, and the chorus, under the direction of Mr. Ernie Woodville, gave every satisfaction. Mr. Charles Thorburn is general manager, Mr. Wilfred Esmond business manager, and Mr. A. Linforth stage manager for Mr. Bannister Howard.

BROADWAY THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Romantic Play, entitled
"DOROTHY O' THE HALL."

Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry are among the most popular West End favourites who make periodical visits to this theatre, and they were most warmly greeted on their appearance on Monday night in their latest success, entitled *Dorothy o' the Hall*. To state that Miss Neilson was charming as Dorothy Vernon is to give a poor description of her altogether delightful performance. Miss Neilson's attractive personality is combined with rare artistic skill, and her latest creation is worthy to rank among her best. Mr. Fred Terry, who runs his clever wife very close in public favour, gave a most enjoyable rendering of the part of Sir John Manners—always refined, easy, and true to nature. Mr. Frederic Groves was very good as Sir John's father, the Earl of Rutland; Mr. J. Carter Edwards submitted an admirable study of Sir George Vernon; while Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw must be congratulated on his conception of the character of Sir Malcolm Vernon. Mr. D. J. Williams was excellent as Lord Burleigh; and Mr. Malcolm Cherry was well suited to the part of Sir William St. Lee. Mr. Horace Hodges as the dwarf Perkin proved a characteristically quaint jester. The remaining male characters were well rendered by Messrs. W. A. Haines, Walter Edwin, George Dudley, and Alan Borthwick. Miss Miriam Lewes was an impressive and dignified Elizabeth of England; and Mary of Scotland had an attractive representative in Miss Lilian Waldegrave. Miss Claire Pauncefort was responsible for a very fine portraiture of Lady Vernon; Miss Mary Mackenzie as Jenny and Miss Marion Sterling as Bess were both admirable. The mounting and dressing are costly and tasteful, and leave nothing to be desired.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Farce, in Three Acts, by Edward A. Parry and Frederick Mouillot, entitled
"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW."

Messrs. Parry and Mouillot's amusing farce, which enjoyed a considerable measure of popularity on its production at Wyndham's, and afterwards at the Savoy, is at the Alexandra this week, the company including Miss Ada Blanche and Mr. Lionel Rignold. A factor that makes largely for the success of the production is the inclusion in the cast of that admirable light comedian Mr. Charles S. Fawcett, whose breezy and natural performance of the gallant and high-spirited Irishman, Jack Barrington, is as excellent a piece of comedy acting as one could wish to see. So sound and experienced a comedian as Mr. Lionel Rignold may be relied on to get every ounce of fun out of the rôle of Pink, the butler, and roars of laughter greet him on every entrance. Miss Ada Blanche is a charming Mrs. Barrington, and plays the part with verve and spirit. A very quaint and droll sketch of Mrs. Hake is furnished by Miss Annie Goward; and Miss Marie Daltra contrives to impart originality to her impersonation of the conventional dragoness of farcical comedy and champion of women's rights, Miss Foden. That "fine old English gentleman" Abraham Weinstein is ably and amusingly represented by Mr. Harry Rignold; and the young men of the piece are satisfactorily embodied by Messrs. Reddick Anderson, Louis Lingard, and Alec Alver. Good work is done by Messrs. George Ascot and Roy Boyford, who appear as General Dunlop and Professor Shales respectively. Messrs. Frank Kingsley and C. Barrey, and Misses Jenny Wigney, Hylda Davies, Vera O'Connell, Violet Gould, Minnie Willett, Agnes Webster, and Dorothy Garth fill the remaining parts creditably.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Nov. 26,
the Comedy, in Four Acts, by A. W. Pinero, entitled
"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."

Kingstonians are enjoying to the full this week a visit from Mr. George Alexander's company in that brilliant comedy, *His House in Order*. The company has evidently been chosen with great care, and in each individual case gives a reading of the part allotted to the artist that is most commendable. Premier honours are awarded to Miss Auriol Lee, who appears as Nina, and gives a most impressive interpretation of the part. Mr. Cyril Harcourt also acquits himself admirably as Mr. Filmer Jesson, M.P.; and Mr. Frank Fenton is equally good as the debonair Hilary Jesson. An intelligent picture of Sir Daniel Ridgeley is presented by Mr. Adam Alexander; and the part of Lady Ridgeley is ably portrayed by Mrs. Kemmis. Others in the company deserving of particular mention are Miss Audrey Campbell as Geraldine Ridgeley, Mlle. Juliette Milo as Mlle. Thomé, Mr. Charles Tyrel as Major Maurewarde, Mr. George Silver as Price Ridgeley, Mr. Jas. Annand as Dr. Dillnott, and little Miss Carmen Woods as Derek Jesson.

"GUILTY GOLD."

A New Drama, in Five Acts, by Dr. D. T. Callahan, Produced at the Dalston Theatre, on Monday, Nov. 25.

Hypolite Dupont .....MR. WILLIAM FELTON
Maxime Dupont .....MR. MARTIN B. PEDLER
Maurice de Chautel .....MR. H. P. OWEN
Robinet .....MR. COLLINS ROLFE
Hector .....MR. A. GORDON
Placide .....MR. W. H. HEWLETT
Andrée de Chautel .....MISS ITALIA CONTI
Mme. Florence ....MISS M. MACDONALD-MARTIN
Bertha .....MISS IRIS LABROW
Ernestine .....MISS BEATRICE MURRAY

Although not so stated on the programme, there is a strong probability that *Guilty Gold* is an adaptation from a French play. At all events, the scene is laid in France, and the plot and general treatment of the theme has a distinctly Gallic flavour; and that is not always agreeable to the taste of an ordinary English audience. The weak point in the new production is that the leading female character is a lady for whom no one can feel any real sympathy, in spite of the fact that she is the victim of an hereditary taint. In the first act we learn that Andrée, the only daughter of Maurice de Chautel, described as an "aristocrat," has been betrayed by a man who she learns, when too late, is already married. Mme. Florence, M. Chautel's housekeeper, informs Andrée that she can introduce to her a man who is quite willing to marry her for the sake of the social position which such a union will confer upon him. In order to satisfy her father's scruples he is also prepared to assume to be the man who seduced her, for M. Chautel has been kept in ignorance of the fact that her betrayer is married. The girl, who is in the depths of despair, and is quite indifferent as to what happens to her, agrees to the proposal. In the meantime, M. Chautel informs his daughter it is not true, as she had been led to believe, that her mother died some years ago. She brought misery and disgrace upon her husband by running away with a lover, and he has never seen her since. Hypolite Dupont, the man introduced by Mme. Florence, has an interview with M. Chautel, and, after some bitter remarks with reference to his visitor's betrayal of Andrée, consents to the marriage, and gives him particulars as to the fortune which his wife will possess in her own right. Then Andrée finds herself in the presence of her future husband, who agrees to her conditions that she shall have perfect freedom of action, and be his wife in name only. The man, who is of lowly origin, but possessed of boundless ambition, declares that in three years he will have Paris at his feet, now that he has the social position and money he has been seeking.

It proves to be no idle boast on the part of Hypolite Dupont. In the period just mentioned he has become a great personage, who daily holds receptions of all kinds of people, including the Minister of Finance, whom he keeps waiting in an ante-room. In the meanwhile Andrée has been living a life of extravagance, and, aware that she is in debt, her husband gets one Robinet, a notary, to purchase, at a comparatively cheap rate, certain landed property belonging to her. Dupont has a grown-up son, named Maxime, and he and Andree are thrown a good deal together, with the result that they fall in love with each other. When, therefore, his father suggests that he shall marry a Swedish heiress, Maxime refuses, much to the delight of Andrée, who, after struggling to suppress her passion for the young man, confesses to him that she loves him. The story finishes in as gloomy a fashion as it began, for, in the last act, Andrée, whose fainting fits have given the audience a hint as to the ending, dies, self-poisoned, and leaves her husband to solace himself with what she has denounced as "guilty gold."

Mr. William Felton had evidently made a careful study of the part of Hypolite Dupont, a man dominated by ambition and love of power gained by gold; and he gave a firm, consistent, and powerful embodiment of the character. He was particularly impressive in the scene with Andrée in the first act, where he boasts of the ambitious schemes he intends to carry out in the future; and calls upon his future wife to co-operate with him in his plans. Miss Italia Conti as Andrée de Chautel did her best with a wholly unsympathetic part, and ably expressed the passion for Maxime, which the woman vainly endeavoured to conquer. Mr. Martin B. Pedler was an earnest representative of Maxime Dupont; and Mr. H. P. Owen put considerable feeling and force into his embodiment of the unhappy father, Maurice de Chautel. Miss M. Macdonald-Martin did good work in the part of Mme. Florence, a lady whose one object in life is to retire to a little villa in the country, and is not very scrupulous as to the means to that end. Miss Iris Labrow was bright and pleasing as Bertha, the Swedish heiress, who endeavours to capture the affections of Maxime; and Miss Beatrice Murray was smart as the maid, Ernestine. Other minor parts were entrusted to Mr. Collins Rolfe as Robinet, Mr. A. Gordon as Hector, and Mr. W. H. Hewlett as Placide. The play, which was produced by Mr. Henry S. Dacre, would have been improved by the introduction of some comic characters, to have relieved the depressing nature of the story.

"WOMAN'S WILES."

A One-act Comedy, by William Young, performed for the first time in England, at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, on Monday evening, Nov. 26.

Zaidie .....MISS MARGARET CAVANIA
Abdallah.....MR. A. E. DRINKWATER
The Wise Man .....MR. JAMES GELDERD

The piece is a vividly dramatic little story, which is admirably written, and possesses distinct literary merit. Zaidie is a beautiful and captivating young Algerian, but her elderly husband, Abdallah, influenced by a book, entitled "Woman's Wiles," which he has been reading, grows suspicious of his wife, and regards her tokens of love as wiles to gain her own ends, and make him loosen his purse strings. Zaidie cannot read, and is anxious to know the contents of the book. The opportune arrival of a tourist prompts her to show him the volume. The tourist is the author of the book, and in a charming scene, in which Zaidie acts with fascinating grace, he, who deemed himself proof against woman's wiles, becomes enamoured of the beauty, and professes his love for her. The approach of the husband is heard; the tourist hides in a chest, and Zaidie turns the key upon him. The comedy seems likely to be transformed into tragedy. Zaidie declares she has defended the honour of Abdallah, and receives from her husband a handsome chain. Fortunately, all ends happily; Abdallah has confidence in his wife, and the tourist is allowed to effect his escape.

Miss Margaret Cavania's handsome stage presence fitted her splendidly for her portrayal of the bewitching young wife, and she displayed fine contrasts of powerful vigour and charming tenderness. Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (under whose direction the comedy was produced) acted convincingly as the suspicious Abdallah; while the tourist was effectively impersonated by Mr. James Gelderd. The piece was very favourably received.

"THE WIDOW CAPET," an historical playlet by Louis Coen, was produced for copyright purposes at the Coronet Theatre on Saturday.

"THE NEW ALADDIN."

The new Aladdin, known as Lally, had a new representative at the Gaiety Theatre on Saturday night, when Miss Gertie Millar returned to play the part which had up to then been sustained by Miss Lily Elsie. The clever and popular Gaiety actress received a very warm welcome on making her reappearance, and the occasion was made doubly interesting by the introduction of several fresh songs. Miss Gertie Millar herself played all through the piece with that charming animation of manner which has always been one of her most pleasing characteristics, and so much at home did she seem in the part from the very beginning that no one would have supposed it was her first appearance as the new Aladdin. She was recalled for her delightful rendering of the topical ditty, "That's the sort of chap I'd like to know," by Leslie Mayne and Lionel Monckton; and earlier in the evening she, and Miss Adrienne Augarde as the Princess, had scored with the pretty duet, by Adrian Ross and Ivan Caryll, called "The dream of you," and also with "The Miniature Girl," in which the chorus assist. In the second act Miss Millar sang most effectively another new song, "Bed-time at the Zoo," with an excellent melody, by Mr. Monckton; but her greatest triumph came with the new number, called "Grandmamma." Attired in the distinctive costume of the early Victorian period, Miss Millar was accompanied by a chorus of little girls, dressed in the same style, and carrying rose-coloured parasols in their hands. This proved a most delightful novelty, and an encore was inevitable. One of the tiniest of the children then joined Miss Millar in a *pas de deux*, which was also loudly applauded.

Miss Connie Ediss in the part of the Spirit of the Ring, continues to display her usual keen sense of the humorous, and her new song (Ross and Caryll), "In the Strand," given with much piquancy, contains references to popular performers, including Mr. Asche, the Gibson Girl, Miss Billie Burke, Miss Phyllis Dare, Miss Marie Lloyd, and Little Tich. The song has an ear-haunting melody, and had a most favourable reception.

Mr. Edmund Payne has, since the production of the piece, added many little touches to his portrayal of Tippin, the page, and now joins Miss Gertie Millar in a topical duet, "Down where the vegetables grow," both appearing as costers with a barrow-load of vegetables. One of the funniest scenes in the piece is the meeting of Tippin and the Lost Constable, a part played with much stolid humour by Mr. Alfred Lester, whose services are, indeed, of the greatest value. Mr. Lester's bewildered policeman is quite a gem in its way.

Mr. George Grossmith, jun., as the Genie of the Ring, works as hard as ever, and his efforts are rewarded by complete success all along the line. "Rub the Lamp" and "The No-hat Brigade" both go merrily enough, and he has a capital new song in "Waltz me once round again," the always active, agile comedian comically representing an exhausted swell whom a lady compels to dance and finally carries off the stage.

Mr. Robert Nainby is clever and quaint as General Ratz, and has a new song, called "Der Umberefen Guards" (Leslie Stiles and Hugo Felix), also winning applause with an eccentric dance. Miss Adrienne Augarde is a fascinating Princess; and Miss Kitty Mason as Winnie Fairfax, gives a charming *pas seul*. Miss Jean Aylwin as the representative of Maggie has made quite a hit in a small part, her Scotch accent being delightful. Her song, "Dougal," is one of the successes of the evening. Miss Olive May as Laolah, the Cadi's daughter, delights the audience by her dancing; and Mlle. Gaby Deslys as the Charm of Paris displays much vivacity, and her song, "Sur la Plage," is well received. Mr. Arthur Hatherton is amusing as the Cadi; and Mr. Harry Grattan gives an effective dramatic touch to his portrayal of Ebenezer. Mention should also be made of Mr. Charles Brown's clever Imitation Genie. On Saturday night Mr. George Edwardes and the principal artists were, at the final fall of the curtain, called for, and received with great applause. There is no doubt that the new Aladdin will continue to "rub his lamp" with wonderful results for a long time to come at the popular house in the Strand.

A LANDLADY'S GRIEVANCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—At the meeting of the Council, held yesterday, I was directed to draw your attention to the following:—

DEAR SIR,—I know that you have plenty to do, that the grievances of actors and actresses are very numerous, and that the Actors' Association does not want to be bothered in the arbitration of minor professional quibbles. Yet I feel sure that the subject I much regret having to introduce to you is not altogether the most trivial you have had to deal with.

I am a landlady. For ten years I have let apartments to theatrical touring artists. I number, I am proud to say, some very prominent names in the profession among my patrons.

At one time I paid no commission to the stage doorkeeper of a local theatre for the introduction of a "let." I mostly obtained them by personal written application or recommendation from former guests. Lately, however, the stage doorkeeper seems to have a monopoly in "placing" the artists of a touring piece when they desire to reside in the locality for the week or longer. Of course he sends his applicants to those who pay him the highest commission. It does not matter to him if they are not comfortable, or if they are overcharged.

I know a case where a stage doorkeeper charged 20s. on a pantomime "let" of six weeks. The landlady paid 10s. down. Finding (as most artists themselves find now) that her guests had to cut their living expenses very close, and the 20s. could never be honestly worked into their account, she refused to pay the other 10s. Result: That stage doorkeeper never sent her another "let." If these stage doorkeepers get to know that you personally apply for "lets" they do all in their power to keep you out of it.

I argue that, to do justice to your guests, you have to be economical. Now, to a landlady with a good reputation, whose tariff is on a strictly honest and reasonable scale, this commission is an infliction. *She must get it back somehow.* Who suffers? The artist, of course. The system is unnecessary. It reflects no credit on theatrical business methods—or landladies. The apartment list at the theatre should be fair and square. "Tested and recommended" should be written on old-established addresses. The artist should be allowed to copy out his or her selection to refer to the manager. A "tip" now and again to the stage doorkeeper is never objected to.

Hoping you will kindly take notice of this, I am, faithfully yours,

LANDLADY.

Charles Cruikshanks, Esq.

The Council also desire me to point out that they think it a good opportunity for landladies to insert their advertisements in the A.A. Year Book, and thus secure the advantage of having their whereabouts brought to the direct knowledge of at least the members of the Actors' Association.—Yours faithfully,

CHAS. CRUIKSHANKS, Sec.
The Actors' Association,
10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

RUINED BY PIRACY.

MR. MILTON WELLINGS.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

We have on numerous occasions appealed for the sympathy of our readers on behalf of a distressed member of one or other of the professions connected with the stage, and we are bound to admit that the sympathy has not been appealed for in vain. In fact, we have every reason to feel proud of the moral support and material assistance which has been given in every case which has been commended by us to the charitably-minded—and their name is legion in the theatrical world. The matter to which we now wish to draw attention is a meritorious one. Mr. T. Stuart Crook, the secretary of Messrs. J. B. Cramer and Co., Ltd., has drawn our attention to its urgency. Mr. Milton Wellings, a short time ago, was one of the most popular song writers and composers of the day. To the present generation Mr. Welling's name is not so well known, but to many older playgoers, concert-goers, and even members of the public, it will be associated with dozens of delightful musical compositions.

Mr. Wellings is now suffering under straitened circumstances. About a fortnight ago he communicated to a director of J. B. Cramer, Ltd., and the communication was immediately placed in the hands of Mr. Crook. The latter gentleman set to work with praiseworthy promptitude. Mr. Wellings was found to be "living" in a Rowton House, and practically starving. A few pounds were collected, and Mr. Wellings was removed from somewhat undesirable surroundings, to place him with a decent family, and to give him an entirely

Photo by the Rapid Art Photographic Co.

MR. MILTON WELLINGS.

new outfit, which he badly needed. Mr. Wellings is at present in a very delicate state of health owing to the privations he has experienced, and several months must necessarily elapse before he has regained sufficient strength to enable him to look after a situation or to attempt any serious work. A few of our prominent singers, whose names we have not the permission to use at the time of writing, responded without delay to an appeal on behalf of Mr. Wellings, and a small sum was secured in this way. That sum, however, will not last more than a week, and we therefore put the case before our supporters.

Among the charming concert and drawing-room songs to which Mr. Wellings supplied the music may be mentioned "Golden Love," the words of which were by Miss Mary Mark Lemon, a daughter of the one-time famous editor of *Punch*. The song was sung by Miss Anna Williams and Miss Clara Samuell, vocalists of no small eminence at that period. "Some Day" was the title of a few other pretty verses (written by Mr. Hugh Conway) set to music by Mr. Wellings, and this number was made popular by the exquisite rendering of Mme. Enriquez.

We shall be happy to announce in these columns any donations that may be sent to the hon. treasurer to this Fund, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, at *The Era* Office, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C., and beyond adding that Mr. Wellings' present condition is in no wise consequent upon acts of his own—his conduct through life, we believe, has been irreproachable—and that his unfortunate circumstances are in great measure due to the depredations of the music pirates, we feel, and with the utmost confidence, that we can leave the issue in the hands of those who peruse this article.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Nov. 26, the Drama, in Five Acts, by Arthur Shirley, entitled

"THE GRIP OF IRON."

Though always a big draw in Marylebone, nevertheless the powers of *The Grip of Iron* to attract large audiences seem but to increase with each succeeding visit of this popular play. One potent factor for this is no doubt due to the all-round excellence of Messrs. E. H. Knight and G. Denham's company, which is headed by Mr. Fred Powell as Jagon, alias Simmonet, the strangler, a part he has played over 5000 times. It savours somewhat of "painting the lily" to attempt to enlarge on Mr. Powell's performance now, considering he was thoroughly conversant with the character years ago. Suffice it to say, that he has still the same masterly grip on his audience as of yore, and he commands their closest attention whilst he occupies the stage. Mr. Wallace Curnock is full of determined energy as Paul Blanchard; Mr. A. G. Polson-Turner is entirely successful as Lorentz de Ribas; Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood is decidedly cool and collected as Alphonse de Concon; Mr. John Brittain is delightfully quaint and amusing as Dodot; and Mr. George Denham acts Loustalot, the Smiler, in a broadly humorous way, his acting being full of characteristic by-play well exploited. Miss Rosabel Dodd is responsible for much good work as Cora Simmonet; Miss Muriel Inglis plays carefully and with distinction as Sophie Blanchard; Miss Violet Ingram portrays Marie Guerin capably; Miss Pope Royal is satisfactory as Mlle. Delaney; and Miss Cissie Hayes is good as Babette.

THE Countess of Dartmouth and party witnessed Mrs. Bandmann Palmer's performance of *Mary Queen of Scots* on Tuesday evening at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, when the popular actress received eleven "curtains" from an enthusiastic audience.

MR. WALTER ROBERTS had an accidental fall outside his residence at Leytonstone on the 21st ult. and dislocated his left shoulder. Mr. Roberts is progressing favourably, but it will be two or three weeks before he is thoroughly well.

"THE NUN AND THE BARBARIAN."

An adaptation, by Osmond Shillingford, of the three-act Spanish play *La Loca de la Casa*, played for the first time in England, at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on Monday, Nov. 26.

Jose Maria Cruz .....MR. CHARLES GARRY
Don Juan de Moncada .....MR. E. S. PETLEY
Philip .....MR. ARTHUR BURNE
Jaime .....MR. WILFRED E. BRANDON
Fernando Huguet .....MR. A. AUSTIN-LEIGH
Jordana .....MR. G. W. ELTON
Lluch .....MR. H. G. MASON
Victoria .....MISS KATHERINE HARRINGTON
Gabriela .....MISS MURIELLE LANGLEY
Dona Eulalia .....MISS MURIEL CURREY
Marquesa de Malavella .....MRS. CULLING
Sister Maria .....MISS GLADYS JONES
Carmeta .....MISS DOROTHY WATKINSON
First Nun .....MISS MADELINE HARRISON
Second Nun .....MISS MARIANA FOUNTAIN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

At the country house of Moncada, where the scene of the first act of this lay is laid, it is made apparent that the affairs of Don Juan de Moncada, as discussed by him and his friend, Fernando Huguet, are not too flourishing. Jose Maria Cruz, formerly a servant in the Moncada household, has made an immense fortune at the mines in California; and it is his ambition to wed one of his former master's daughters. He has a considerable hold over Moncada; and, in his rough fashion, which has earned him the sobriquet of "barbarian," he makes his wishes known. He desires to wed Moncada's daughter, Victoria; but, learning that she is a novice, and about to become a nun, he declares that he does not want to see her again. Gabriela, the other daughter, he says, shall be his wife. He had always dreamed, while in America toiling for the wealth which is now his, of some day being a gentleman, where he had once been a despised drudge. Moncada tells Victoria, who comes to see him, that he is ruined; but she urges him to trust to her, and decides upon making herself the sacrifice by renouncing the convent and marrying Jose to save her father. A pathetic interview takes place between Victoria and her former lover, Philip, Marquess de Malavella, who states his intention of entering a monastery; but, although Victoria as a nun may have been simple and saint-like, she shows considerable business aptitude in the stipulations she makes with Jose.

The second act finds him installed at the Santa Madrona Factory, and Victoria, as his wife and helpmate in business affairs. All has apparently gone well until she asks her husband not to foreclose on his mortgage on the estate of the Marquess de Malavella; then there is a scene. Subsequently Jose hands his wife a cheque with instructions to pay it into the bank; but obeying an impulse, she gives the cheque to Philip in order to relieve him from financial difficulty. Cruz comes in, a moment or two later, and asks for the cheque, and seeing Philip hanging about the grounds, sends a servant out to invite him to enter. He has to admit that Gabriela has given him the cheque, and he states that it was his intention to hand it back, hence his presence in the grounds. Cruz accuses him of sneaking about the place in order to make love to his—Cruz's—wife, and Philip, losing all self-control, is on the point of striking Cruz with an axe when Victoria recalls him to his better senses. As an outcome of the scene, she says she will go home with her sister and leave her husband.

In the third and last act the scene changes to a hospital at Santa Madrona, where a fête is being held. Husband and wife meet, there is a reconciliation between them, and Victoria agrees to overlook things conditionally upon her husband consenting, out of his vast wealth, to complete the hospital.

Mr. Charles Garry was very successful in the rôle of Jose Maria Cruz; it was a part that suited him admirably, and he played it with all the requisite forcefulness. Miss Katherine Harrington was most effective as Victoria, her acting being excellent throughout, and at no time overdone. Mr. E. S. Petley was good as Don Juan de Moncada, and Mr. Arthur Burne gave a clever presentment of the part of Philip. His brother Jaime found capable representation at the hands of Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon; whilst Mr. A. Austin-Leigh did well as Fernando Huguet. Miss Murielle Langley was a charming Gabriela, playing the part pleasingly; and Miss Muriel Currey did well as Dona Eulalia. Mrs. Cullen was a success as Marquesa de Malavella, and Miss Gladys Jones was all that could be desired as Sister Maria. Other characters were ably sustained by Miss Dorothy Watkinson as Carmeta, Miss Madeline Harrison and Miss Mariana Fountain as Nuns, Mr. G. W. Elton as Jordana, the Mayor of Santa Madrona, and Mr. H. G. Mason as Lluch, porter at the factory. The play was produced for Mr. Arthur Bourchier by Mr. A. Austin-Leigh.

ROYAL COLLEGE OPERATIC PERFORMANCE.

An excellent performance of Sir Charles Stanford's opera, *Shamus O'Brien*, was given by the operatic students of the Royal College of Music on Friday afternoon, Nov. 23, at the Scala Theatre, by kind permission of Mr. E. Distin-Maddick. *Shamus O'Brien*, it will be remembered, was produced at the Opera Comique in 1896, and several now famous artists appeared in the cast, the part of Nora being taken by Mme. Kirkby Lunn, Kittie by Miss Maggie Davis, while Mr. Denis O'Sullivan as Shamus, Mr. Magrath the Father O'Flynn, and Mr. Joseph O'Mara as the informer, Mike Murphy, completed the cast, Mr. Henry Wood conducting. In the performance given on Friday afternoon, the part of the patriotic and impulsive Shamus was enacted in a manly style by Mr. Arthur H. Wynn, and a most promising début was made by Mr. Edward G. Mercer, who sang and acted the character of the jovial Father O'Flynn with marked ability. Miss Ada M. Thomas as the lively and coquettish Kitty O'Toole displayed considerable gifts as an actress, being most ably seconded in her efforts by Mr. W. Spencer Thomas, who made a gallant Captain Trevor. The unhappy wife, Nora, was sympathetically acted by Miss Maggie Kirkbride, and, although the music is sung "off" the stage, the Banshee wail was beautifully delivered by Miss Gladys M. E. Honey. Mr. Denis Byndon-Ayres showed no small amount of humour in the part of the informer, Mike Murphy, particularly in the second act; and the parts of Sergeant Cox and the drummer were cleverly undertaken by Mr. Robert P. Chignell and Mr. Herbert A. Smith. Great praise must be awarded to the chorus for their intelligent singing and acting, and to Mr. Richard Temple, the stage-manager; while the spirited Irish jig, danced at the close of the first act, reflected the utmost credit on the students' dancing-instructor, Mr. B. Soutten. The picturesque dresses were lent by Mr. Neil-Forsyth, of the Royal Opera, and the scenery by the Pavilion Theatre Company. Sir Charles Stanford conducted, and the young orchestral students comprising the band admirably performed the bright, attractive score. On this occasion, Mr. G. H. Jessop's dialogue was given in recitative, which was not advantageous to the general effect, and somewhat hampered the young artists. At the close, all the principals and their conductor were called on, and heartily applauded by the large audience.

MR. EDITOR.—SIR,—In the notice of *The Beauty Shop* production your Ayr correspondent attributes the music to George Gee. It should have been —Yours faithfully, GEORGE ESS, T.R., Lincoln, Nov. 27.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

BRIXTON THEATRE LICENCE.

Mr. J. G. Hubbard presented a petition, signed by all the clergy and Nonconformist ministers in the district, against the granting of a music-hall licence to the Brixton Theatre. The consideration of this change of licence came before the County Council sitting as the licensing authority on Friday.

SUNDAY CONCERTS.

On the report of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee being presented, Alderman Dew asked the chairman of the committee whether his attention had been called to the holding of Sunday concerts at the Empire, Denmark-hill, for the purposes of private gain? Another question was, whether similar concerts had been held at Lambeth Baths.

Mr. Greenwood promised to make inquiries, and inform the hon. members of the result.

COMEDY THEATRE.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee recommended that the Charing Cross, West End, and City Electricity Supply Co., Ltd., be informed that the Council has no objection to their proposal to fix additional electric heaters at the Comedy Theatre provided certain stated conditions are complied with.

NEW THEATRES.

The committee had considered a drawing submitted by Mr. W. G. R. Sprague showing the provision of an additional floor to the dressing-room block at the new theatre in course of erection in Shaftesbury-avenue and Rupert-street. They recommended that Mr. Sprague be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by him with regard to the provision of an additional floor to the dressing-room block at the new theatre in course of erection in Shaftesbury-avenue and Rupert-street, upon condition that a cat ladder be fixed to give access from the small flat at about gridiron level to the roof of the dressing-room block.

The committee had considered a drawing submitted by Mr. W. G. R. Sprague showing an additional dressing-room to be constructed at the new theatre in course of erection in Shaftesbury-avenue and Wardour-street. They recommended that Mr. Sprague be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by him with regard to the additional dressing-room proposed to be constructed at the new theatre in course of erection in Shaftesbury-avenue and Wardour-street, provided the undermentioned conditions be complied with—(1) That a fire-resisting door be provided in the corridor between the two exit staircases; and (2) that a trap-door be provided in the roof over the top floor landing on the north staircase, and that a stair or ladder be fixed to give access thereto.

THE PLAYHOUSE.

The Committee had considered a drawing submitted by Messrs. Blow and Billerey, showing the proposed reconstruction of the stage at the Playhouse, Northumberland-avenue. They recommended that Messrs. Blow and Billerey be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by them with regard to the proposed reconstruction of the stage at the Playhouse, Northumberland-avenue, provided the whole of the woodwork in connection with the stage do consist of hard wood.

All the above recommendations were agreed to.

CASTLE THEATRE, RICHMOND.

On Thursday, Nov. 29, the Play, entitled "LIGHTS OUT."

It was only to be expected that so popular a play as *Lights Out* should draw a good audience, and the piece met with an enthusiastic reception, not only on the score of the intrinsic value of the play as on the all-round excellent interpretation it received at the hands of the particularly capable company. To Mr. J. Maunder Gregory too much praise cannot be given for the completeness and exceptional merit of the production. Mr. Wilton Reid played the brusque old Sergeant Volkhardt in commendable style; he was seen at his best in Act 4, but throughout the evening he contributed materially to the success of the performance. As the Lothario type of the German Army Mr. Lovel did wonderfully well as Lieut. Von Lauffen; very good, too, was the Corpl. Quiess of Mr. F. J. Bethell. To Mr. Richard Fielding fell the rôle of the luckless Corpl. Helbig; he handled the part with conspicuous success, and was enthusiastically applauded. Mr. Arthur Ross was excellent as Capt. Von Bannewitz; and good work was also done by Mr. Kenneth Brampton as Lieut. Von Howen. Major Paschke found a clever exponent in Mr. Lambert Plummer; and Mr. Henry Walliss was satisfactory as Lieut. Hagermeister. On Miss Octavia Kenmore fell the heaviest work in the play, and she displayed throughout talent of a very high order. The play was mounted with scrupulous care, and, all things considered, it may be said that *Lights Out* starts on an exceedingly prosperous voyage. It may be added that the production is stage-managed by Mr. F. J. Bithell, who was in the original Waldorf play. Mr. Arthur T. Barugh is the acting-manager, and very capably does he fill the duties of his office.

"ROBIN HOOD" AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Mr. Norman V. Norman concluded a successful week's engagement at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells, on Saturday with the romantic play of *Robin Hood*, by Dennis Clough and Cecil Jones. In the title-part Mr. Norman has undoubtedly a rôle which will stand out prominently among his past successes. His impersonation of the bold outlaw was in every respect admirable. He had the able co-operation of Miss Beatrice Wilson, who won all hearts as Maid Marian. Those who saw Miss Wilson's Lady Ursula earlier in the week expected great things of her Maid Marian, and they were not disappointed. Mr. Norman was also well supported by the other members of his company. Mr. Francis Hope was a valiant Friar Tuck, and inspired his part with all the requisite humour; Mr. Kenneth Bruce doubled the parts of the old Earl of Huntingdon in the prologue and of the lusty Little John in the main portion of the play; while Mr. Dennis Clough was a sufficiently martial Richard Cœur de Lion. Mr. Norman Leslie as Lord Guy and Mr. Bromber Wells as Sir William Trusty were not lacking in their due contribution to the atmosphere of the play; while Robin Hood's merrie men had, in addition to the omniscient Little John, excellent representatives in Messrs. Howard Brenan (as Will Scarlet), Frederick Luck (as Allen a Dale), W. R. Marshall, S. Greenley, and Miss Rushforth (as Stutely). Mr. B. Carrton made the most of the Abbot of Newark, and Mr. S. Wilkinson of the Sheriff of Nottingham; and Mr. Bernard Elliott made a realistic serf. Of the rôles for the ladies, Miss Dorothy West-Symes as the wife of the Sheriff of Nottingham, Miss Sybil Ruskin as Clarinda, Miss Hilda Gregory as Pomona deserve special mention; while Miss Betty Stannard was a comely page and Miss Mona Garland a charming forest maid. The scene of the play is, for the main part, laid in Sherwood Forest, with one scene on the ramparts of Nottingham Castle, and Mr. Norman is to be congratulated upon the admirable way in which the whole production is represented, as well as the spirited manner in which an atmosphere of old English chivalry is maintained.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. George Alexander has decided to become a candidate at the London County Council elections in March next. He will stand as an ordinary citizen, with a warm interest in London's general welfare. The old-fashioned idea of the theatrical manager as an indifferent citizen has long been dispelled, and the time has certainly come when the profession should be represented in our civic parliament—for which, it should be remembered, women as well as men have votes. We trust that artists of both sexes in the constituency for which Mr. Alexander stands will give him their fullest support, and will make a point of seeing that their votes are properly secured to them, if only for the purpose of recording them in favour of the popular manager of the St. James's.

Miss Marion Terry, who has so often in the course of her career appeared as the embodiment of human sympathy and graciousness, played the rôle in real life on the 23rd ult., when she opened a two-days' bazaar at Surbiton in aid of the funds of the local Cottage Hospital. In putting the claims of the charity before her hearers, Miss Terry said that they had all been sick and suffering, and knew the blessings and comforts of the attention given at hospitals, so that their sympathies were with that undertaking that day. She felt sure that she would not appeal in vain in asking them to spend generously, remembering that suffering was, in some form or another, the lot of all, and any alleviation of it was one of the highest privileges of their lives.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier's support in *Macbeth*, which will be given at the Garrick Theatre on the afternoons of the 11th and 13th inst., will be practically the same as that of the production at Stratford-on-Avon, with the exception that Mr. Sydney Valentine will play Banquo and Mr. Matheson Lang Macduff. Mr. Charles V. France is also a newcomer to the cast, which will be completed by Messrs. Leveson Lane, Walter Pearce, Douglas Imbert, William Burchill, Acton Bond. Alfred Bristowe, Reed, Douglas, Charles Goodheart, Lawson Butt, Frank Lacy, H. Nye Chart, Arthur Whitby, and Mrs. H. Nye Chart, Miss Olive Terry, Miss Evelyn Bateman, Miss Pamela Gaythorne, and Miss Nora Greenlaw, with Miss Violet Vanbrugh as Lady Macbeth.

Mr. E. A. Baughan, in a bright and lucid article in the *Daily News* on Sir Charles Stanford's speech at the recent banquet to Mr. T. P. O'Connor, says very truly that it is no part of a music publisher's duty to display an altruism in the conduct of his business which no one dreams of demanding from other business men. The music publisher supplies a demand; he cannot afford to create it, or even to foster it. "I cannot help thinking," says Mr. Baughan, "that Sir Charles Stanford should have examined his 'facts' more closely before delivering his public rebuke, for Belaïev should not have been held up as an example to the British publishers. Belaïev was a millionaire, and the encouragement of native Russian music was his peculiar fad. His patronage has been good for the Russian composer, but it has not succeeded, and could not succeed, in keeping the bulk of the works published before the public."

Mr. Edward Terry, who has been completely winning the hearts of the inhabitants of the Green Isle, was heartily recalled at the close of the performance of *Sweet Lavender*, at the Gaiety, Dublin, on Saturday. In response to demand for a speech, the poular comedian said he would not inflict a long oration on his audience, for they were now nearing the one day of the week upon which the actor ceased troubling and the critics were at rest. He was not yet able to speak the Irish language, but he hoped to be at some future date, for he knew the alphabet, and was the possessor of a grammar. As a veteran he could not hope to make the progress of a young man at a language—a very beautiful and interesting language—but he was working hard at his task, and he was looking forward to the time when he would be able to say something in Irish. So long as he was spared he would pay the usual visits to his Dublin constituents, and he was sure they would always extend to him a hearty "cead mile failte."

Miss Lena Ashwell received a genuine tribute to the excellence of her acting recently in America. She was appearing in New York as the brutally-treated wife of the old Boer farmer in *The Shulamite*, and had reached the scene where she falls on her knees by command of her elderly husband that he may the more conveniently flog her with his sjambok, when an indignant voice from the gallery shouted, "Darnation, don't stand it no longer! Shoot that old 'cuss' where he stands, or I guess I will, for the honour of the 'Stars and Stripes'!"

Mr. Martin Harvey's next Shakespearean production will be *Richard III.*, and it goes without saying that the versatile actor's impersonation of the crooked-back King will be awaited with particular interest. To-night Mr. Harvey, Miss de Silva, and company conclude a week's sojourn at the Opera House, Cork, doing a phenomenal week's business. On Monday Mr. Harvey commences the final week of his Hibernian tour at the Palace Theatre, Belfast. The gallery and upper circles have been secured by the students next Wednesday evening, and the booking for the week is already such as to place the issue beyond doubt. Mr. Harvey concludes his brilliantly-successful autumn tour by a week's performances at the Coronet Theatre, commencing Dec. 10—his only appearance in the suburbs for at least a year to come.

The season of German opera at Covent Garden will open on Jan. 14, when Mr. Ernest van Dyck, by arrangement with Messrs. Rendle and Forsyth, will for a period take up the reins of management. The opening performance will be *Tristan*, with Mr. Van Dyck in the title-rôle. The conductors for the season will be Herr Arthur Nikisch, Herr Leopold Reichwein (of the Grand Ducal Opera, Mannheim), and Herr Franz Schalk (of the Imperial Opera House, Vienna). M. Eugene Ysaye, the famous violinist and conductor of Beethoven's works, has been specially engaged to direct the performances of *Fidelio*. Mr. Carl Armbruster is also retained as conductor, but is entrusted with the direction of the chorus, in which he will be assisted by Professor Max Laistner, of London, and Herr Hugo Bryk, of Vienna. Leading vocalists from Bayreuth and other Continental centres have been engaged, and the season promises to be a brilliant one. A ballet of twenty-seven dancers, trained by Mr. Ambrosini, will be brought from Brussels. Prices will range from 2s. for a gallery seat to £4 14s. 6d. for pit and grand tier boxes.

Mr. Otho Stuart is the latest recipient of the King's command, and will present *Peter's Mother* at Sandringham on Friday evening next. On that occasion Wyndham's Theatre will be closed. *Peter's Mother* will be transferred to the Apollo on Monday, Dec. 10, when the audience will be given as a memento a copy of Mrs. de la Pasture's novel of the same name. On Dec. 10 also *Toddles* will travel from the Duke of York's to Wyndham's, with Mr. Cyril Maude and the members of the present company in their original characters. The Duke of York's will then remain closed for a week, reopening on the 18th with *Peter Pan*.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has very kindly forwarded a contribution to the fund for the jubilee testimonial to Mr. William Morgan, of Scarborough.

The Actors' Benevolent Fund annual dinner, it is well to remind our readers, takes place on Wednesday next at the Hotel Metropole. Sir Charles Wyndham, whose reappearance at the New last week was so cordially received that he contemplates an early return to active work, will preside. Sir Charles is one of the most delightful of after-dinner speakers, and his able advocacy of the claims of the Fund should show a result worthy to be ranked with any former achievement of the kind. The resources of the Fund will meanwhile be appreciably increased by a repetition of the performance of *David Garrick*, to be given by Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore in its behalf on Monday next.

With regret we record the death of Mrs. T. N. Wenman, widow of the late Tom Wenman, who was for a number of years with the late Sir Henry Irving. Mrs. Wenman passed peacefully away, death being due to heart failure, at her Clapham residence on Tuesday, and is to be laid to rest in the family vault at Norbiton on Tuesday next. Her age was fifty-one years.

We were glad to learn, upon inquiry yesterday at the Aldwych Theatre, that Mr. Seymour Hicks was greatly improved in health, and his return to the cast of *The Beauty of Bath* was anticipated as an almost immediate happening.

The Irving Memorial Committee held a meeting on Thursday, the 22nd, when Mr. John Hare attended. Mr. Cecil Raleigh occupied the chair, being supported by Messrs. Cyril Maude, Acton Bond, Lawrence Grant, Lewis Casson, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Letters from Mr. C. Hayden Coffin and Mr. F. R. Benson were read, and after a lengthy sitting the committee adjourned until that day week.

Colonel Mapleson has, we understand, at length succeeded in laying the foundation of a National Opera House in London. According to the plan drawn up by the veteran impresario, in conjunction with Mr. Ernest Runtz (the well-known architect) the new opera house will contain about 100 private boxes, about 600 orchestra stalls, an amphitheatre holding about 2000 persons, and, in all, sufficient space comfortably to accommodate an audience of about 4000. It is proposed to create a permanent orchestra to perform exclusively at the National Opera House, and another feature of the scheme will be a permanent chorus, who will be taught to sing in the language in which the opera is given. The principal singers will be selected from the chief European opera houses, and, in addition, prize vocalists from the Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, and foreign conservatoires will be given engagements. The programme for the National Opera House, as at present outlined, will be to give opera in English, Italian, French, and German, a specially organised English company being formed for the rendering of native works. Promenade concerts, oratorios in costume, and costume balls are also to figure among the attractions.

The sad death of Miss Charlotte Mead took place on the 22nd ult. after a short and sudden illness. Miss Mead was the daughter of the late Mr. Tom Mead, for many years a member of the late Sir Henry Irving's Lyceum Theatre company. She was also a member of Sir Henry's company. Of late years Miss Mead has played many parts with the Hutchison comedy companies, appearing in *A Country Mouse*, and the St. James's piece, *Saturday to Monday*, and finally as Miss Minching in *The Freedom of Suzanne* company, the members of which held her in the highest esteem.

The funeral took place on Friday. Among the wreaths was one from the members of her company, inscribed, "From Mabel Love and the members of *The Freedom of Suzanne* company, in loving and heartfelt sympathy from her brother and sister artists." Also a cross from Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison, inscribed, "In loving and deep sympathy." Mr. Hutchison attended the funeral to represent his mother and the members of the company.

Mr. William H. Day, who was recently playing Martin, the old-time servitor in Mr. Tree's production of *Colonel Newcome*, at His Majesty's, will create the chief rôle in *Crystal Gazing*, which is to be produced at the Hackney Empire on Monday. In his early days at Queen Victoria's own theatre, then under the management of Mary Moore's father, he went through the mill, as the saying is. In one night it was nothing for him to play in *Richard III.*, *Sarah's Young Man*, and *Sweeney Todd*. Once, in the last-mentioned play, he nearly lost his life. At the cue "If the world had one throat, how would I polish you off" the chair in which Mr. Day was sitting was supposed to disappear through a trap-door. Instead, however, it tipped to one side and smashed, throwing the actor with such violence on the back of his head that he was unconscious for three hours.

This is not the only time Mr. Day has had a hairbreadth escape. When engaged in Sims and Raleigh's play, *Fanny*, at the Strand, he had to journey to Islington, where the rehearsal was taking place. Travelling from Brixton he arrived at Aldersgate station just in time to find another train (in which the members of the company were) moving off from the other side of the platform. Dashing across as the train entered the tunnel, Mr. Day attempted to board it, but was knocked down. Amidst the screams and shouts of people on the platform, he was shot into the tunnel, but by good luck he was able to grasp an iron stanchion, and to cling to it while the train rushed past. When everybody expected to see a mangled form across the rails, Mr. Day crawled out, dusty and crestfallen, and made a bee-line for the toilet-room. After a wash and brush-up he journeyed to Islington, and rehearsed his part.

He has been all over the world, but perhaps his hardest piece of work was when he appeared before the King at Dublin with Mr. Beerbohm Tree. Starting from London on a Wednesday morning, the company arrived at North Wall at 8 p.m. After dinner the members adjourned to the theatre at 9.15, and after the piece on the boards was finished they commenced rehearsing *Trilby*. At six in the morning they began the rehearsal of *The Last of the Dandies*, which lasted until 8 a.m. In the forenoon there was another call, and when the King arrived that night everything was in readiness. After the performance the company caught the boat for Holyhead at 3.15 a.m. on Friday morning, when they had the first chance of a sleep since their arrival in Ireland.

Visitors to the Crystal Palace Theatre next week will find another treat in store for them in *The Prince of Pilsen*, presented by Mr. George Musgrove's company. Mr. Bannister Howard is well aware that so long as he continues to engage good companies in good plays he will go on receiving the support not only of the thousands of residents round about the Palace, but of those living further afield. The company playing *The Prince of Pilsen* includes Messrs. J. B. Fox, Villiers Arnold, Alfred Solby, Lawrence Wensley, D. O. Uglas, James Maddison, and Martin Adeson, and Mesdames Isa Bowman, Nell Emerald, Abele Roze, Meg Hamylton, Clarice Stanton, Iris Coley, Mimi Clancey, Ella Merton, Flora Grey, Stella Wost, Bessie Royce, Eva Howard, and Millicent Marsden.

The Bandmann Opera Company will next week start on tour in the Far East with *The Belle of Mayfair*, visiting, among other places, Bombay, Calcutta, Rangoon, Singapore, Hong-Kong, Shanghai, Manila, Yokohama, Colombo, and Cairo.

The Commissioners Committee held a meeting on Monday last, when Mr. Burton Cooke (of the Council) took the chair, being supported by Miss Rose Matthews and Messrs. Sam Major Jones and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary), Miss Lucy Sibley and Mr. F. J. Arlton were elected as members of the committee, and various questions affecting the well-being and future prosperity of the Actors' Association were discussed at considerable length. A suggestion was made as to obtaining the services of another gentleman on the committee, and the secretary received instructions to write to the member selected.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday last, when there were present Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, Thalberg Corbett, William Devereux, Lawrence Grant, Norman McKinnel, Algernon Syms, A. B. Tapping, Spencer Trevor, Frank Vernon, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). The hon. solicitors reported they had advised several members, and were requested to claim damages on behalf of a member against a manager for alleged breach of contract. The secretary reported that he had settled the claims of four members of the Association against a manager by dividing the monies recovered (after payment of costs and out-of-pocket expenses) from such manager equally between them, and referred to letters of thanks sent by the four recipients.

A question as to extending the operation and usefulness of the insurance schemes was under consideration, and the hon. solicitors were requested to look into the matter and advise the council at a later date. A communication from the Theatrical Managers' Association having been received, it was referred to the special committee, and the secretary was instructed to summon that body to a meeting at a date in the immediate future. The report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee was received. Dr. Mitchell Bruce was elected as an hon. member of the Association; Dr. O'Brien, of 94, East India Road, E., was elected as an hon. medical officer to the A.A. It was agreed that a former member be reinstated.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last. There were present Mr. Acton Bond (chairman), and Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford, Lawrence Grant, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Various matters connected with the financial position of the Association were considered, and instructions were given to the secretary as to settlement of accounts before the close of the present year.

Mme. Kate Flinn (Mrs. Basil Dawson), the accomplished professor of singing, who is responsible for the production of so many voices that have charmed the ear of the public, has opened a studio in Brighton, and visits it every Saturday. In order to demonstrate to the inhabitants of the popular watering-place the talents of her pupils, Mme. Flinn gave an "at home" recently in the Drawing-Room of the Hotel Metropole, which was attended by upwards of 160 people, representative of the best residents of the town, including Lord and Lady George Loftus, Miss Sassoon, Sir Valentine Grace, and many others. Tea was served in charming style in the Clarence Rooms after the music.

Amongst the pupils who sang was Miss Von Taysen, a young lady with a charming appearance and cultured voice, who distinguished herself in "Still vie die Nacht" (Bohm) and "Lovers in the lane" (Lehmann); Miss Ruby Cobbett, who has the rare gift of a pure contralto voice, sang "Lascio chio planga" and songs by Mallison; and Miss Barbara Ballestrell, a fine mezzo-soprano, who showed commendable skill in the control of the voice, rendered ballads by Chaminade and Parke. The singing was agreeably diversified by Miss Elaine Hawkins and Miss Eileen Molyneux, Mme. Flinn's little pupils, who sang and danced exquisitely. It seems almost incredible that Mme Flinn, who obtains such excellent results in the teaching of music of the highest class, should be equally expert in training in elocution and gesture and other forms of stage work, but those who have been under her care can testify to the wonders she is able to perform in the practice of her art.

"The Websters," a modern play, in three acts, by Frank Kingston, will be produced by the author at a special matinée at Terry's Theatre, on Tuesday, Dec. 11. A strong cast will include Miss Beatrice Berren, Miss Calypso Veletta, Mr. John Hanes, Mrs. Alice Chapin, Miss Margaret Hathaway, and Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon. Additional interest will be given to the production by certain lighting effects and innovations of which Mr. Kingston is the inventor.

Mr. Noel McGuckin, the son of the famous Barton McGuckin, has made a successful début at the Crystal Palace concerts. Fearing that he might be handicapped by his father's fine reputation, he decided to adopt another name, and now appears as Mr. Noel Fleming. Friends and admirers of Mr. Barton McGuckin will congratulate him on the success of his son, who is described as having an excellent tenor voice, which he uses remarkably well.

Mr. G. Wallace Johnston is to-day, on the termination of tour, concluding his engagement with Mr. Louis Calvert, and returns to Mr. Edward Compton, thus entering upon his fourth engagement with that gentleman. He will play Sir Lucius O'Trigger and other leading parts in old English comedy. Before joining Mr. Compton in 1904, Mr. Johnston was nearly four years with Mr. F. R. Benson, under whose management he played a large number of important juvenile and character parts.

Mr. Louis Calvert's pantomime at the Broadway will be *Cinderella*, specially written for the theatre by Mr. William Wade. Miss Lucie Caine will play the title-rôle and Miss Beatrice Edwards the principal boy. A novelty will be found in the fact that the Baroness will be played by a lady, the part falling to one of the Sisters Sprightly, whose clever associates play Dandini and Princess respectively. Others in the cast will be the Tally-Ho Trio, Fred Cary, the Pollard Brothers, and the Eight Sunrays. The scenery is being specially painted by Mr. Hugh Freemantle. A feature of the pantomime will be a crystal ballet, during which Cinderella's slipper is forged by the fairies. The pantomime will be produced on Boxing Morning, under the direction of Mr. Calvert, by Mr. Frederick Stanhope and Mr. William Giffard, the able manager of the theatre.

Miss Ada Blanche and Mr. Lionel Rignold, who have been touring that brilliant comedy *What the Butler Saw*, by Judge Parry and Fred Mouillot, terminate their second successful tour to-night, when the 260th performance under their management will be reached. Their winter and spring engagements start Dec. 22 at Blackpool. Miss Blanche travels up to Harrogate to assist at the first grand complimentary benefit to Mr. William Peacock, which is fixed for Dec. 19. Mr. Peacock, it will be remembered, married Addie Blanche, who appeared so often as principal girl with her sister, who retired from the profession on her marriage. Miss Ada Blanche will appear in her successful sketch *Becky Bounder*, and will be assisted by her sister, Miss Edith Blanche, and Mr. Douglas Blair and Mr. Hollins, two well-known Harrogate amateurs.

The fourth annual concert in aid of the benevolent funds of the Theatrical Employés Society will, by kind permission of Mr. Frank Rendle, be given in the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, to-morrow evening. The London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Mr. Landon Ronald, will play a number of orchestral items, and the following artists, in addition to Mr. Ronald, are kindly giving their services: Mme. Alice Esty, Mme. Mary Conly, Miss Helen Blain, Miss Marie Stiven, Mr. Joseph O'Mara, Mr. Herbert Grover, Mr. Hector Lightfoot, Mr. Charles Knowles, and Mr. Denis O'Sullivan. Mr. Fredk. B. Kiddle will be the accompanist, and play the organ in the "1812" overture. Her Grace the Duchess of Leeds Sir Charles Wyndham, Sir Charles V. Stanford, Sir Edward Moss, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Miss Kate Compton, Miss Constance Collier, Miss Lillian Braithwaite, Mr. Granville Barker, Miss Mary Moore, Miss Evelyn Millard, Mr. Lewis Waller, and a host of other theatrical celebrities are patrons of the concert.

Mr. Luscombe Searelle has received a flattering offer for the provincial rights of *Mizpah*, the offer including a large sum paid as advance royalties. Mr. Searelle, however, hesitates to make any provincial arrangements for the play till the London verdict on the work has been given. E. Ascherberg, the publisher of Mr. Searelle's tragic opera *The Kisses of Circe*, originally played in South Africa by the Moody-Manners Opera Co., is negotiating for the production of the work in Italy.

All the ladies' minor parts in *The Nun and Barbarian*, produced at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on Monday last, were, it is pleasing to note, played by students from Miss Bateman's Dramatic School. The acting-manager, in writing to the popular instructress, says: "Your girls are all charming and up to their work, and we shall always be like Oliver, and come 'for more.'"

It is understood that, on account of pressure of business, Mr. Henry C. Cavanah has resigned the position of acting-manager for Mr. Robert Arthur, at Aberdeen. Mr. Cavanah succeeded his father as manager of Her Majesty's Theatre in 1901, and has discharged the responsible duties with unfailing tact and ability.

No possible doubt can exist as to the success of *Lady Kinton's Necklace*, and both Servais Le Roy and W. Scott Phipp are to be congratulated on being the first to introduce such a novelty. The entertainment has been playing at the Queen's Theatre, Longton, during the week to packed and enthusiastic houses. On Tuesday Mr. Sheriff Howard circulated the following among the inhabitants of Longton and districts:—"To My Patrons,—On behalf of my proprietors, I can honestly advise you to see Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco in their incredibly marvellous entertainment. *Lady Kinton's Necklace* is a most interesting play, splendidly played, and mounted in every way worthy of a visit. The wonderful mystical effects woven into the story by Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco must be seen to be believed, and I have every confidence in advising you not to miss it." We understand that the show will be reproduced on July 29 next, and that numerous offers are already to hand for dates.

Mr. Henry C. Arnold, the lessee and manager of the Lyric Theatre, Liverpool, was accorded a bumper benefit on Thursday, the 22nd ult. Artists from most of the Liverpool and district theatres assisted, and Mr. Arnold's friends came from far and near to show their esteem for him.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier was present at the formation meeting of the Manchester branch of the British Empire Shakespeare Society on Wednesday, and said he was going to have the temerity to represent Macbeth at the Prince's Theatre next autumn, and would give prizes to members for essays on that production. The Dean of Manchester, who moved "that the society be formed," remarked that when Sir Henry Irving visited Harrow during his headmastership he made a delightful speech, telling the boys, whatever they might be afterwards, to keep to the habit of reading the Bible and Shakespeare.

Mr. Oscar Asche will add another to the illustrious list of Othellos in the course of his week at the Camden Theatre, where he begins his tour on Feb. 18 next with *The Taming of the Shrew*. Miss Lily Brayton will be the Desdemona, and Mr. Alfred Brydone the Iago. The itinerary will include visits to various suburban theatres, after which a tour of the principal provincial cities will be made.

Miss Maud Darling, who is to appear as principal girl in *Humpty-Dumpty* in the forthcoming pantomime at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, was married on Monday at St. Cuthbert's Church, Darlington, to Mr. Leonard Brockleby Holford, second son of Mr. Edwin Holford, of Oxton, Cheshire. Miss Olive Watson, sister of the bride, was the bridesmaid, Mr. Bert Holford, brother of the bridegroom, was the best man, and the bride was given away by her father. After a reception at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Holford left by motor-car for Sheffield, en route for Devonshire, for the honeymoon.

Mr. George Alexander will celebrate the anniversary of *His House in Order*, which will be reached on Friday, Feb. 1, by the presentation to every member of the audience of a handsome copy of the piece. The booklet will contain photographs of the leading characters in Mr. Pinero's great play, and will furnish a memento which will be highly prized by every visitor to the St. James's on that occasion.

The libel case instituted by Mr. Seymour Hicks came before Mr. Justice Sutton at Liverpool Assizes on Wednesday, when Frederick Henry Woolfries, who has masqueraded as the brother of the Misses Phyllis and Zena Dare, pleaded guilty to publishing a defamatory libel concerning Mr. Hicks. Counsel on both sides addressed the Court, after which his Lordship, in delivering judgment, told the prisoner that he had pleaded guilty to a libel which exposed Mr. Hicks to hatred and contempt, and which attempted to take away the character of Miss Phyllis Dare. This libel must have caused deep distress to the near relatives of both families. Prisoner's counsel had asked him to take into consideration that he did this only for the purpose of obtaining notoriety with the girl towards whom he was on affectionate terms for some time. He (the learned judge) could not take that into consideration, and he came to the conclusion that he could not pass a less sentence than eight months' imprisonment.

The Assembly Rooms, Malvern, have been taken on lease by Mr. M. T. Stevens, the proprietor of the *Malvern Gazette*. Extensive improvements are being carried out, and the holding capacity of the hall, now 850, will be increased. Mr. Stevens has been the promoter of a very successful Shakespearean Week in Malvern for the past five years, which has on each occasion been conducted by Mr. F. R. Benson and his principal company.

Mme. Patti will bid farewell to the public this afternoon at the Albert Hall. Though the famous cantatrice has had a musical career extending over fifty-six years, her voice retains its remarkable qualities almost unimpaired, and Mme. Patti has decided to retire while still in the fulness of her powers. The audience at the Albert Hall this afternoon will be a brilliant one, and earnest indeed will be the wishes for prolonged life and happiness for Baroness Cederström.

Two revivals are due this evening—*A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Adelphi and *The Cricket on the Hearth* at Terry's. The latter piece, it is interesting to recall, was produced for the first time in London by Mr. W. H. C. Nation, the present lessee of Terry's, at Sadler's Wells something over thirty years ago, with Mr. George Belmore, Mr. Thomas Swinburne, and Mr. Charles Warner in the cast. To-night's revival will employ the talents of Messrs. Charles Groves, A. B. Imeson, Campbell Bishop, and Armstrong, and Misses Frances Ruttledge, Gladys Archbutt, Tempest, and Stainer.

The pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Belfast, this Christmas will be *Mother Goose*. The libretto is by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and the music composed and arranged by Mr. S. P. Swanton. The principals include Miss Carlotta Levey as principal boy, Miss Molly McIntyre as principal girl, Miss May Moore Duprez, Miss Elsie Roby, Miss Anna Kenwick, and Messrs. Martin Adeson, Wm. Cromwell, J. P. Marsden, Harrigan and Holt, with specialities by the Eight Little Rosebuds. The pantomime will be produced under the experienced direction of Mr. Fred W. Warden, managing-director of the Theatre Royal and Palace, Belfast, and after running four weeks will be transferred to Dublin.

The third complimentary benefit to Mr. Harold Goulden, acting-manager of the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, will take place on the afternoon and evening of the 12th inst. Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Hall Caine, the Mayor of Salford, and Sir William Bailey are among the influential patrons.

Mr. Albert Duncan, the acting-manager of the King's Theatre, Cardiff, where he is highly popular, has resigned his position, much to the regret of the frequenters of that house, and is leaving this week for a new sphere of activity.

Miss Maudie Ray, who has been successfully playing the title-rôle in Mr. Tree's *Oliver Twist* company on tour, has been engaged by Mr. John Hart for the Theatre Royal, Manchester, to play Boy Babe in his forthcoming production of *Babes in the Wood*.

Mr. Dare Austin successfully sustained Mr. Frederic Jaques' part of Hamilton Travers in *Are You a Mason?* at the Theatre Royal, Darlington, during the latter's recent indisposition.

Mr. Horace Butler, whose death at Croydon took place on the 23rd ult., was for many years a well-known actor-manager and the proprietor of several theatres in North of England towns, including Darlington, Bishop Auckland, and Stockton. He also toured with several of his own plays, amongst these being *The Flying Colt*, a well-known racing drama. He had also, in the course of his long stage career, played with most of the principal stars, including the late Wilson Barrett. Until within three weeks of his death the deceased was a member of Mr. T. Rice Cassidy's company, and played a part in the drama, entitled *In Holy (!) Russia*.

Mr. Charles Hannan's pathetic one-act play, *The Setting of the Sun*, now being given at the New Royalty Theatre, will be included in Miss Florence Glossop-Harris's répertoire when she starts on her tour next month. Miss Glossop-Harris will play the rôle so charmingly sustained at the New Royalty Theatre by Miss Phyllis Relph. Mr. Hannan's comedy, *The Electric Man*, gives unmistakable evidence of having caught on at the Royalty, and has every appearance of being in for a long and successful run.

Mr. Norman V. Norman's production of Dennis Cleugh and Cecil Duncan Jones's romantic play *Robin Hood* is meeting with the greatest success, the house being filled with enthusiastic audiences, who applaud Mr. Norman as Robin Hood and Miss Beatrice Wilson as Maid Marian to the echo. In the prologue to the play Mr. Norman, who has the reputation of being one of the finest swordsmen on the stage, has a combat, in which he engages six Norman soldiers at one time—a thrilling incident that invariably brings down the house. At Southampton this week an enthusiastic playgoer in the audience sent Mr. Norman a message to the effect that it was the most sensational fight he had seen for thirty years, and he had not been so excited since his youthful days of Rugby football.

Mr. Hoggan Armadale was the victim of a most unfortunate accident at Wellingborough last Monday evening, receiving the thrust of the rapier of his opponent in the duel scene full in the face, which caused him to fall to the ground. The curtain was immediately lowered, and a doctor summoned. Mr. Armadale happily recovered sufficiently on the following day to reappear with his customary success as the Vicar of Wakefield, in Charles Hannan's *Sweet Olivia*, a part which he has been successfully performing for the past three years.

A great feature of the forthcoming performance of *The Taming of the Shrew* by the O.U.D.S. will be the appearance of Miss Lily Brayton (Mrs. Oscar Asche) as Katharina. The part of Bianca will be taken by Miss Agnes Brayton. The play, which will be given from Feb. 6 to 12, will be produced under the direction of the well-known and experienced stage-manager, Mr. G. R. Foss.

At this afternoon's concert at the Crystal Palace Mark Hambourg, the great Russian pianist, will be heard, and will be assisted by Boris Hambourg, Jan Hambourg, Ida Kopetschny, and Benno Scherek. In the evening there will be a grand Scotch concert, when Scotch songs, selections, and part songs will be given. The artists include Miss Leonora Sparkes, Mr. William Maxwell, Mr. Charles Bennett, and Miss Jessie Bowater. The Crystal Palace Choir will be conducted by Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock, who will also, with Mr. Fred W. Holloway, act as accompanist, and the military band will be conducted by Mr. Herbert Godfrey.

"On the Side of the Angels," the new play by W. L. Courtney, which will be produced by the Pioneers at the Royalty on Sunday, Dec. 16, will be powerfully cast. The characters are allotted to Messrs. Norman McKinnel, Matheson Lang, Arthur Playfair, George Bealby, Daniel McCarthy, Frank Cochrane, and A. Vane Tempest, and Misses Lilian Braithwaite, Granville, Agnes Thomas, Florence Haydon, Eily Malyon, and Mabel Beardsley.

Flattering reference to the excellence of the Morton management was paid by Mrs. Russ Whytal at the Theatre Royal, Hull, last week. At the close of her visit with *Alice Sit-by-the-Fire* the popular actress thanked the audience for their kindly reception. Her visit to their town, where she received so much kindness from the management, had, as always, been most delightful. The "Mortons" were indeed among the best managements in Great Britain, and the encouragement she received from them ever since her first visit to this country, some two years since, was beyond expression.

Pit and gallery seats will be numbered at the matinée which is to take place at the Scala Theatre on Monday afternoon in aid of five well-known animals' societies. A fine programme has been arranged, including Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Margaret Cooper, Miss Marie Dainton, Miss Maggie May, Miss Nancy Price, Mr. Lawrence Irving, Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Charles Capper, and a large number of other well-known artists.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

DR. KARL BLEIBTREU, the German writer, has come to the conclusion that the real author of Shakespeare's plays was not "the Warwickshire thief" but Roger, Earl of Rutland, the son-in-law of Sir Philip Sidney. One of Herr Bleibtreu's reasons for thinking this is that the Earl went to Denmark in 1603 to attend the baptism of the Danish Crown Prince; hence the "local colour" of *Hamlet*. The Earl, we are informed, actually met a Guildenstern and a Rosencrantz at the Danish Court, and the two young Barons Rosencranz were fellow students of the Earl at Padua.

APROPOS of Elsinore, some amusing facts are related in "Baedeker." It seems that the authorities and guides of the place were so pestered by applications from tourists and visitors to be shown "Ophelia's Grave," that at last, in self-defence, they prepared a very picturesque one for exhibition purposes, and it is now one of the "lions" of Elsinore. This is only another instance of the superior enterprise shown by the inhabitants of Continental resorts in making them interesting and attractive.

ANOTHER "cheery" drama has been produced in Berlin. Franz Wedekind, the author, is one of Germany's most "modern" playwrights. His latest production, *Frühling's Erwachen* (Spring's awakening), which was given at the Deutsches on the 22nd ult., is called a "children's tragedy." It is the story of two schoolboys and of a schoolgirl not yet out of short skirts. One of the boys, Melchior, is a brute; the other, Moritz, more refined and of morbid nature, falls under his friend's evil influence, and commits suicide. The innocent Wendla is a victim of Melchior's vice, and dies in consequence of her mother's efforts to conceal the effects of the crime. Melchior escapes from the house of correction, and goes by night to Wendla's grave. Here he meets the shade of Moritz, with his head under his arm, and the dead and the living converse amicably. A masked individual of the male sex appears, who orders poor Moritz back into his grave, while he leads Melchior, with friendly promises, into the world again. Who the amiable gentleman is the audience is not told, but may conclude that he is the impersonation of Life.

THE overture to *The Yeomen of the Guard* which Mrs. D'Oyly Carte will revive at the Savoy Theatre next Saturday, was composed and scored in twelve hours. Sir Arthur Sullivan was a very rapid worker, and thus described his method :—"My first work—the jotting down of the melodies—I term sketches. When I have finished these, the creative part of my work is completed. When the sketch is finished, the work is drawn out in so-called 'skeleton score'; that is, with all the vocal parts, rests for symphonies, &c., completed, but without a note of accompaniment or instrumental work of any kind. Then the rehearsals begin. On those occasions I 'vamp' an accompaniment. It is not until the music has been thoroughly learnt, and the rehearsals on the stage with the necessary action and business are well advanced, that I begin orchestration." Sir Arthur always considered *The Yeoman of the Guard* his best opera.

ONE of the functions of the drama is to instruct; and Miss Clara Lipman's play, *Julie Bonbon*, informs us of many American matters. Our attention is called to the marvellous variety of inflexions of which the American accent is capable, from that of the little messenger boy to that of the proud inhabitant of a house "on" Fifth Avenue. It is a great mistake to suppose that this accent is one and indivisible. To a trained ear, the speech of the Eastern, Southern, or Western States is easily distinguishable. And in *Julie Bonbon* we also have the French accent "breaking through" the American, as the gentleman broke through the footman in an historical performance.

TOLSTOY has confessed, in an article in the *Fortnightly Review*, that he cannot see much in Shakespeare. He says :—"I remember the astonishment I felt when I first read Shakespeare. I expected to receive a powerful, æsthetic pleasure; but, having read, one after the other, works regarded as his best—*King Lear*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Macbeth*—not only did I feel no delight, but I felt an irresistible repulsion and tedium, and doubted as to whether I was senseless in feeling works regarded as the summit of perfection by the whole of the civilised world to be trivial and positively bad, or whether the significance which this civilised world attributes to the works of Shakespeare was itself senseless. My consternation was increased by the fact that I always keenly felt the beauties of poetry in every form; then why should artistic works recognised by the whole world as those of a genius—the works of Shakespeare—not only fail to please me, but be disagreeable to me? For a long time I could not believe in myself; and during fifty years, in order to test myself, I several times recommenced reading Shakespeare in every possible form, in Russian, in English, in German, and in Schlegel's translation, as I was advised. Several times I read the dramas and the comedies and historical plays, and I invariably underwent the same feelings—repulsion, weariness, and bewilderment."

AFTER a long and derisive scenario of *King Lear*, Tolstoy, in his article, continues :—"Such is this celebrated drama. However absurd it may appear in my rendering—which I have endeavoured to make as impartial as possible—I may confidently say that in the original it is yet more absurd. For any man of our time—if he were not under the hypnotic suggestion that this drama is the height of perfection—it would be enough to read it to its end (were he to have sufficient patience for this) in order to be convinced that, far from being the height of perfection, it is a very bad, carelessly composed production, which, if it could have been of interest to a certain public at a certain time, cannot evoke amongst us anything but aversion and weariness. Every reader of our time who is free from the influence of suggestion will also receive exactly the same impression from all the other extolled dramas of Shakespeare, not to mention the senseless dramatised tales, *Pericles*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, *Cymbeline*, *Troilus and Cressida*."

IN the same review, Mr. St. John Hankin, in an article on "Puritanism and the English Stage," denounces the influence of the censorship on English dramatic art, and pleads for the building of an Art Theatre where the playright may be free from the supervision of that functionary. Says Mr. Hankin in the course of his article :—"There is, however, another form of Puritanism whose hostility to the English theatre is of more recent growth. In fact, it scarcely seems to have existed till quite modern times. This is not a Puritanism of faith or morals. Indeed, it is often quite ostentatiously free from either. It is a sort of Puritanism of the intellect and is not always distinguishable from Priggishness. I remember once asking a well-known man of letters what he thought of a certain play which was then having a considerable success in London. His reply was, 'Oh, I never go to the theatre.' Do you imagine that he made this confession with a certain diffidence, a hint of deprecation even, as one that might need some apology coming from a literary critic who had written a good deal on Ibsen and the musical glasses? On the contrary. He said it with that curl of the lip, that accent of intense superiority and conscious virtue with which our middle-class citizen tells you that he 'never enters a public-house.' I have been somewhat coy about referring to the theatre in literary circles since then, but if ever the subject has arisen—it seldom does—I have usually detected the same curl of the lip."

"JULIE BONBON."

A Play, in Four Acts, by Miss Clara Lipman, Played, for the First Time in London, at the Waldorf Theatre, on Monday, Nov. 26.

Julie Bonbon ..... MISS LIPMAN
Jean Poujol ..... MR. MANN
Mrs. Schuyler Van Brunt ..... MISS IDA LEWIS
John Schuyler Van Brunt.. MR. ROBERT CONNESS
Mr. John Stevens..... MR. GEORGE PAUNCEFORT
Mrs. Johnson ..... MISS ADA MAY TALBOT
Grace Moreland ..... MISS MURIEL MCARTHUR
Mrs. Dan Laverty ..... MISS JENNY LAMONT
Mrs. Lester ..... MISS CORNELIA LYNDS
Annie ..... MISS MADELEINE DALLAS
Katie ..... MISS BEATRICE BERTRAND
Caroline ..... MISS LEONA STEVENS
Arabella ..... MISS JANE FEARNLEY
Charlie ..... MR. MARTIN G. BROWN
Freddie ..... MR. GILBERT MILLER
Eddie..... MR. ALBERT LATSCHA
Schwartz ..... MR. ANTHONY ASHER
August ..... MR. JOHN ADOLFI
Second Waiter ..... MR. MAURICE ELVY
Dr. Bustling ..... MR. W. THORNTON SIMPSON
Soloist ..... SENOR EOLO CELLINI
Messenger Boy ..... CHARLIE BARRISCALE
Newsboy ..... PERCY CLIFTON
Louise ..... MISS RHODA RAY
Dan ..... MR. SAM WHITE
James ..... H. CARTER
Salvation Army Lassie.. MISS MARJORIE HUBERT

Memories of *Caste* must have come to many of those who saw Miss Clara Lipman's play, *Julie Bon-Bon*, at the Waldorf Theatre on Monday evening. But the *motif* of the girl of the people who is sought in marriage by a man of the upper class, and is sorely troubled by her connection with a tipsy and disreputable parent, can be told in many ways; and Miss Lipman's treatment of the idea is decidedly and distinctively American. Indeed, the piece is so essentially New-Yorkish in flavour that it is slightly handicapped in England by the presentation of a society unfamiliar to mere Britishers. Julie Bonbon, the heroine, is the proprietress of a fashionable millinery shop "on" Fifth-avenue. Her real name is Poujol; and her father, Jean Poujol, is a base and intemperate old rascal, who lives upon her, and is a decided encumbrance to his brave and industrious daughter. This is severely felt when she falls in love with John Schuyler Van Brunt, the eldest son of an American family of aristocratic importance. Mrs. Van Brunt is violently opposed to the proposed *mésalliance*, and she comes to the shop to buy Julie off. Her offer is rejected with scorn; and then the enraged mother engages detectives to investigate the girl's antecedents and connections. Though strictly virtuous, Julie has lived the free life of the independent woman, and is followed, "for the bad motive," by an elderly rake called John Stevens. Mrs. Van Brunt tries to "pump" him as to Julie's conduct, in order to make her son believe in the worthlessness of his *fiancée*; and she also invites Jean Poujol to the house in Fifth-avenue, in order to show John Schuyler what sort of a father-in-law he has in prospect. Poujol arrives, and thoroughly disgraces himself, stealing cigars and wine, and trying to make his daughter's marriage with Van Brunt a matter of barter. On his demands being denied, he flies into a furious passion, and "flings" out of the house. John Schuyler, who is beginning to have doubts of Julie's virtue, goes with his cousin, Grace Moreland, to a Bohemian restaurant, where a supper is being given to Julie by Stevens, to celebrate her birthday. Mrs. Van Brunt, by feigning illness, makes the young man break his appointment with his fiancée; and, when he arrives at the restaurant, Julie is egged on by the statements of Stevens and the suggestions of her companions to quarrel with him, and, in her distress and desperation, to behave in the wildest way, standing on a table to be pelted with roses, and doing a reckless dance. John Schuyler, who understands her feelings, tries to check her; but she is in such a state of excitement and indignation that she repulses him, and falls fainting on the floor. In the end, however, Van Brunt is touched by her wish to sacrifice her love for him to his welfare, and all obstacles to their union are removed.

Decidedly the most striking thing in the performance was the Jean Poujol of Mr. Mann. He makes the old rascal extremely grotesque and not a little amusing. Poujol has a stoop and a suspicion of a hunch-back. His nose and lips are of a purplish-red, and his "sloppy" trousers and shuffling, uncertain gait, all add to the picture he presents in the first act. Later on, when he appears in evening dress, Mr. Mann emphasises the rarity of such display on Poujol's part by his sufferings from a pair of tight patent leather boots. His business, when left alone in the Van Brunt library, is admirably worked up, and holds the attention of the audience for several minutes. Miss Moreland, it should be stated, is in hiding behind a curtain, whence she watches Poujol purloin a fan, and fill his bottle from the wine-decanter on the table. At each fresh movement the young lady makes a noise, startling the nervous "sponger" sharply. Our readers can easily imagine how this business "goes." In his paroxysms of rage, Mr. Mann shows his teeth with a strong resemblance to an angry ape; and, in the third act, he introduces a vast amount of characteristic detail, pushing down waiters, and making himself a nuisance to the Bohemian guests by his boasting and violence. Mr. Mann's reading of the part does not err on the side of under-emphasis, and certainly his Jean Poujol makes a strong impression on the audience. Miss Lipman gives a realistic representation of a warm-hearted, excitable *française*—a woman of the people, with a good heart and ungovernable impulses. There is no attempt to moderate the violence of the character, or to indicate that Julie, by exceptional refinement, is suited to fill a position above her own. Miss Lipman has plenty of energy and dramatic power, and she displays both qualities in the noisy scene in the third act, in which Julie "carries on" wildly in order to exasperate John Van Brunt. Mrs. Van Brunt has a firm and sound exponent in Miss Ida Lewis, who plays the part with solid confidence and excellent ease and balance. Mr. Robert Conness is frank, manly, and earnest as John Schuyler Van Brunt, and looks the character extremely well. Miss Ada May Talbot is clever and competent as Mrs. Johnson; and Miss Muriel McArthur depicts Grace Moreland with commendable tact and discrimination. A neat and comical character-sketch is supplied by Miss Jenny Lamont as Mrs. Dan Laverty; and Miss Cornelia Lynds fills to satisfaction the rôle of Mrs. Lester, Miss Madeleine Dallas being effective as the forewoman, and the shop-girls and boys being creditably represented. Mr. George Paunceforth supplies a clear-cut and polished performance as John Stevens. Mr. Anthony Asher, well made up, gives an interesting sketch of a New York restaurant-keeper; and Mr. John Adolfi is energetic as an irritated and injured waiter. Mr. W. Thornton Simpson is a smart and business-like doctor; and Senor Eolo Cellini sings well as the Soloist. The minor parts all have competent representatives, and the scenery, by Physioc, is thoroughly good, Mr. Louis Mann's production of the piece being thoroughly satisfactory.

ECCENTRIC CLUB DINNER.

Mr. Lionel Brough presided at the sixteenth anniversary dinner of the Eccentric Club, held at the Hotel Cecil on Sunday, the vice-chair being taken by Mr. Alfred Ellis. It had been previously arranged that Mr. Seymour Hicks should act as chairman on this occasion, but the sudden illness of that gentleman prevented his fulfilling the office. There was a big assembly of members of the club and visitors, the names, according to the table list, being as follow :—Major Russell Finley, Mr. Alfred Grunebaum, Colonel C. Allen, Mr. Oscar Barrett, Mr. Austin Brereton, Mr. Ormande Kalisz, Mr. Sidney Dark, Mr. Carl Hentschel, Mr. Chris Taylor, Mr. T. McDonald Rendle, Mr. Max Clarke, Mr. G. Hubbard, Mr. A. W. Moore, Mr. S. Groner, Mr. B. Seeker, Mr. C. Groner, Mr. L. Levy, Mr. J. Briggs, Mr. W. Briggs, Mr. S. W. Heaton, Mr. C. E. L. Wright, Mr. C. Sheather, Mr. A. J. Sewell, Mr. B. D. Robbins, Mr. G. H. Frost, Mr. Laidlaw Smith, Mr. J. Moverley Sharpe, Mr. Walter Wallis, Mr. W. G. R. Sprague, Mr. Sidney Marlow, Captain Carradeas, Dr. Brimacombe, Mr. M. Dockrell, Mr. Robert Jones, Dr. Morgan Dockrell, Mr. J. W. M. Jarrett, Mr. S. Garcia, Mr. M. J. Garcia, Mr. Joseph Davis, Mr. Joseph Lyons, Mr. Fred Riley, Mr. E. Haines, Colonel H. T. Hewitt, Mr. Edward Rosenheim, Mr. Robert Burrow, Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. Denby Hare, Mr. R. Westmacott, Mr. C. J. Warburton, Colonel Diver, Mr. P. W. Arnold, Mr. J. W. Nightingale, Mr. W. Lyall, Mr. K. Harvey, Mr. J. Goodbun, Mr. W. E. Hobbs, Mr. L. G. Jackson, Mr. W. Hedges, Mr. S. G. Rome, Mr. S. Fredericks, Mr. Fred Fredericks, Mr. A. M. Woolf, Mr. J. M. Flatau, Mr. J. George, Mr. W. C. Clarke-Frost, Mr. E. Mayou, Mr. Guy Lane, Mr. L. Booth, Mr. B. Pellosi, Mr. G. Welch, Major Woodward, Major Stevens, Mr. G. H. Huddart, Mr. W. H. Miles, Mr. H. Jacoby, Mr. T. Jacobus, Mr. J. Franks, Mr. H. Joyner, Mr. D. Curzon, Mr. L. Curzon, Mr. E. Duffin, Hon. A. Bourke, Mr. R. A. Young, Mr. N. Williams, Mr. C. H. Craggs, Mr. A. J. Brown, Mr. G. Fitzgerald, Mr. F. N. Salaman, Mr. O. R. Borradaile, Mr. A. P. Manton, Mr. Walter Hookway, Mr. H. Mattingley, Mr. H. McClory, Mr. H. Brass, Dr. Collier, Mr. E. Bratt, Mr. T. S. Jackson, Mr. George Shepherd, Mr. Harry Milton, Mr. H. J. Rimell, Mr. A. Gutirrez, Mr. A. Winter, Mr. P. H. Winter, Mr. F. W. Marten, Mr. R. Salem, Mr. James Thompson, Mr. T. Thompson, Mr. J. Thompson, Mr. C. A. Salaman, Mr. C. Rock, Mr. W. M. Borradaile, Mr. Wardropp, Mr. R. Goodall, Mr. A. Braff, Mr. G. W. P. Johnstone, Mr. G. Morden, Mr. T. Jackson, Mr. W. Milton, sen., Mr. W. Milton, jun., Mr. F. J. Parsons, Mr. A. Nisbet, Mr. A. Eyles, Mr. A. Thurston, Mr. F. Anstiss, Mr. H. J. Young, Mr. S. Gotto, Mr. Victor Crichton, Mr. H. T. Robinson, Mr. Richard L. Warner, Mr. Laurence Caird, Lord de Clifford, Mr. C. J. Smith, Mr. R. D. Cummings, Mr. W. Rosenheim, Mr. I. Seaman, Mr. W. M. Wilson, Mr. H. F. Burrows, Mr. H. Nowell, Mr. W. E. Mandelick, Mr. S. Vandenburgh, Mr. W. G. Dickenson, Mr. C. B. Cochrane, Mr. B. W. Rose, Mr. R. H. Drysdale, Mr. A. E. Gatcombe, Mr. W. W. Thornton, Mr. Milton Abelson, Mr. S. Kutnow, Mr. Max Mendelssohn, Mr. J. Durkin, Mr. Bryan O'Donell, Mr. V. Blackburn, Mr. H. Baker, Mr. H. Pilet, Mr. J. Otto Schuler, Mr. James Stephens, Mr. S. Attenborough, Mr. J. M. McLeod, Mr. Hy. Lewis, Mr. A. G. Chifferiel, Mr. A. G. Christmas, Mr. F. B. Pitcher, Major Stevens, Mr. J. Fischer, Mr. A. Gretner, Mr. C. M. York, Mr. W. J. Calder, Mr. C. Tod Pullen, Mr. Frank Lewis, Mr. G. May, Mr. Thomas Cooper, Mr. John Le Hay, Mr. John Woodhouse, Mr. P. Hedderwick, Mr. C. J. Taylor, Mr. David Day, Mr. R. Bastinellio, Mr. Percy Dowling, Mr. Frank Shorland, Mr. W. J. Harvey, Mr. Max Malini, Mr. Albert Whelan, Mr. Tom Clare, Mr. Fred Stephens, Mr. Whitworth Mitton, Mr. Robert Radford, M. Joska Szigeti, Mr. Arthur Godfrey, Mr. Sinclair Mantell, Mr. Auguste Van Biene, Mr. P. Garcia, Mr. B. Lydington, Mr. Fred Brewer, Mr. J. B. Ellis, Mr. E. J. Venner, Mr. H. Hitchins, Mr. T. J. Richards, Mr. T. Green, Mr. A. N. G. Aitken, Mr. J. Ferguson, Mr. C. Temperley, Mr. Ernest Baker, Mr. W. Dowling, Mr. H. Cazman, Mr. C. Davis, Mr. George Mozart, Dr. Robertson, Mr. Robert Michaelis, Mr. Charles Cautley, Mr. Herbert Lloyd, Mr. Herbert Shelley, Mr. H. Reynolds, Mr. H. E. Scott, Mr. Frank Boor, Mr. J. A. Harrison, Mr. Tom Honey, Mr. G. Turner, Mr. L. A. Harward, Mr. E. C. Wheater, Mr. F. Chaine, Mr. A. B. Randall, Mr. S. B. Joel, Mr. A. R. Stephenson, Mr. Eugene Corrie, Mr. T. Tapling, Mr. C. Lacell, Mr. H. E. Marshal, Mr. George Everett, Mr. Percy Leftwich, Mr. F. Banks, Mr. W. J. Smith, Mr. W. H. White, Mr. S. Asher, Mr. H. Barnato, Mr. J. L. Nathan, Mr. White, Mr. Charles Eves, Mr. F. Coleman, Mr. E. Theobald, Mr. J. H. McFadden, Mr. H. Desommes, Mr. G. C. Ralli, Mr. R. Collinge, Mr. W. E. Whineray, Mr. Harry Murdoch, Mr. Alec Wood, Mr. E. B. Palmer, Mr. Harry Carver, Mr. Thomas Fraser, Mr. Alfred Ellis, Mr. A. M. Binstead, Mr. H. Woodford, Mr. H. Titmas, Mr. C. C. Blundell, Mr. G. W. Edwards, Mr. W. H. Williams, Mr. Otto Scholzig, Mr. W. Potter, Mr. Martin Jacolette, Mr. A. Corbett, Mr. W. E. Downey, Mr. G. F. Carr, Mr. S. J. Pallant, Mr. S. Hookway, Mr. C. E. Bulling, Mr. John De Ville, Mr. Fred Evans, Mr. Harry Smith, Mr. E. T. Platt, Mr. J. C. Brock, Mr. G. Sanderson, Mr. Passmore Edwards, Dr. W. H. George, Mr. Walter J. W. Beard, Mr. I. N. Lyons, Mr. T. E. Baines, Mr. W. O'Brien, Mr. W. Harwood, Mr. W. Devereux, Mr. E. W. Bayley, Mr. R. Davidson, Mr. T. Barrasford, Mr. B. Nathan, Mr. B. Lane, Mr. C. Tyrer, Mr. Arthur Aldin, Mr. W. H. Baylis, Mr. F. Bennet, Mr. J. H. Bennet, Mr. James Trier, Mr. George Moore, Mr. W. E. Osborn, Mr. E. C. Lendon, Mr. H. Westcott, Mr. E. Suffolk, Mr. L. H. Bauer, Mr. H. O. Mack, Mr. C. J. Mate, Mr. F. W. Trott, Mr. J. Sheather, Mr. W. M. Darvell, Mr. C. H. Wyatt, Mr. J. L. Kerpen, Major H. Bateman, Mr. Tom Smith, Mr. F. A. K. Hounsell, Mr. Walter De Frece, Mr. Frank Callingham, Mr. H. Barnett, Mr. W. Lancaster, Mr. W. Churcher, Mr. E. Chatrian, Mr. F. Speyer, Mr. J. Dore Behr, Mr. S. Behr, Mr. H. Raphael, Mr. Moss Cohen, Mr. G. B. Willis, Mr. E. Dicker, Mr. W. Sparks, Mr. S. Fitch, Mr. H. Hart, Mr. F. Hall, Mr. Arthur Tite, Mr. J. Clift, Mr. Arthur Weston, Mr. P. R. Stephens, Mr. A. Oxley, Dr. Luther Martin, Mr. R. Sievier, Mr. P. Teofani, Mr. A. Strugnell, Mr. W. Schubach, Mr. S. Bileby, Mr. W. Klingenstein, Mr. M. Barnett, Mr. A. H. Chapman, Mr. M. Moore, Mr. J. White, Mr. V. Vagnoline, Mr. C. Escott, Mr. T. C. Wray, Mr. J. J. Hands, Mr. W. Griffin, Mr. H. R. Martingell, Mr. C. Loader, Mr. G. Callingham, Mr. C. Scott, Mr. Fred Bishop, Mr. W. E. Prince, Mr. L. Carter, Mr. C. B. Murless, Mr. H. J. Goodrich, Mr. J. Raphael, Mr, W. Clarkson, Mr. D. Storey, Mr. W. Hobbs, Mr. N. M. Ogle, Mr. L. R. L. Squire, Mr. S Elliott, Mr. C. Meares, Mr. J. W. Hope, Mr. J. B. Adams, Baron De Ville, Mr. T. McKeggie, Mr. A. J. Thomas, Mr. Frank Holmes, Mr. Percy Bishop, Mr. Percy Dobson, Mr. A. Harrington, Mr. F. Layman, Mr. J. King, Mr. W. D. Courteney, Mr. Oliver Imray, Mr. H. S. J. Booth, Mr. E. A. Pickering, Mr. H. Barnett, Mr. J. A. Mayer, Mr. R. H. Pringle, Mr. A. Wolton, Mr. W. J. Bruty, Mr. H. Wolton, Mr. John Palmer, Mr. R. Lee, Mr. Pritchard Jones, Mr. E. Vincent-Evans, Mr. J. Hoffer, Mr. E. C. Irish, Mr. H. J. Homer, Mr. E. Lockwood, Mr. Louis Duveen, Mr. W. C. Tozer, Mr. Edward Duveen, Mr. James Lipscombe, Mr. A. S. De Pinna, Mr. P. Phillips, Mr. A. E. Lewin, Mr. Richard Dunn, Mr. S. A. Weeden, Mr. S. G. Cook, Mr. I. G. Salaman, Mr. W. J. Hatton, Mr. Herbert Ward, Mr. P. D. Smith, Mr. Harry Reece, Mr. J. B. Howard, Mr. Wentworth Croke, Mr. H. Sparling, Mr. Norman J. Norman, Mr. E. T. Steyne, Mr. Meagher, Mr. C. A. Anderson, Dr. Byrd Page, Mr. Ernest Stuart, Mr. A. Corrick, Mr. J. V. Olver, Mr. C. St. John Denton, Mr. George Scott, Mr. Charles Urban, Mr. H. Hargreaves, Mr. J. Tiller, Mr. Herman Finck, Mr. Tom Chittock, Mr. H. Parsons, Mr. G. Cording, Mr. Clarence Sounes, Mr. Bernard Parsons, Mr. A. Dones, Mr. F. Foulsham, Mr. H. W. Chew, Mr. Fred Crellin, Mr. A. H. Bleksley, Mr. Wilkie Bard, Mr. C. A. Antonelli, Mr. W. Ramsbottom, Mr. Mark Noble, Mr. J. Turner, Mr. J. J. McNaughton, Mr. J. Kotchie, Mr. W. S. Le Grand, Mr. S. Clifford, Mr. J. C. Lilley, Mr. G. Lean, Mr. C. Hornitz, Mr. S. Corner, Mr. Will Bishop, Mr. T. McNaughton, Mr. D. Munroe, Mr. Jas. Howell, Mr. Joseph Wilson, Mr. Louis De Reeder, Mr. Cubitt Cooke, Mr. B. Lewis, Mr. Max Heyman, Mr. Oscar Krupka, Mr. Buckham, Mr. J. W. Jeffery, Mr. Heathcote, Mr. C. Ansell, Mr. Hal Forde, Mr. W. W. Sampson, Mr. J. Nanson, Mr. J. Lindsey, Mr. Jesse Sparrow, Mr. Geo. Peel, Mr. S. Harris, Mr. A. Bond Sayers, Mr. E. M. Lacey, Mr. Stanley Brett, Mr. J. Hayman, Mr. Eustace Ponsonby, Mr. Harry Fragson, and Mr. Harry Tich.

A message from Mr. Seymour Hicks was read, as follows :—"Am overwhelmed that I cannot take the chair at your dinner to-night. If at any date I can be of assistance to my brother Eccentrics, command me." The secretary telegraphed the following reply :—"My dear Seymour,—Five hundred of your brother Eccentrics and guests unite in wishing you a speedy recovery. Lal Brough in the chair.—Your always, Jack Harrison."

After the chairman had proposed the loyal toasts, the vice-chairman submitted "The Visitors," coupling with it the name of Mr. T. McDonald Rendle.

Mr. Rendle, in returning thanks for the visitors, made an extremely witty speech, which was throughout punctuated by the laughter of his hearers. He expressed regret that the gentleman who had been announced to take the chair had been unable to do so; but in substituting for Mr. Seymour Hicks the veteran who now occupied the chair they had not made a great mistake. He (the speaker) remembered Mr. Brough in the long ago as a person with a florid waistcoat—and therefore presumed to be virtuous—in *The Rosebud of Stinging Nettle Farm*. So far as Mr. Hicks was concerned, it was to be hoped that his new theatre in course of erection in Shaftesbury-avenue would prove successful.

The chairman stated that Mr Hicks, who was to have proposed "The Eccentric Club," had written a speech, and Mr. Denby Hare had kindly offered to read it to them.

Mr. Seymour Hicks' speech, read by Mr. Hare, was as follows :—

Gentlemen, I am very proud to occupy the position of your chairman to-night, and I am also very grateful to you for allowing so humble a member of the club as myself to have the honour of proposing the toast of the evening. I think, before I go any further, I had better try and speak the truth—I should say, speak the truth so that we can thoroughly understand each other. The fact is, I am wholly unfitted to occupy the chair at this delightful meeting. One of the first qualifications of a chairman is that he should be able to speak—one of my first and most marked characteristics at a public dinner is that I become speechless. For the first time in my life I stand here perspiring with fear, even as I did twenty years ago when I first had the pleasure of meeting my dear friend, and your magnificent secretary, Mr. Jack Harrison. I remember him looking me up and down, and I said, "Mr. Yorke Stephens has put me on the stage." "Has he?" said Mr. Harrison. "What harm have you ever done him? So you are an actor?" I asked him to put it in writing. Jack Harrison is a careful man. But in those halcyon days, gentlemen, when we had less money, or, I should say, when we were not allowed to owe as much as we do at the present time—which is much the same thing—Jack Harrison supplied the costumes for a production of *Macbeth*. Our means were scanty, and Jack Harrison, with the economy of Mr. Haldane, dressed Act I. splendidly. Act II. we used the same dresses turned inside out. I held the book, and the critic next morning wrote :—"The prompter, although seen at rare intervals, soon became a favourite with the audience."

What would Shaftesbury-avenue do without its Eccentric Club? What would the cab-rank at Piccadilly Circus do at three in the morning without it? And now, having treated it in the lightest possible way, but with the most affectionate feelings in my heart for it, I am not going to hesitate to blow the Eccentric trumpet. I am proud to do so, for the trumpet's music has brought happiness and comfort to many a fellow-creature in distress. The trumpet, gentlemen, which although played upon by men who say they are out of the ordinary and eccentric, are only out of the ordinary in one way, and that is their hearts are a bit too big for their bodies, and that they try to and do more kindly acts and say less about them than any community that it has ever been my lot to fall into. Even then, to so little practised a speaker as myself, it is not such a difficulty as I first imagined to get up and propose so ripping a club as ours is—bohemian in the best sense of the word, thanks to its splendid committee and the way the club is managed. What would an oyster be without its shell? What would the Eccentric Club be without its Beard, its Tom Fraser, its Billy White, and other members of the committee? Gentlemen, when I ask you to raise your glasses, as I am about to do, I think it is no exaggeration to say that we shall do so, not in an ordinary superficial toast-like manner, but with real affection in our hearts for these brother members of ours who have steered our ship so successfully, both financially and socially. Gentlemen of the committee, I thank you, we all thank you, from our hearts for your splendid service. Let us not forget that on every ship there are unseen hands who urge it—stokers who bank the fires in rough weather or smooth—and let us not forget that on our good ship we have a stoker who works from Christmas Day to Christmas Day. Need I say who I mean? I mean our dear Jack Harrison. Jack to his friends, Harrison to the world, nothing to his enemies, because he has not got any. With the club, gentlemen, raise your glasses to the commitee, with the committee our splendid secretary. If you will, gentlemen, allow myself and the dear woman who has always done everything for me to make some small return to you. I would like to give you a row of dress circles and a row of stalls for the opening night of our New Theatre in Shaftesbury-avenue to our Benevolent Fund, and perhaps somebody will put them up to auction later this evening and get a substantial sum for the splendid society. Mr. Charles Frohman is only too delighted that I do this.

The chairman, after eulogising Mr. Hicks' address, gave the toast, "Success to the Eccentric Club," which was enthusiastically honoured.

Mr. Jack Harrison, the hon. secretary, in replying, stated that he, like all the others, regretted the absence of Mr. Seymour Hicks. However, they could not have found anyone better qualified to take his place than Mr. Lal Brough. Mr. Hicks had made the club a very generous offer. He had placed at their disposal for the first night of the opening of his new theatre twenty seats in the stalls, and thirty in the dress circle, with the object of aiding their Benevolent Fund. So far as the club itself was concerned, it was gratifying to be able to report a very prosperous state of affairs. In its sixteen years' existence it had devoted a large sum of money to charity, up to last year the amount that had been expended in this direction being £7,000. Mr. Harrison concluded by thanking Mr. Brough for so ably presiding.

During the progress of the dinner a fine programme of music was performed by Mr. Norfolk Megone's orchestra, and afterwards a delightful entertainment was given by some of the following artists :—Miss Elsie Bernard, Miss Margaret Cooper, Mme. Heléne D'Aubigny, Miss Violet Elliot, Miss May Gurney, Mme. Aimée de Leska, Miss Alice Lloyd, Miss Clarice Mayne, Miss Annie Purcell, Miss Margaret Radcliffe, Mr. Charles Cautley, Mr. Tom Clare, Mr. J. M. Crawford, Mr. Richard Green, Mr. Nelson Jackson, Mr. Sydney Jarvis, Mr. Kalisz, Master Nipper Lane, Mr. Herbert Lloyd, Mr. Max Malini, Mr. Robert Michaelis, Mr. Whitworth Mitton, Mr. George Mozart, Mr. F. Byrd Page, Mr. Robert Radford, Mr. Willie Rouse, Mr. Andrew Roy, Mr. Herbert Shelley, Mr. Fred Stevens, M. Joska Szigeti, Mr. Albert Whelan, Mr. and Mrs. Zancig, Miss Nell Carter, Miss Barbara Deane, Miss Maudi Darrell, Mr. Stanley Brett, Mr. Laurence Caird, Mr Murray King, Master Albert Valchera, and Miss Fairbrother and the Six Bathbuns. At the piano : Mr. Arthur Godfrey, Mr. Victor Marmont, and Mr. Sinclair Mantell. Mr. Frank Boor and Mr. J. Le Hay were the directors for the entertainment.

"WASPS."

A New and Original Comedy, in Three Acts, by Muriel Carmel Goldsmid (Muriel Carmel), Produced at a Matinée at the Royalty Theatre, on Tuesday, Nov. 27.

Lord McKirk ..... MR. FRED MORLAND
George Marsh ..... MR. HUGH ARDALE
Rev. Archibald Jones ..... MR. STUART WILSON
Judge ..... MR. STANLEY ROBERTS
Mr. O'Brian ..... MR. F. H. DE QUINCEY
Mr. Smithers ..... MR. DANIEL MCCARTHY
Junior Counsel ..... MR. ERIC LENNARD
Captain Hunter ..... MR. A. G. MELFORD
Bob Staines ..... MR. J. H. JACKSON
Eric Field ..... MR. GERALD BRUCE
Usher ..... MR. RATHWELL WILSON
Lady McKirk ..... MISS KATE OSBORNE
Blanche Marsh ..... MISS GEORGINA HAMILTON
Lady Julia ..... MISS SIME SERUYA
Esmé Barlow ..... MISS MARGARET BUSSE
Mrs. Hunter ..... MISS MAUD HENDERSON
Cissy Flick ..... MISS MURIEL CARMEL
Fluffy Flo ..... MISS F. WELSTEAD
Mrs. Sting ..... MISS M. ALEXANDER
Mrs. Stodger ..... } MISS DINAH FREUDENHEIM
Victoria May ..... }
Susan ..... MISS DORIS REGAN
Jane ..... MISS C. SUSSMAN

If Miss Muriel Carmel Goldsmid, in the new comedy produced at a special matinée given on behalf of the Jews in Russia, has not achieved a distinct success in a difficult branch of the art of playwriting, she can at any rate be complimented on a very creditable piece of work for a comparatively inexperienced writer for the stage. Its merits were certainly above those of many similar productions presented at performances having a special object. Most of the characters are life-like, and the dialogue, generally speaking, is natural and crisp. The construction, however, left a good deal to be desired.

Lord and Lady McKirk are a prim, precise Scotch couple, who have a horror of anything connected with the playhouse. Great, therefore, is their anger and dismay when their son George informs them that he is engaged to be married to an actress. Their ire is all the more intense inasmuch as they had arranged that the young man should marry a certain Lady Julia, who is quite willing to accept him as her husband. Esmé Barlow, the smart young actress, ventures to interview the old couple, and is insulted by being offered a small sum of money to release George from the engagement. Lady McKirk becomes hysterically tearful, and his lordship, also much upset, shows the young lady the door. George, who regards Lady Julia in the light of a sister, and is unaware of the warmth of her feeling towards him, consults her in regard to his love affair, and she unselfishly promises her assistance. By arrangement with his fiancée George declines to fulfil his promise to marry her, and he is accordingly sued as defendant in an action for damages in the High Court of Justice. A sympathetic jury awards the plaintiff £20,000 damages, and the young people, who have deceived both the old couple and the court, are able to live comfortably on the proceeds of the successful action for breach of promise. It may be said that the probabilities are considerably outraged by the plot, as the father is surely not compelled to find the money which the jury awarded the plaintiff.

Mr. Fred Morland gave a capital sketch of the strait-laced Scotch lord, and Miss Kate Osborne was amusing as the garrulous and tearful Lady McKirk. Mr. Hugh Ardale played well as George Marsh; and Mr. Stuart Wilson cleverly depicted the Rev. Archibald Jones, who, though engaged to another lady, makes love to Lady Julia. Miss Margaret Bussé was a charming representative of Esmé Barlow, the young actress; and Miss Sime Seruya (the producer of the play) acted with tact and feeling as Lady Julia. Miss Georgina Hamilton displayed ability and humour in her portrayal of George's sister Blanche, evidently one of the "wasps." Miss M. Alexander doubled the parts of Mrs. Sting and Mrs. Stodger. In the second act commendable work was done by Mr. Stanley Roberts as the Judge and Mr. F. H. de Quincey as Mr. O'Brian, Mr. Daniel McCarthy as Mr. Smithers, and Mr. Eric Lennard as Junior Counsel, other minor parts being entrusted to Miss Maud Henderson and Miss F. Welstead. Miss Muriel Carmel herself appeared as Fluffy Flo, and adequate assistance was also rendered by Messrs. A. G. Melford, J. H. Jackson, Gerald Bruce, and Rathwell Wilson, and the Misses Freudenheim, Doris Regan, and C. Sussman.

The new play was preceded by the one-act play, by Samuel Gordon and M. Carmel Goldsmid, entitled

"DAUGHTERS OF SHEM."

"THE DEVIL'S SUNDAY."

A Sensational Dramatic Episode, produced for the first time in the West End at the Metropolitan on Monday, Nov. 26.

David Faber .....Mr. John Lawson
Lord Harrington .....Mr. Royston
Commissioner Day .....Mr. E. S. Vincent
Fay Faber .....Mrs. Lawson
Lady Stevens .....Miss Mabel Wynn
Miss Babbington .....Miss Ford

Mr. John Lawson in *Humanity* gave us the bash of the bottle; in *The Devil's Sunday* he regales us with the thrill of the throttle. The later episode was produced at the Metropolitan on Monday, and throughout the attitude of the audience—hushed and intent—and the enthusiasm at the fall of the curtain were most unmistakable signs of success. It is admitted by the anonymous author that he or she is indebted to the recent diatribes at the expense of "the smart set" of Father Bernard Vaughan at the Chapel of the Jesuits, Farm-street. The scene of the incidents presented is the drawing-room of a flat in Grange Court-mansions, Kensington Here Mrs Fay Faber, whose husband has been arrested and is retained at Exeter on a charge of forgery, is entertaining some very frivolous people, supposed to be hanging on to the fringe of society, in this case represented by a worthless aristocrat, Lord Harrington. A chartered libertine, he not only makes an assignation with Mrs. Faber—who is only too glad of the temporary relief from the inconvenient solicitude of her Hebrew husband promised by a prospective five years' penal servitude—but endeavours to draw into his net an innocent girl companion of one of the guests. His designs in this quarter are, however, frustrated by the abrupt entry of the girl's father—a twenty-one years' Service man—who speaks out with all the bluntness of an old soldier, giving his opinions of all and sundry in no measured terms before taking his daughter away from the contaminating influence of women without conscience or scruple. A game of bridge is suggested, and Mrs. Faber loses thirty pounds. Left alone in her flat, she discovers the engraved plate used by her husband in his forgeries of the flimsies, and, so keen is her desire to secure his conviction that she writes to the Governor of Exeter Gaol, where Faber is supposed to be incarcerated, and encloses the damning evidence of his crime. But Faber's friends and counsel have persuaded the stipendiary at Exeter to let him out on bail. He arrives at the flat, finds his wife's incriminating letter to the authorities, and Lord Harrington's telegram arranging for her week-end stay with him at Brighton. Even then the man is so consumed with love for the woman whose extravagance he has only been able to satisfy by becoming a smasher that on his knees he begs of her to be true to him. She treats him with disdain, and in an access of rage expresses both her hate and scorn. We are then plunged into a maelstrom of tragedy. In the struggle that ensues, Faber, in his mad fury, chokes her on the sofa, and, placing a screen around the body, awaits events. Lord Harrington comes with his motor to take the light o' love away with him. "Where is Mrs. Faber?" "Behind that screen," replies the husband, with the calm of despair. Harrington goes to the sofa, and is terrified to find the corpse of the woman he would have dishonoured. Faber utters no word of sorrow or repentance. "I killed her," says he, "that she may never break the hearts of other men!" Harrington, with a few nonchalant remarks, is about to depart, but is stopped by the now desperate Faber. "There are two revolvers on this table. One of them is loaded. Choose before I finish counting three and turn out the light." Harrington has perforce to obey, and falls shot to the heart. Curtain

The mounting of the episode, which is without any author's name, is on the lavish scale that is always a hall-mark of the Lawson productions, in which nothing that is shabby or perfunctory is permitted. The drawing-room is furnished with taste and liberality, the lady guests of Mrs. Faber are gowned in the latest French creations, and Mrs. Faber herself looks superb in a lovely dress of sequined net. The acting, too, of Mr. and Mrs. Lawson is remarkable for its power and effect. Mrs. Lawson on her entry by many little touches makes apparent the reckless extravagance of Mrs. Faber, for whom the Avernus of adultery has no terrors. It is, however, when the heartless, unscrupulous woman is at bay that we realise the depth and purpose of Mrs. Lawson's fine conception of the character, in the delineation of which she has made a further stride in her art. She may, indeed, be recognised as one of the few actresses on either stage who can rise to the opportunities afforded to her by situations of grim tragedy. In his study of despair Mr. John Lawson is consistent, forcible, and earnest; and Faber's *cri de cœur* strikes one by the profound depth of its sorrow.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

Bristol X.L.C.R. and Music Halls Athletic Clubs v. Harry Hare's Orchestral Band A.F.C.

Played on Clifton Downs, Nov. 24. The following were the teams:—

Bristol X.L.C.R.:—F. B. Nichols, goal; J. Lewis and A. Cox, backs; J. Lacey, S. Carter, and T. Neagle (captain), half-backs; J. Leonard, P. Reardon, F. Hansford, E. Belding, and J. Aubrey, forwards.

H. Hare's Band:—H. Wahlenn, goal; A. Hamlin (captain) and F. Edney, backs; F. Stevens, A. Mattock, and W. J. Horton, half-backs; H. Edwards, E. Bowman, P. Hewlett, L. Hamlin, and S. Richards, forwards.

Referee, H. Belding. Linesmen, H. Hare and D. O'Connor.

Result: Bristol X.L.C.R., 1 goal; H. Hare's Band, 3 goals. Messrs. J. Leonard, W. J. Horton, L. Hamlin, and H. Edwards scored the goals for their respective sides.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA.

Owing to pressure on our space, we have been compelled to hold over the weekly instalment of the above. The series will be continued next week.

The first gymkhana of the season in connection with the asphalt roller skating rink at the Crystal Palace will take place on Dec. 15, at 8 p.m. The events will include Wheelbarrow Race (three laps), 1st and 2nd prizes; Obstacle Race (two laps), 1st and 2nd prizes; Potato Race, 1st prize; Sack Race (two laps), 1st and 2nd prizes; and Ladies' Egg-and-Spoon Race (two laps), 1st prize. The Hockey Cup Match, Goy's v. Winners of A, will take place at 8.30 p.m.

Mr. Tom Pavillio, of Pavillio and Rousillion, passed away on the evening of Nov. 22 at his residence, 28, Brunswick-square, Camberwell, after many years of ill-health. He had a paralytic stroke about a week ago, and fell, severely hurting his head. At the inquest on the 23rd ult. a verdict of accidental death was returned. The deceased's real name was Tom Henry Wilson.

MUSIC HALL LADIES' GUILD.

MATINEE AT THE CANTERBURY.

Sisters in art united in a common cause on Tuesday at the Canterbury, when that popular hall, kindly lent by Mr. Geo. Adney Payne and his co-directors, was the scene of a remarkable manifestation of enthusiasm in behalf of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, a society founded for the relief of the necessitous among the fairer portion of the entertainers of the variety stage. Though only in the first weeks of its existence, the beneficent purpose of the society has been recognised by the foremost ladies of the profession, the acknowledged head of whom stands in the capacity of president. Illness unfortunately intervened to prevent Miss Marie Lloyd from being present, but the vice-president, Miss Lily Burnand, was conspicuous among the performers, and Miss Constance Moxon, one of the founders, filled the duties of stage-manager expeditiously. Mrs. Fred Ginnett, another vice-president, was amongst the stewards, who also included Mrs. Fred Miller, Mrs. Louie Smythson, Miss Lil Hawthorne, Mrs. Fred Karno (treasurer), Mrs. Butler, Mlle. Vulcana, and Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Miss Anna de Grey being the acting-manager. The feminine note was extended even to the orchestra, where Mme. H. E. Angless's Pompadour Band officiated ably, and made an impressive appearance in their picturesque costumes. Dainty ladies welcomed visitors at the doors, and smiling maidens pushed the sale of programmes, photographs, and flowers indefatigably. The immense auditorium was crowded from floor to roof, and though a few vacant seats were to be found in the stalls, they were all represented in the returns by hard cash. The event, arranged and carried out in its entirety by ladies, was a brilliant example of what the gentler sex is capable when it puts its fair shoulder to the wheel, and reflected in a remarkable way the amount of energy, zeal, and organising power which had been expended in its promotion.

At an interval in the performance, the curtain rose upon a large group of ladies, in the centre of whom stood Miss Anna de Grey, the hon. secretary, who came forward to explain why they had been brought together. There was, she said, a great deal of distress amongst music-hall people, and they were joining together, a band of willing workers, to do something towards their help. They were not doing very much—just trying to provide a little food, coal, and clothing, to visit the sick—that was all at the present moment. They were trying to ease the distress which prevailed, and many hands were stretched forward for help. A woman would go sometimes to a woman for help when she would not go to a man. A woman did not like to expose her poverty before all men, and that was why they were not asking the help of the men except from their pockets, in which respect they were always most generous. She had received many telegrams from sympathisers, who all expressed their regret at being unable to be present. One telegram was from their president, Miss Marie Lloyd, who was kept away by illness. Miss de Grey was sure they would join with her in the earnest desire that she would soon be released from her bed of sickness, and come amongst them once more. The telegram was as follows: "More than sorry unable to be with you to-day to aid in the success of this worthy cause. Unfortunately still confined to bed; otherwise would have been with you. Trust it will prove gigantic success. With all kind wishes from yours, Marie Lloyd." Miss Lloyd's telegram was heartily cheered, and Miss de Grey, resuming, said she thanked them, the public, and every lady and gentleman there that afternoon. She also proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Payne and his co-directors, to the gentlemen of the Press, to the billposters, who had done all the posting free of charge, and to all those who had generously assisted. She also thanked the band, and, lastly, the artists, many of whom had travelled long distances in order to be present. She thanked them heartily for their kindness, and for all they had done.

If the voice of the mere male was silent on the stage, it was determined to assert itself in the auditorium, for, as soon as the applause which greeted Miss de Grey's speech was allayed, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, the popular Irish comedian, taking up his position at the orchestra rail, addressed the audience. No man, he said, was allowed within the precincts of the stage to interfere with the Adamless Eden there established. He came there to represent the Grand Order of Water Rats, and in their behalf to express the hope for the continued success and prosperity of the most excellent society which had been formed for a noble cause. He was only too well aware of the poverty which unfortunately exists in the profession. They were reputed to earn a lot of money, but evil days came upon them as in other professions, and they sometimes came to want, and this youthful society had come to succour those in distress. It was his pleasing duty to present them, on behalf of the Water Rats, with a cheque for £55 towards that excellent object.

Miss de Grey then asked to be allowed to say another few words to thank the Water Rats most heartily for their gift. She also wanted to thank the members of the Theatrical Ladies' Guild, who were present, and had helped them in every way. They had only had a ten weeks' existence, but if it had not been for the ladies of the Theatrical Guild, they could not have existed at all.

Then up and spoke Miss Fanny Brough, the president of the Theatrical Ladies' Guild, who, with her vice-president, Mrs. Edward Compton, and Miss Carlotta Addison, occupied a private box. She did not deserve any thanks, she said, but was more than gratified at the gorgeous success which had been attained. The society she represented was fourteen years old, but the Music-Hall Ladies' Guild was only fourteen days, and had done wonders in that time. They had taught them a lesson that afternoon, and she would suggest that though her Guild had not hitherto allowed the noble animal to do anything, they would in future follow their example, and let him in—if he would come. She regretted the absence of Miss Marie Lloyd, for whom she had the very deepest admiration. They could always rely upon the Theatrical Ladies' Guild to do all possible good for the Music-Hall Ladies' Guild.

Miss Constance Moxon, who had wittily announced all the "extra turns," here "spied" Mr. Fred Miller in the hall, and suggested that he should respond on behalf of the management. Mr. Miller, who submitted that his friend, Mr. O'Gorman, had taken all the wind out of his sails, and prevented him delivering the nice little speech he had prepared, said on behalf of the management that they were more than pleased to be of any assistance in such a good cause. The reputation of the society would be greatly enhanced by the grand assembly there that afternoon, and anything he had done in its behalf had been a great pleasure.

The chief feature of the entertainment, which was confined solely to ladies, was the appearance of Miss Kate Carney, who had the support of all those behind the footlights in her popular song, "'Liza Johnson." There was less eccentricity about the accompanying revels than those to which we are accustomed, but the sight of a bewitching array of "star" performers joining in a "cake-walk," was a memorable one. The Lloyd family, despite the absence of its chief member, was well represented in Miss Alice Lloyd and Miss Rosie Lloyd, who both sang one of their most taking numbers. Miss Lily Burnand delighted her hearers with her inimitable rendering of a picture-post-card song; and an esteemed Canterbury favourite appeared in the person of Miss Katie Lawrence. A series of poses, illustrative of muscular development, was given by Mlle. Vulcana, Miss Edie King won enthusiastic recalls for her tuneful singing and expert dancing, and Miss Millie Payne gained laughter for her treatment of the ills of "Jenny Jones." A "mite" of something like five summers was presented in Popet Ginnett, who executed a dance close to the wings, but was induced to come to the footlights to accept a bouquet, and another of about the same tender age was found in Miss Lil Shaw, certainly a juvenile prodigy, who gave an imitation, in male costume, of Miss Vesta Tilley, in "Following in father's footsteps," and was also florally rewarded. Miss Clarissa Heney, a young vocalist, with a prepossessing style, sang "Creep a little closer" agreeably; Miss Maude Mortimer's fine voice was heard with pleasure in a medley of Scotch ballads; Miss Anna Kenwick obliged with a characteristic coon song and dance; and Miss Lilian Lee gave a highly-cultured and expressive rendering of "Il Bacio"; Miss Bertha Stuart sang "Caller Herrin'" charmingly in character; Miss Rose Harvey rendered the popular "Zuyder Zee"; Miss Nina Martino sang a French chanson captivatingly; and the entertainment was completed by Miss Teresa de Silva, Miss Dot Irving, Miss Katie Butler, Miss Empsie Bowman, and the Sisters Jonghmanns.

Mr. Fred Miller, the manager, welcomed visitors cordially, and great assistance was lent in front by Mr. Alfred Davis, to whose hands the interests of the Press were committed. It was understood that the proceeds of the matinée would result in the substantial sum of nearly £200.

Further list of donations:—	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Harry Randall	1	1	0
Collected by Miss Alice Maydue at V.A.F. meeting, Glasgow	0	10	6
Mr. Albert Egbert	0	10	0
Miss Hetty Chattell	0	5	0
Miss Patty Yole	0	2	6
H. Douglas	0	2	0

Gifts of clothing have been received from Miss Annie Wood, Sisters Slater (2nd), My Fancy (2nd), Miss Burnand, Miss Annie Schuberth, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Butler, and Mrs. Ryan (Regan and Ryan).

RICHMOND THEATRE.

So excellent in every way is the programme devised for the delectation of his clientèle that one is inclined to wonder whether Mr. Kay Draco, who directs matters here, could do better or meet with a more gratifying share of commendation. Mr. Norfolk Megone's always excellent orchestra opens with a rollicking overture, "Off we go," sufficiently tuneful to put everyone in a good humour. The Sisters Lytton harmonise quite prettily, and score a huge success in Arditi's ever popular "Il Bacio." A dainty and exquisite setting is given to the song-picture "Dolly and a coach." Miss Agnes Molteno fills in the vocal story and accompanies herself at the piano. It not infrequently happens when this course is pursued that the result is not satisfactory; this reproof cannot be levelled at Miss Agnes Molteno; her skill as a pianist is only excelled by a really beautiful voice, which is heard to perfection. Mr. Fred Bronte sings of sailor-lads and other matters nautical, and promptly veers off to the deeds of the self-sacrificing clergyman, whom the vocalist admits is "a parson and a man." There is nothing in Mr. Bronte's song to cavil at, and he is rewarded by considerable applause. The clergy would appear to be popular in Richmond, at all events. There is endless fun in the high-class comedy duo *Not a Word.* It deals with a silent man and a lady who is the very reverse of quiet. The trouble seems to have come about by the husband (Mr. G. L. Grange) not returning home as early as he should on the anniversay of his wedding-day. The wife (Miss Fay Rivington) proves a veritable shrew, and for ten or twelve minutes the husband has anything but a pleasant time of it. Throughout the torrent of abuse, invectives, and denunciations the husband remains dumb; not a word does he utter. But even this sullen silence fail to please his wife, whose lectures would put Mrs. Candle to the blush. Of course all ends happily and peace is restored by the presentation of a diamond brooch to the lady. Mr. Grange is excellent as the husband, and Miss Fay Rivington, on whom falls the brunt of the work, is exceedingly clever. The interval is pleasingly filled by a tuneful selection from *The Cingalee* under the bâton of Mr. Norfolk Megone, admirably interpreted by the orchestra. Mr. Frank Boyce warbles pleasingly of girls and the starlight. His second contribution dealt with the Turf and kindred topics dear to Captain Coe—and others; the song pleased immensely, and Mr. Boyce met with a full share of favour. It is a trite truism that "Girls will be girls," and this proved the title of Miss Mabel Bright's scena. Quite a bevy of young ladies take possession of the stage, and go to prove that there cannot be a shadow of doubt that "girls *will* be girls." Miss Mabel Bright's ladies sing, dance, flirt, and generally appear to do all that the modern girl is required to do. The song "The hammock built for two" was successfully interpreted by the company generally, but their best effort is a North American Indian love-song. This was one of the hits of the evening. Miss Lily Esplin has a coon song which she renders in her own peculiarly happy style, and, as usual "Mr. Jackson" got the proverbial cold shoulder. "Mr. Jackson" *is* an unlucky dog. Miss Esplin's "Suffragette" song is a quaint humoresque. With the rage for *poses plastiques*, it was small wonder that they should find their way into the bill here. La Pia is clever, and poses with considerable success. Many of the tableaux selected for representation were in this year's Paris Salon, and evoked very favourable attention. The electric fountains are gems of rare beauty. Vernon's Bioscope shows some droll pictures, notably "Four Hooligans," a quartet of young scamps who get into all kinds of trouble and as promptly escape. Another picture, "When cripples meet," demonstrated that even invalids occasionally wax pugilistic—and with dire results. Mr. Kay Draco has an admirable bill.

THE FRED LOCKE FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I am pleased to inform you that I have made my first £100 for the Fred Locke Fund, and this week I start on my second. Sorry to say Bro. Locke is no better. Has no power whatever in his left side. The following is my list to this date: Sixteen friends, per Harry Blake, 20s.; Wellington Corbett, 10s. 6d.; Willie Downs, 219, 10s. 6d.; Major Donaldson, 354, 10s.; Wee Covey, 354, 8s.; Friends, 2s.; W. Abercrombie, 2s. 6d.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. CRICHTON.

9, Bridge-street, Glasgow, Nov. 27.

THE LATE MRS. FRED GILBERT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—As a daughter of the late Fred Gilbert, I shall be grateful if you will allow me to make it known through *The Era* that Mrs. Gilbert, his widow and my mother, died in April last year. It has come to my ears that some person is seeking financial help representing that she is Mrs. Gilbert; and for the sake of those who have gone, as for those whose charity may be imposed upon, I hope you will publish this letter.—Yours truly,

E. GILBERT.

8, Glenshaw Mansions, Brixton, Nov. 27.

"KISMET."

A Sensational Episode, by Heaton Gray, produced at the Middlesex Music Hall on Monday, Nov. 26.

Joan Earle .....Miss Mary Vaughan
Julie Gray .....Miss Cissie Murdoch
Frank Galbraith .....Mr. Heaton Gray

Fate takes an unexpected turn in the new sketch which is included in Mr. J. L. Graydon's programme at the Middlesex this week. The novelty is skilfully constructed in a manner which stimulates continuous interest, and the end is swift and startling. A successful artist named Frank Galbraith is putting the finishing touch to his picture of a study in the nude as the curtain rises. It is his masterpiece, and with it he intends to lay aside his brush. He also determines to have done with his model, Joan Earle, with whom he had lived for some time on terms of intimacy, and, after a belated repentance, to settle down to married life with Julie Gray, to whom he has become engaged. Galbraith had lured Joan from her village home some five years previously, and ever since the girl had been devoted to the artist, thinking her affection was returned. An unexpected visit is paid to the studio by Frank's fiancée, who wishes to see his picture, but the artist says he would rather she should not see it till after it is hung. Joan overhears their love-making, and learns that she is to be cast aside. Determined that her betrayer shall not benefit by her picture for which she had stood, Joan takes a knife and slashes it to pieces, and, hearing someone approaching, steps within the frame. The new arrival is Julie, who has come to take a surreptitious view of the painting, and when she draws the curtain she is astounded at the lifelike appearance of the figure. Her wonder is soon dispelled, for Joan leaves the frame and tells her sad story to Frank's intended wife. When she has finished, Frank returns, and learns that his fiancée knows all. Joan determines to leave the pair unmolested, but Julie points out to Frank that his duty lies towards the girl he has wronged, and the artist, filled with remorse, solves the problem by shooting himself.

The episode, which created a marked impression, was played by Mrs. Oscar Luck's company, the author himself enacting the part of the artist with sincerity and conviction. Miss Mary Vaughan acted with emotional feeling as Joan, the model; and Miss Cissie Murdoch was a tender and dainty representative of Julie.

"UNDER THE MAPLE LEAF."

A Dramatic Sketch, by John Henderson, Produced at the Queen's, Poplar, on Monday, Nov. 26.

Lizzie Sinclair .....Miss Millie Henderson
Troop Sergt.-Major ....Mr. Charles Beckville
Racehorse Charley .....Mr. Cyril Fairlie
Sandy McFarlane .....Mr. John Henderson

Mr. John Henderson is to be congratulated on two things. Firstly, he has written in most able fashion and in good style a tragedy, and, secondly, in the production of that tragedy he himself gives us what is rarely seen on the stage—a realistically life-like portrayal of an old Scotsman. In this he happily abandons the red-whiskered, snuff-consuming, whisky-drinking monstrosity which is usually foisted upon the public as representative of King Edward's subjects north of the Tweed. The story, briefly, is this: The scene is laid in the Canadian Rockies. The mounted police are seeking one Racehorse Charley, a notorious thief and assassin. The father of this desperado is Sandy McFarlane, an old soldier, and now earning a livelihood as a packman carrier. Father and son come together in a village posthouse, and just before the police arrive to secure their man old McFarlane strangles him in order that it may never be said that a child of his went to the gallows. Mr. Henderson's interpretation of the part of the packman carrier was altogether admirable. His accent was reminiscent of oat-cake and peet reek, and it would not be a bad plan if some of our friends in the West-End theatres who essay the characterisation of the Scotsman were to take a few hints at his hands. Racehorse Charley was as daring, brutal, and stop-at-nothing desperado as one would not wish to meet; and Miss Millie Henderson acted with delightful naturalness in the rôle of the postmistress.

"Hymack," an entirely novel turn discovered by Mr. C. St. John Denton, and who is likely to be a big success, opens at the Empire on Monday.

William H. Chippendale, who was recently charged at the instance of Mr. Fred Karno, with forging an order for £2, has been found "not guilty," and discharged. The accused acted as manager of one of Mr. Karno's companies.

The Secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £6 5s. from Mr. Ernest Bridgen, being the results of his kind efforts in collections at the New Cross Empire in aid of the charity.

Master May, the boy vocalist, whom Mr. Ernest Dottridge brought out recently, is meeting with great success. Dates are flowing in to Mr. Dottridge, who holds the sole agency for this gifted artist.

Mr. Walter Gibbons has, his many friends will be glad to learn, so far recovered from his recent operation as to be able to take outdoor exercise, and do a little business.

Miss Dora Lyric returns to town next week, when she will produce a new song by A. J. Mills and Harry Castling entitled "Fine feathers make fine birds." This is another of the Star Company's gems.

The friends of Miss Ada Mansfield will be sorry to hear that she is laid up at Southport with pleurisy. She is now, fortunately, out of danger. She has been obliged to transfer dates of her successful scena, *Mother Shipton.*

The latest quotations of music hall shares are as follows:—Alhambra, 1⅞; Canterbury, ¾; Empire (15s. paid), 1¼; Empire (10s. paid), ⅛; London Pavilion Ord., 4⅜; London Pavilion Pref., 4⅜; London Coliseum, ⅛; Metropolitan, ¾; Moss Empire, 5; Moss Empire Five per Cent. Pref., 3⅝; Oxford, 6⅞; Palace, 11s. 9d.; Tivoli, 6⅜; Varieties Consolidated Theatres, 13s.

If the large audience and the very full measure of approbation accorded each item of the programme submitted on Sunday evening last be any criterion, the concerts organised by Mr. Cecil Jeapes, on behalf of the Terriers' Benevolent Fund, appear certain to be extensively supported. The Bayreuth Orchestra, fresh from a season of triumph at Tunbridge Wells, executed some charming music. Miss Mabel Green (from the Apollo Theatre, by permission of Robert Courtneidge, Esq.) quite charmed her audience with her cultured voice, and Mr. Conway Dixon's rendering of "The welcome stranger" and "The soldier's toast" proved him to be a pleasing and talented baritone. The elocutionary powers of Miss Ecca Vanleer were displayed in Dickens's "Poor Joe," and "The King's Command" (Bradshaw), and the exhibition of the Graphic Animated Photographs elicited frequent marks of approval.

Mr. R. A Beaton, who is producing, with a strong cast, at the Richmond Theatre on Monday, a farcical sketch, entitled *Poor Phil Garlic*, by Roy Redgrave, will play the part of Major Garlic, which has been specially written for him.

ON THE ROAD, DEC. 3.

All-of-a-Sudden Peggy.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Are You a Mason? (Macdona).—Coalbridge.
Assassin.—Theatre Royal, Rochdale.
At Cripple Creek.—Galety T., Hastings.
At Duty's Call.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—O. H., Cork.
Beast and the Beauty.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Beautiful Fiend.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Belle of Mayfair.—O. H., Leicester.
Belle of New York (Howard).—Prince's, Poplar.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—Athenæum T., Lancaster.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—St. Austell and Paignton.
Benson, Mr. & Mrs., & Co.—T. R., Manchester.
Bound to Win.—Theatre Royal, Jarrow.
Breed of the Treshams.—Theatre Royal, Chatham.
Bulmer, Mr.—Theatre Royal, Bristol.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Galety T., Dublin.
Coal King.—O. H., Blackpool.
Charley's Aunt.—Theatre Royal, King's Lynn.
Christian, The (Croke).—Theatre Royal, York.
Christian, The (Howard).—Sutton-in-Ashfield.
City of Sin.—Walsall.
Claudian.—Grand T., Halifax.
Conscript, The.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
Dairymaids, The.—Court Theatre, Liverpool.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Grand T., Newcastle.
D'Oyly Carte.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
Driven from Home.—Grand T., Brighton.
Earl and the Girl (N.).—Dudley.
Eternal City (Howard).—Smethwick.
Executioner's Daughter.—Grand T., Nelson.
Face at the Window.—Grand T., Woolwich.
Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt.—T. R., Nottingham.
Female Swindler.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Florodora (M.). (Howard).—Castle T., Richmond.
For Life and After.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
Freedom of Suzanne.—T. R., Cardiff.
French Spy.—Queen's T., Swindon.
Golden Ladder.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Great Awakening.—O. H., Coventry.
Heart's Desire.—T. R., Clydebank.
Held Apart.—T. R., Aston.
Her Fatal Past.—New T., West Stanley.
Her Luck in London.—T. R., Stockport.
Her Lost Self.—T. R., Leicester.
Her One Great Sin.—T. R., Colchester.
His House in Order (N.).—T. R., Hull.
His House in Order (S.).—T. R., Bournemouth.
Honour Thy Father.—Standard T., Hetton.
Hour of Her Triumph.—Borough T., Heywood.
Hutchison Repertoire.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Indian Mutiny.—T. R., Leigh.
Kitty Grey.—T. R., Birkenhead.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Blandford and Portland.
Lady Kinton's Necklace.—Empire T., Oldham.
La Poupee (Ralland).—Lyceum T., Govan.
Lights of London.—T. R., Norwich.
Little Breadwinner.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
Little Michus (Edwardes).—Coronet Theatre, W.
London Fireman.—Colosseum, Oldham.
Love that Women Desire.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
Lucky Durham.—P. O. W., Great Grimsby.
Manxman.—Pier Pav., Eastbourne.
Marriage of Kitty.—O. H., Harrogate.
Midnight Mail.—T. R., Aldershot.
Midnight Wedding.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
Monte Cristo.—Theatre Royal, Bury.
Moody-Manners (A.)—Liverpool.
Moody-Manners (B.).—Grand T., Eccles.
Mr. Hopkinson.—Broadway T., New Cross.
My Sweetheart.—T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.
Napoleon the Great.—T. R., Croydon.
No Man's Land.—Great Yarmouth.
Norman V. Norman.—Lyceum T., Newport.
On the Stroke of Twelve.—T. R., Chesterfield.
Otto the Outcast.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
Power of Gold.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
Prince of Pilsen (Harris).—Grand T., Derby.
Prince of Pilsen (Howard).—Crystal Palace.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., Lincoln.
Private Secretary.—Avenue T., Sunderland.
Prodigal Son.—Borough T., Stratford.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.
Public Opinion.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Raffles.—Galety T., Manchester.
Revenge.—O. H., Southport.
Romany's Revenge.—T. R., Darwen.
Royal Divorce.—T. R., Worcester.
Sailors of the King.—H. M. T., Barrow.
Saints and Sinners.—Paisley T., Paisley.
Sherlock Holmes.—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
Sign of the Cross.—T. R., Bolton.
Silver King (Polini) (N.).—T. R., Hanley.
Silver King (Polini) (S.).—Grand T., Nottingham.
Silver King (Howard).—O. H., Torquay.
Sin of Her Childhood.—West London Theatre.
Spider and the Fly.—Grand T., Islington, N.
Still Alarm.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Terry, Edward.—New Theatre, Oxford.
Three Little Maids (N.) (Macdona).—Workington
Throne of Terror.—T. R., Houghton.
Traitor.—O. H., Southport.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—County T., Luton.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—Elephant and Castle T.
Two Little Vagabonds (M.).—Macstag and Treherbert.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—Royalty T., Chester.
Unwedded Wife.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Village Blacksmith.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
Walls of Jericho (S.).—Grand T., Southampton.
Warner, Miss Grace.—Alhambra, Stourbridge.
Warning to Women.—Galety T., Leith.
Wearin' o' the Green.—T. R., Preston.
When London Sleeps.—Mansfield and Sutton.
When Women Hate.—T. R., Bristol.
White Chrysanthemum (Curzon).—Grand T., Leeds.
White Chrysanthemum (Macdona).—Carlisle.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—O. H., Kidderminster.
Worst Woman in London.—Grand T., Edinburgh.
Youngest of Three.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
10.30 Down Express.—Queen's T., Liverpool.

Deputising last week-end at the Duchess, Balham, for Mr. Michael Nolan, Miss Elsie Enry, a comedienne new to the variety stage, made a most successful début. Equipped with a good voice and capital songs, this new candidate for public favour went well. She is of prepossessing appearance, and dresses with exquisite taste.

Mr. Arthur Elvy and company, in *The Up-to-Date Tipster*, are topping the bill this week at the Hippodrome, Mansfield. The trio of charming ladies, dressed in approved racing costumes, look very smart, and the song, "The Racing Girls," is a most tuneful number.

Our readers will be interested to hear that Captain John Holtum, in spite of his sixty-one years, is still performing his wonderful cannon-ball feat with the expertness, strength, and agility that marked his first performance of it in 1871 at the Holborn Amphitheatre. He is now with the Norris and Rowe Circus, in Mexico, a country that he visited for the first time in 1864, when he did juggling and strong man acts.

The cannon used for his feat was once a Russian siege gun. Holtum, though born a Dane, is a naturalised American citizen, and has some interesting reminiscences to relate of the unfortunate Emperor Maximilian. He is also proud of a letter received from Lord Roberts in 1887, the hero of Kandahar being much impressed by Holtum's skill. He has performed also before most of the rulers of Europe, and has recently been honoured by an introduction to the Mexican President. In spite of a chequered career, he is in perfect health, and is looking forward to another European tour, commencing in London in the early part of 1907.

Gadbin, the physically unimpressionable, was a dramatic artist, and was regularly engaged to appear in the revues staged at the Casino de Paris. One day a troupe of Ju-jitsu wrestlers arrived, and more as a joke than anything else, Gadbin accepted the challenge of one of them. To his great surprise he beat the Jap, and each successive Jap with whom he wrestled. Despite the fact that he had no idea of the art of Ju-jitsu, he managed to overcome by sheer force of strength. This was the first time that he found out that no pain could be inflicted on his bones. Then he tried placing his hand under a cart-wheel and letting it go over him. He still felt no pain; next he tried his foot with the same result. Then he tried a motor car, also filled with people, and, lastly, permitted a motor-bus to run over his back. Still Gadbin remained alive and uninjured. Gadbin will be pleased to meet all doubters next week at the Glasgow Empire, when he will demonstrate his remarkable powers.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

FREDERICK CHARLES.—(1) *Yes.* (2) *Seven days at least. Consult on these points Strong's "Dramatic Law," published at this office, price 3s. 6d.*

ADAPTED.—(1) *The law with regard to the adaptation of French plays, and those of most Continental countries, is governed by the Berne Convention. The subject is a very complicated one, and, if you want us to advise you, you must send us more details.* (2) *We cannot say. Apply to S. French, theatrical publisher, Southampton-street, Strand.*

WILTON DANS.—*Write to Miss Lottie Collins for the information.*

GEO. H. DUNNICLIFFE.—*A daughter of the late Harry Ball, music hall comedian.*

IRENE BERESFORD HOPE.—*It is usual to first get the MS. typed. It certainly stands a far better chance of being read.*

PIXIE.—*We should think there would be no objection to your joining as an amateur; or, if in doubt, you could put the question to the manager of the company.*

JOSEPH TELKI.—*Mr. Bernard Shaw's play, entitled* The Devil's Disciple, *was copyrighted at the Bijou, Bayswater, on April, 17, 1897.*

K. J. W.—*Yes, at Drury Lane Theatre.*

W. B.—A Brace of Partridges, *comedy, in three acts, by Robert Ganthony, was produced at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, on Nov. 15, 1897.*

A. WILLIAMS.—Joshua Haggard *was played at the Theatre Royal, Cheltenham, on May 19, 1879. Cast: Joshua Haggard, Mr. Jesmond Young; Oswald and Arnold Pentreath, Mr. Arthur E. Norton; Cynthia, Miss Marion Allen; Naomi, Miss Jenny Hardcastle; Judith Haggard, Miss Margaret Eburne; James Haggard, Miss Maud Montagu. The above are the only characters mentioned in our notice of the production.*

IN DOUBT.—*Next week.*

W. H.—*The drama entitled* England in the Days of Charles the Second *was produced at Drury Lane on Sept. 22, 1877.*

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Robert Saurin—Saturday, Dec. 1.
Arthur Verne—Saturday, Dec. 1.
Sam Delavine—Saturday, Dec. 1.
Irene Vanbrugh—Sunday, Dec. 2.
Hamilton Deane—Sunday, Dec. 2.
F. W. Millis—Sunday, Dec. 2.
W. Zanetto—Sunday, Dec. 2.
Jules Claretie—Monday, Dec. 3.
Maude Remayne—Monday, Dec. 3.
Walter Munroe—Monday, Dec. 3.
Helen Henri—Monday, Dec. 3.
Austin Rudd—Monday, Dec. 3.
Nellie Korrie—Tuesday, Dec. 4.
Flo Wilton—Tuesday, Dec. 4.
Augustine Alexander—Wednesday, Dec. 5.
A. R. Marshall—Thursday, Dec. 6.
Marie Jones—Thursday, Dec. 6.
Sir Frederick Bridge—Thursday, Dec. 6.
E. H. Sothern—Thursday, Dec. 6.
Cole Aspinall—Thursday, Dec. 6.
David Day—Friday, Dec. 7.
Violet Cameron—Friday, Dec. 7.
Pietro Mascagni—Friday, Dec. 7.
Maud Lyndhurst—Friday, Dec. 7.

"TWLL DU," a light Welsh opera written and composed by Geoffrey Blackmore, was produced for the first time at the Stanley Hall, South Norwood, on Wednesday. The music is tuneful; the songs contained in the work were well appreciated. The costumes were quaint and pretty. Mr. Arthur Phillips is to be congratulated on the production, and the result obtained out of the material at his disposal; while the stage-management of Mr. Woodford Grant left little to be desired.

MR. EDITOR.—SIR,—Your correspondent for Merthyr states in your current issue that May Peskett, serio, appeared at the Temperance Hall, Merthyr. It should have been—Yours faithfully, MAY BURKET, soprano.—Nov. 25, '06.

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Arundale, Miss S.
Ashworth, Mr. T.
Balby, Mr. E. G.
Baroni and Kemp
Barris, Mr. Herbert
Bathurst, Mr. Pat
Bedford, Mr. Henry
Beltram, Miss Jessie
Beresiyn, Miss Ethel
Bestic, Mr. C. M.
Birvell, Mr. Karl
Bishop, Mr. J. H.
Black, Miss Belle
Bounds, Mr. Arnold
Bronson, Miss Kate
Brophy, Miss Ida
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Collins, Mr. Albert
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Conrad, Mr. Louis
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Courtney, Mrs.
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Darrell, Miss Hilda
Davis, Miss Belle
Dene, Miss Hetty
Derina, Miss Addie
Dewar, Mrs. H.
Dobbs, Miss Edith
Dover, Mr. Cliff
Duncan and Godfrey
Dunville, Mr. Fred C.
Edwards, Miss Dollie
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Elverton, Mr.
English Drama Society
Entwistle, Mr. H.
Faber, Mr. Arthur
Field, Mr. W.
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Heirile, Mr. Sidney
"Henriques," The
Hill, Mr. Hamilton
Hill, Mr. Leonard
Hodges, Mr. Horace
Holloway, Mr. Abe
Ishmael, Prince
Iveson, Mr. Tony
Jackson, Miss Lotty
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Jones, Mr. J.
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Kioto, Mr. N. T.
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Lane, Mr. M. G.
Lang, Mr. Matheson
Lauri, Madame
Lawrence, Mr. Gerald
Lemoine, Miss Rose
Leroy, Mr. J.
Leslie, Miss Fannie
Leslie, Mr. Alfred
Levante, Miss Marie
Lewis, Mrs. Alwyn
Leyton, Mr. Geo.
Lingard, Mr. H.
Linwood, Mr. Lance
Loftus, Miss Vinie
Lovett, Mrs. A.
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Temple, Mr. F.
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Turner, Miss M. G.
Tyrrell, Miss Florence
Vampire, Mr. James
"Vasco"
Vassar, Dr. Carl
Wadbrook, Mr. H.
Wakefield, Mr. J. H.
Wardroper, Mr. Henry
Waterfield, Mr. C.
Watson, Mr. John
Wells, Mr. Rhodes
White, Mr. Claude
White, Mr. Will
Wilmot, Mr. A.
Wolviston, Miss
Wylie, Mr. Lauri
Yorke, Mr. Nansen

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

The charge for a notice of **Marriage**, not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

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BIRTHS.

TRAYNOR.—On Nov. 22, the wife of John F. Traynor (Miss Muriel Clay), of a son. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

WORKMAN—NOBLE.—On Nov. 28, in London, George Chico Workman to Claire Harford (Clara Alice Noble), only daughter of Mrs. and the late G. Harford Noble, Esq., of Bath.

DEATHS.

BOSTOCK.—At Kilconquhar, Fife, after a lingering illness, Isabella Black (Ada Bland), wife of N. C. Bostock. Deeply mourned.

BUTLER.—Nov. 22, at Croydon, Horace Butler, formerly actor-manager and theatre proprietor.

COLMER.—Nov. 15, Albert Ernest Colmer, assistant-manager at the Hippodrome, Sheerness.

GORDON.—On Tuesday, Nov. 27, at Oaklands, Dudley-road, Wimbledon, David Gordon, aged 28.

JEE.—Nov. 17, after a severe operation, James Henry Jee, formerly acrobat and circus proprietor, aged 57.

MEAD.—Nov. 22, after a short illness, Charlotte Mead, daughter of the late Tom Mead, actress, late of *The Freedom of Suzanne* Co.

PAVILLIO.—Nov. 22, at his residence, 28, Brunswick-square, Camberwell, after a long illness, Tom Pavillio (of Pavillio and Roussillion), and latterly a variety agent.

REEVE.—Nov. 22, at his residence, from pneumonia, Malmesbury-road, Bow, Charles Reeve, actor, father of Ada Reeve, aged 63.

REEVE.—Nov. 14, at Walmer, Newport, Isle of Wight, Wybert Reeve, retired actor and playwright, aged 77.

SEAMAN.—Nov. 23, Mrs. Seaman, widow of the late William Seaman, in her 95th year, for many years a member of the Victoria, City of London, and Standard theatres, and mother of Julia, Alice, Florence, and Wm. Seaman.

WENMAN.—At 7, Eckestien-road, S.W., Mary Wenman, widow of the late T. N. Wenman, mother of Janet, Henry, and Charles A. Wenman. R.I.P.

IN MEMORIAM.

BAILEY.—In loving memory of our dear father, Francis Bailey, who passed away Nov. 30, 1902. Sadly missed by his three daughters, Susie, Belle, Dolly. "His children arise and call him blessed."

BAILEY.—In ever loving memory of my dear father, Francis Bailey, who passed away Nov. 30, 1902. Never forgotten by his daughter HENRIETTA.

EMMERSON.—In loving memory of my dear mother, Ellen Emmerson, who departed this life Dec. 2, 1905. Never forgotten by her affectionate daughter Nellie, and grandchildren. Thy will be done.

JEE.—In loving memory of James Henry Jee, father of the James Henry Jee Family, who died Nov. 17, 1906. Deeply lamented by family and friends.

WATTERSON.—In loving remembrance of Charlie, the beloved husband of Madge Watterson, who died Nov. 28, 1905. Never forgotten by his sorrowing wife and daughter. 10, Mill-lane, Islington, Liverpool, and 9, Lord Nelson-street, Liverpool (late of Newcastle-on-Tyne).

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ALPHABETICAL LIST
OF
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NAME.	DATE.
Abrahams, Messrs. F. & M.	March 31, 1906.
Alexander, Mr. Alex.	June 2, 1906.
Ashcroft, Late Mr. W. E.	October 27, 1906.
Ashton, Mr. George	May 5, 1906.
Ashton, Miss Margaret	September 1, 1906.
Ball, Mr. Alf	September 1, 1906.
Barbour, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Barclay, Mr. Arthur J.	May 26, 1906.
Barlow, Miss Billie	March 10, 1906.
Barnett, Mr. Orlando	October 6, 1906.
Barrasford, Mrs.	February 10, 1906.
Beatty, Miss May	November 10, 1906.
Bertoldi, Late Miss Ena	April 7, 1906.
Bessie, Late Miss Elizabeth	February 3, 1906.
Billington, Mrs. John	January 20, 1906.
Bordin, Signorina Maria	September 15, 1906.
Brough, Mr. Lionel	May 13, 1905.
Brown-Potter, Mrs.	March 3, 1906.
Burton, Mr. John	March 10, 1906.
Butt, Mr. Alfred	August 25, 1905.
Carrington, Miss Eva	February 24, 1906.
Cavalho, Miss Sylvia	March 3, 1906.
Cellier, Miss Marguerite	May 26, 1906.
Chapin, Miss Alice	May 26, 1906.
Cinquevalli, Mr. Paul	May 5, 1906.
Clarey, Late Mr. H. O.	February 24, 1906.
Clark, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Clark, Late Mr. Henri	Dec. 9, 1905.
Clark, Mr. T. Sealey	May 19, 1906.
Collette, Mr. Charles	November 4, 1905.
Collier, Mr. Hal	May 19, 1906.
Conquest, Mr. Arthur	May 26, 1906
Conquest, Mr. Fred	Dec. 9, 1905.
Coote, Mr. Bert	June 16, 1906.
Corri, Mlle. Ghita	September 22, 1905.
Costello, Mr. Tom	September 15, 1906.
Cotterell, Mr. Sid	July 14, 1906.
Crisp, Late Mr. Henry	May 26, 1906.
Cruikshank, Mr. Alfred	March 17, 1906.
Culloch, Mr. Arthur	November 10, 1906.
Dallas, Mr. J. J.	July 7, 1906.
Dampier, Mr. Alfred	May 12, 1906.
Deering, Late Miss R.	July 14, 1906.
De Gracia, Mr. G.	May 19, 1906.
Dobson, Mr. E. H.	August 12, 1905.
Donegan, Mr. James K.	May 20, 1905.
Duff, Master Harry E.	April 29, 1905.
Dyball, Mr. George H.	January 13, 1906.
Earnshaw, Mr Arthur	November 4, 1905.
Elliott, Late Mr. J. B.	May 26, 1906.
Elen, Mr. Gus	September 23, 1905.
Gastelle, Miss Stella	July 15, 1905.
Gatti, Late Mr. Stefano	October 20, 1906.
Genée, Mlle.	September 22, 1906.
Godfrey-Turner, Miss M.	October 28, 1905.
Gibbs, Miss Edith	March 3, 1906.
Grace, Miss Amy	January 13, 1906.
Gray, Miss Dora	January 13, 1906.
Grey, Miss Isabel	July 7, 1906.
Grove, Mr. Fred	March 10, 1906.
Grein, Mr. J. T.	Nov. 11, 1905.
Gunn, Miss Haidee	September 30, 1905
Hamlyn, Mr. J. D.	January 20, 1906.
Hansen, Miss Laura	January 20, 1906.
Harris, Mr. Thomas	February 24, 1906.
Harriss, Miss Sophie	April 7, 1906.
Harvey, Late Mr. Eddie	September 1, 1906.
Hastings, Miss Nora	March 10, 1906.
Heron-Brown, Miss Edith	June 16, 1906.
Hey, Miss Muriel	September 15, 1906.
Hitchens, Mr. H. J.	September 8, 1906.
Holloway, Mr. Baliol	April 15, 1905.
Hunter, Late Mr. Harry	October 20, 1906,
Illington, Miss Margaret	June 2, 1906.
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905.
Jenoure, Miss Aida	June 24 1905.
Jerrard, Late Mr. J. F.	April 28, 1906.
Juliette, Mdlle.	January 13, 1906.
Karno, Mr. Fred	August 12, 1905.
Kinghorne, Late Mr. Mark	November 10, 1906.
Kingston, Miss Bertha	February 24, 1906.
Kinnaird, Miss Helen	March 3, 1906.
Knowles, Mr. J. Forbes	July 7, 1906.
Lamonte, Miss Syria	November 10, 1906.
Lauri, Mr. Edward	July 28, 1906.
Wright, Mr. Stewart D.	Nov. 17, 1906.
Zorn, Mr. Fritz	February 17, 1906.

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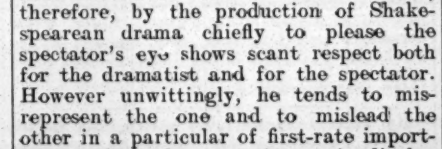


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1906.

SHAKESPEARE AND SCENERY.

The most "contentious" essay of all the eleven which constitute the volume called "Shakespeare and the Modern Stage," recently published by JOHN MURRAY, is undoubtedly the first in the book. It deals with the very difficult question of with how much or how little mounting SHAKESPEARE'S plays should be produced. According to Mr. LEE, the leading London managers are in the wrong in adding "spectacular magnificence" and music to the other attractions of Shakespearean productions; and he considers that the spectacular embellishments now in vogue are so costly that Shakespearean revivals are made more risky by the heavy financial risk involved in the enterprise. In this way Mr. LEE accounts for the comparative rarity of such performances in London; and he goes so far as to contend that only those plays are viewed with favour by the London manager which lend themselves, in his opinion, to more or less ostentatious spectacle, and to the interpolation of music and dancing. Mr. LEE continues:

"It is open to doubt whether, from the sensible literary point of view, the managerial activity be well conceived or to the public advantage. It is hard to ignore a fundamental flaw in the manager's central position. The pleasure which recent Shakespearean revivals offer the spectator reaches him mainly through the eye. That is the manager's avowed intention. Yet no one would seriously deny that the Shakespearean drama appeals, both primarily and ultimately, to the head and to the heart. Whosoever seeks, therefore, by the production of Shakespearean drama chiefly to please the spectator's eye shows scant respect both for the dramatist and for the spectator. However unwittingly, he tends to misrepresent the one and to mislead the other in a particular of first-rate importance. Indeed, excess in scenic display does worse than restrict opportunities of witnessing SHAKESPEARE'S plays on the stage in London and other large cities of England and America. It is to be feared that such excess either weakens or distorts the just and proper influence of SHAKESPEARE'S work. If these imputations can be sustained, then it follows that the increased and increasing expense which is involved in the production of SHAKESPEARE'S plays ought on grounds of public policy to be diminished."

It seems to us that managers, audiences, and critics attach rather too much importance to this matter of mounting. We never knew a really poor piece to be saved by the scenery. Elaborate mounting is more or less of a fashion, and one *entrepreneur* vies with another in ingenuity of invention and liberality of enterprise. The result is that a certain standard of sumptuosity has been reached, playgoers have grown accustomed to it, and anything less thorough and complete would be regarded as inadequate. For, after all, mounting is merely a matter of degree. As soon as you leave the safe ground of the ungarnished stage, with "This is a castle" writ on a placard, it is difficult to say where adequacy ends and where "excess" in scenic embellishment commences. Roughly speaking, we should place the point of exuberance where the attention is distracted from the play to the production. That the most accurate imitation of an environment does not impair the spectator's interest in the acting is proved by the fact that in a drama of modern life, where every table and teacup can be real, it is found that as soon as the story is set going the surroundings are entirely forgotten, although they may be absolutely realistic down to the smallest detail. It is not, indeed, the perfect, but the imperfect, realisation of a scene which offends. When the reproduction is flawless the eye simply accepts the imitation as satisfactory and the illusion as complete. It is when the scenic artist has failed in his attempt at deception, when the *papier-maché* treatment is obviously artificial, that one awakens from one's dream. By witnessing a succession of complete and careful productions the taste becomes exacting, and resents imperfections. It is simply a matter of habit, however. The audiences of SHAKESPEARE'S time had a certain standard of illusion, the audiences of GARRICK'S time had another, the audiences of the early Victorian period had a third. But in these matters we cannot, "like a crab," "go backward." A public accustomed to see GARRICK play Macbeth in a white wig and knee-breeches felt no injury to their illusion, because they "knew no better." The stage has to keep pace with contemporary education and information. We have to be accurate and elaborate simply to satisfy, and only to escape ridicule.

As far as the leading London managers are concerned, they have little choice in the matter. They must either not play SHAKESPEARE at all or must mount his works with the liberality and accuracy which the public which patronises West End playhouses has learnt to expect. Mr. STEELE states that Sir HENRY IRVING lost heavily "on his Shakespearean productions," while PHELPS made his reign at Sadler's Wells pay. At any rate, IRVING took between the time of his starting management in 1878 and the day of his death in 1905 over two million pounds sterling. As for PHELPS, after eighteen years of unremitting toil, he left Sadler's Wells, Mr. COLEMAN tells us, almost as poor as when he entered it to accept an engagement at Drury Lane under FALCONER and CHATTERTON; and then joined Mr. LABOUCHERE at the Queen's Theatre for a "grand spectacular production" of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, "which proved highly successful, and realised large sums for both actor and manager." What PHELPS could do at Sadler's Wells would have been impossible for IRVING to do at the Lyceum; and it is very doubtful if another PHELPS could do what he did in his day. The conditions were so different, with the multitude of competing attractions and the difficulty of keeping together a stock company of excellence. The "object-lesson" of a revival of *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Burg-Theater in Vienna, which Mr. STEELE supplies, is not inspiring. "The acting," he says, "was competent, though not of the highest calibre; there were no conspicuous deflections from the adequate standard." The only character in the performance of which he retains any recollection is that of Enobarbus. The performance lasted five hours, and "no sign of impatience manifested itself at any point." But will Mr. LEE swear that there was no snoring?

JUDGING by the principals Mr. Sounes has engaged for his pantomime *The Forty Thieves*, at the Prince's Theatre, Poplar, a huge success is in store for him. The appointments of the up-to-date theatre are admirably designed to give effect to the most elaborate production, and the pantomime is sure to be exceedingly "Poplar"—if we may repeat a pun which has the distinction of having been perpetrated in Parliament.

MR. F. B. WOULFE asks us to state, in order to prevent misapprehension, that the new version of *Robin Hood*, written for him by Mr. Clifford Rean, in no way encroaches on any other version of the same story. Two novels of Dumas have been selected as a basis for the play, viz., "Robin Hood the Outlaw" and "The Prince of Thieves." In addition, this version is a melodrama pure and simple. The character of Robin has been drawn with every regard to the celebrated outlaw's enormous physical strength, and the part is one that few actors, unless endowed with Mr. Woulfe's thews and sinews, would care to have to deal with. In the course of the play Mr. Woulfe intends to perform some notable feats of strength, and in one scene, where the old English custom of Trial by Combat is introduced, he wrestles with and throws a man of over 18st. weight.

TOLSTOI'S *Anna Karénine* has tempted many Parisian playwrights, yet no theatre has thus far cared to produce the work, possibly on account of its being too typically Russian for the taste of the public. M. Gémier, however, has accepted a play founded on the before-mentioned novel, and has put it in rehearsal. The difficulty, however, is to find an actor suitable for the rôle of Wronsky, and those who have read the novel will understand that it is not an easy one. M. Gémier has taken over the part of Karénine, and Mme. Mègard will impersonate the heroine, Anna. The tableau wherein the latter throws herself under a passing train will be made sensational.

THE clever performance of the Court embalmer, Ptolemy Theopompus Allakama—to give him his full title—in that most successful opera *Amasis*, was credited by us to Mr. Herbert Ross, an unfortunate error that robbed the real impersonator, Mr. Reginald White, of much-merited praise. By his rendering of his opening song one easily discovers that Mr. White is a comedian with an easy, natural style, and that he never labours his points. His clever eccentricities also do much for the comedy scenes, which are now so full of drollery, and he is a decided acquisition to the cast.

THE Authors' Society, writes our Paris correspondent, are still crowing over their wonderful victory in having, as they say, floored the Trust. Certain facts, however, have now come to light showing that this so-called victory is a most expensive one, and decidedly profitable to the vanquished. In the first instance, the society, who announced with a great flourish of trumpets that nobody would be allowed to manage more than one theatre at a time, has permitted MM. Richemond and Deval to direct the Athénée and the Folies-Dramatiques, and MM. Clos and Dublay to take another playhouse besides the Bouffes. The society, moreover, takes over the lease of the Palais-Royal and of the Variétes, and, by way of idemnity, pays MM. Richemond and Deval £1600 a year for the Variétes and £800 for the Palais-Royal! In other words, the beforementioned gentlemen, whom the society threatened to excommunicate first and slaughter afterwards, are pocketing a nice little income, guaranteed by that wealthy concern, the Authors' Society. It will be interesting to know why the society claim a victory considering it is those whom they prosecuted who reaped all the benefit of the affair.

BRITISH EMPIRE SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY.

At the St. James's Theatre, on Thursday afternoon, Her Highness Princess Louise-Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein presented the prizes to several ladies and gentlemen who, in an elocution competition recently held under the auspices of the British Empire Shakespeare Society, were adjudged winners by Mr. George Alexander. Mr. Sidney Lee, president of the Society, was in the chair, and there were also on the stage Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Laurence Irving, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, and Mr. Acton Bond, and Miss Morritt, the secretary.

An extremely interesting programme of dramatic readings commenced with a recitation of "Ben Jonson's Ode to Shakespeare," recited with fine expression and clear enunciation by Mr. Laurence Irving. Then followed readings from *Julius Cæsar*, *Henry VIII.*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. All the speeches were delivered with excellent elocutionary effect. Mr. Lewis Casson as Marcus Brutus and Mr. Walter Hampden as Cassius were heard to excellent effect, others taking part in the scenes from *Julius Cæsar* being Mr. George Ingleton, Mr. Edwin Holloway, Mr. Michael Sherbrooke, Mr. Stanley Lathbury, and Miss Kate Turner. In *Henry VIII.* Mr. Acton Bond as Wolsey and Miss Edith Wynne-Matthison as Catharine spoke with rare feeling and commendable diction. Others appearing in this scene were Mr. Kenyon Musgrave, Mr. John Macfarlane, Mr. J. H. Irvine, Mr. Stuart Wilson, and Mr. John Beamish. But the honours of the afternoon, so far as a fresh characterisation of a rôle was concerned, undoubtedly fell to Miss Hutin Britton, whose vigorous delivery and whose robust personal appearance as Katharina were well in accordance with the requirements of the rôle. It was a brilliant piece of work, which received due appreciation. Mr. Matheson Lang spoke well as Petruchio; and others who assisted in *The Taming of the Shrew*, in addition to those mentioned as taking part in the previous performances, were Miss Agnes Brayton (Bianca), Mr. Nigel Playfair (Grumio), and Miss Gertrude de Burgh as Curtis.

At the close of the dramatic performances Her Highness Princess Louise-Augusta graciously presented prizes to the successful competitors at the last examination. The names of the recipients are as follow: Miss Clare Absalom, Miss Joan Wiseman, Miss Kathleen Rind, Miss Hilda Fletcher, Miss Muriel Hutchinson, Mr. Norman Wrighton, Miss Gwendolen Hart, Miss Enid Rose, Miss Ruby Feetum, and Mr. Sydney Smith.

The chairman, in moving a vote of thanks to Princess Louise-Augusta for her kindly offices in the distribution of the prizes, mentioned that in having Mr. George Alexander as judge they could scarcely have had a higher authority on the art and the practice of acting. The value of the prizes would be greatly enhanced by the fact that they had been bestowed by the Princess's hands. They welcomed Her Highness for many reasons. For one thing she was a patroness of the Society, and she was a most ardent admirer of the works of William Shakespeare. Thanks were due to her for the encouragement she had given to the Society and for the efforts she was making to extend the ranks of readers of Shakespeare.

Sir Theodore Martin, who seconded the vote of thanks, remarked that he came to the theatre that afternoon without any great expectations, and he had been agreeably surprised to find such excellent results of the work of the Society. He did not think there was nowadays a due appreciation of the beauty of Shakespeare's language, which was as diversified as it was beautiful.

Mr. Laurence Irving, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. George Alexander, said: It is my privilege to offer the thanks of the British Empire Shakespeare Society to Mr. George Alexander for his great kindness and hospitality in receiving us here this afternoon. We who are members of this Society know that this is only one of the services he has rendered in our behalf, and, speaking more widely, I think one might truly say that Mr. Alexander's whole management of this theatre has been most encouraging to the art of the stage, to all that is best in it, and, therefore, particularly to the works of our great national poet. On these boards Mr. Alexander has never produced any play that would tend to corrupt good manners or that had not in it strong intrinsic merit. It is not only for 300 nights, but for more than a decade, that Mr. Alexander has kept His House in Order. Now I wish to speak of a movement that has lately been started in our profession—or calling, or occupation, or art—a movement that has very strongly, for many reasons, appealed to me, and also to Mr. Alexander. I am alluding to what is called Actors' Day. As you are no doubt aware, this was a day on which it had been determined that all actors, managers, and authors should relinquish one-sixth of their earnings in one week for the purpose of alleviating distress among those connected with the stage. There once existed an old adage, "Look out, ma! Take in the washing. Here come some actors." Well, actors are sufficiently fortunate to-day to be able to have their own washing. But we were desirous of removing whatever taints might still be bound up with our calling by the institution of Actors' Day. Unfortunately there were very few Alexanders in the field. Many members of the profession of light and leading held back. Mr. Alexander, in giving one-sixth of his week's salary, gave one-sixth of the largest salary that has ever been paid to him, and that I consider was positively handsome. It is my pleasure to offer him a vote of thanks, and, if available, I know we shall all give him our votes if he really does stand for the County Council or in whatever capacity which may require him to accept our assistance and heartfelt suffrage.

Mr. George Alexander, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, said: I can hardly say how delighted I have been to place my theatre at the disposal of the Society this afternoon. I am perfectly certain that the Society will do a great deal of good. It will make playgoers who will be anxious to witness stage representations of Shakespeare. Mr. Irving, with an enthusiasm which cannot be overpraised, has mentioned in this assembly the subject of Actors' Day. I sincerely hope that the Actors' Day movement will be a very great success, and I feel sure it would do much to give us a better position in the world if we could entirely give up making any appeals to the public to look after our less fortunate brothers and sisters. In conclusion, I hope that the Society will on many future occasions meet again in this house.

MRS. SEAMAN, widow of the late Wm. Seaman, passed away on the 23rd ult. in her ninety-fifth year. She and her husband were for many years members of the old Victoria, the City of London, and Standard theatres. The deceased leaves three daughters, Julia, Alice, and Florence, and one son, William. Miss Julia Seaman was a few years ago well known as an actress both in London and the provinces.

MARKED interest attaches to the special performance at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross, on Monday evening, Dec. 17, of *The House of Dombey*, by the Dickens Fellowship Dramatic Society. The occasion will be rendered noteworthy by the presence of Mr. Beerbohm Tree, president of the society, who will, at the close, present the Lord Mayor with a cheque for the proceeds of the performance, which is given in aid of the Crippled Children's Fund.

THE ORIGINAL CHRISTY MINSTRELS.

Mr. William Matthews, whose death in his seventy-first year was recently announced in *The Era*, was one of the three Brothers Matthews of the original C.C.C. Christy Minstrels. The deceased was the "bones" of the troupe, and amongst the comic songs that he helped to make popular were "Tapioca," "My Mary Ann," "The Grecian Band," "The Hat and Feather," "Hush-a-bye baby," "The Hen Convention," &c.

In the year 1863 three young men, who had received a good musical education, opened an establishment for the sale of musical instruments in Tavistock-street, Covent Garden. The name of these young men was Matthews—Thomas, William, and Henry—and here they gave pleasant little musical reunions to the delight of all who had the privilege of an *entré*. After a time the three brothers resolved to form a troupe, and give entertainments of the kind made famous by E. P. Christy and his company in America. They called themselves Christy's Coloured Comedians, and in August, 1863, they made their appearance at the Royal Colosseum. In a contemporary notice of their début there reference is made to the "droll eccentricity and mercurial vivacity of Mr. William Matthews," the "bones" of the party. *The Era* of August 16, 1863, contains a paragraph giving a brief notice of the "new company" of coloured minstrels at the Dr. Johnson Music Hall, a place of amusement that has long ceased to exist. The troupe also appeared at the old Raglan Music Hall and at the Crystal Palace, on one occasion when the late Prince Arthur was present. They also had the honour of performing before the then Prince and Princess of Wales, at the Horticultural Gardens, South Kensington. One of the most distinctive and successful efforts of the company at this time was an extraordinary and quaint burlesque fragment, called "Dooral Mac Dill Darrell," which was given by the Brothers Matthews and Beckett some thousands of times. Mr. T. W. Matthews was a tenor singer, and Mr. Harry Matthews was the tambourine corner man.

Many people are no doubt quite unaware of the fact that the real original Christy Minstrels never visited Europe at all, but, under the management of the Mr. Christy already mentioned, confined their performances to America. About the year 1857 a Mr. Raynor who had been a member of the original company in America, being convinced that it would be a good speculation to introduce this then novel kind of entertainment into Great Britain, came over in that year with a troupe of Christy Minstrels, and gave performances both in London and the provinces with considerable success. However, before the year 1860, the troupe was disbanded, and Mr. Raynor returned to America, the "properties" having been disposed of to Messrs. Wilsom and company, who carried on the same kind of entertainment for some time. Mr. George Washington Moore and Mr. Crocker became connected with this company, but after a while—in Nov., 1864—these two gentlemen started a troupe of their own.

In the meantime the Bros. Matthew had been joined by Mr. J. Spiller, one of the original minstrels under Mr. Raynor, and as the Christy Coloured Comedians, or the C.C.C., they, in Nov., 1864, engaged the St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, and gave performances there with great success for five weeks, when they were succeeded by the famous General Tom Thumb. The troupe, after a fortnight's provincial trip, went to the Polygraphic Hall (afterwards the Charing Cross Theatre, and still later known as the Folly and as Toole's Theatre), King William-street, Strand. Here they remained five months, at the conclusion of which period they again went into the country, but, returning to St. James's Hall, continued performing there till Sept. 2, 1865. This being the dull time of the year in London, the troupe went on tour in the provinces. In their absence Messrs. Moore, Crocker, and Burgess secured St. James's Hall—which had become the recognised home of the Christy Minstrel entertainments—for a considerable period.

Many of the above facts were elicited in the course of an action for libel which the Matthews brothers brought against Messrs. Moore, Crocker, and Burgess, and which was tried before the late Mr. Justice Lush and a special jury at Westminster Hall, on Feb. 11, 1869. The plaintiffs accused the defendants of injuring them seriously in their business by the publication of advertisements, cautioning the public against being "misled by unscrupulous persons who go about from time to time representing themselves as the Veritable and Legitimate Minstrels of the St. James's Hall, Piccadilly." Mr. Quain, Q.C. (the late Mr. Justice Quain), Mr. Walter Molesworth St. Aubyn, and Mr. Popham Pike were counsel for the plaintiffs. Mr. Serjeant Parry, Mr. Morgan Lloyd, and Mr. Montagu Williams appeared for the defendants. After the opening speech of counsel for the plaintiffs the only witness called was Mr. Thomas William Matthews, and, after hearing his evidence, a verdict for the plaintiffs for 40s. and costs was returned, the defendants undertaking to withdraw the advertisements complained of, and in any other advertisements to state in express terms that they were not intended to apply to Messrs. Matthews' C.C.C. Christy Minstrels—which indeed was the defence set up by the defendants' counsel.

The troupe was afterwards known as Matthews' Minstrels, and continued to perform in the provinces until the year 1890.

THE TERRIERS ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The Committee of Management of the Terriers Association, having been informed that rumours are in circulation in the profession to the effect that the funds of the assocation are in an unsatisfactory condition, and that members have not received the benefits to which they are entitled, I am requested to ask you to give prominence to the fact in your current issue that such rumours are absolutely unfounded, and that if the responsibility for the circulation of such malicious statements can be fixed on anyone proceedings of the most stringent nature will be taken.

The financial state of the Terriers Association—which I think I am correct in stating is the only registered Friendly Society restricted to the music hall profession—has never since its inception been in a stronger or more prosperous condition than at the present time.—Your obedient servant,

GERALD P. R. BURGESS,
Solicitor to the Terriers' Association
5, Great James-street, Bedford-row, Nov. 29.

"THE SLEEPING CAR."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I notice in your variety columns of Nov. 24 last a criticism of a sketch produced by Mr. Maurice Hoffman entitled *The Sleeping Car*. The plot is very similar to a sketch entitled *The Midnight Mail*, by Forbes Dawson, recently played with success at the Chelsea, Metropolitan, and Standard, and noticed by your critic. Of this I hold the sole performing rights, and as I intend again playing it in London shortly, to save confusion, I shall be grateful if you will, in justice to myself and author, publish this letter.—Yours faithfully,

GEORGE THORNE, JUN.
Hippodrome, New Brompton, Kent.
Nov. 27.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The Canterbury difficulty has vanished, and on Friday the L.C.C., sitting as the licensing authority at Spring-gardens, acceded to the application of Mr. G. A. Payne for a licence for music and dancing, Mr. H. J. Greenwood, the chairman of the Theatres Committee, stating that an agreement had now been come to with respect to certain structural alterations which were to be carried out.

A licence for music and dancing was granted on Friday to Mr. Oswald Stoll for the London Coliseum, subject to an undertaking that no intoxicating drinks should be sold or consumed on the premises.

Miss Marie Lloyd is so deeply interested in the Music Hall Ladies' Guild that it must have been an intense disappointment to her that she was forbidden by her medical attendant from appearing at the brilliantly successful matinée at the Canterbury on Tuesday. She, however, sent along a cheque for ten guineas for two boxes.

Miss Constance Moxon, who exercised a genial sway as stage-manager, was very gratified at receiving the following kind letter from Miss Ellen Terry, who was unable to be present with Miss Fanny Brough, to give encouragement to her sisters of the lesser stage in their splendid work. Writing from her residence at Chelsea, Miss Terry says:—"Dear Miss Moxon,—I have been staying at my little farm and neglecting my letters. A day of reckoning comes for that sort of thing! I am sorry I did not answer your letter before—sorry, too, to tell you I cannot do what you ask me. On the 27th and 29th I am acting for charities in the country, and can only send my good wishes to the ladies of the Music Hall Guild—and a tiny cheque towards the scheme they have in hand."

The following amounts were taken by the sale of programmes, photos, and flowers:—Miss Maud Courtney, £3 5s. 2d.; Miss Margaret Ratcliff, £2 2s. 3d.; Miss B. Burnand, £2 17s. 10d.; Miss Agnes Molteno, £1 10s. 9d.; Miss M. Wood, £1 4s. 10d.; Miss Weston, £1 3s. 3d.; Miss Popet Ginnett, £1 1s.; Miss Miller, £1; Miss Rose Harvey, 17s. 6d.; Mrs. Morny Cash, 14s.; Miss Carrie Laurie, 13s. 6d.; Miss L. Smythson, 13s.; Miss B. Hyman, 12s. 5d.; Miss Jonghmanns, 11s. 7d.; Miss Alice McNaughton, 9s. 3d.; Miss Millie Payne, 5s. 5d.; Miss Martini (postcard), 1s.

Roughly speaking, the total sum obtained by the matinée is about £200. Miss Burnand received a cheque from My Fancy of £5 for a programme, and another £3 3s. for two stall seats. Telegrams of good wishes were sent by Miss Marie Lloyd, Mrs. Ganty, Miss Nellie Wallett, Mrs. Webb, Miss Marie Loftus, Miss Amy Clevere, Roberts and Appleyard, Mr. and Mrs. Mildare, Mr. Russell Wallett, Mrs. Egerton, Miss Bijou Russell, and Miss Molteno. The committee of the Guild desire, through the columns of *The Era*, to record their heartfelt thanks to the "Rats" fraternity for their splendid gift, to acknowledge their indebtedness to everyone who assisted, and to thank the Press for the publicity so freely given.

Miss Lil Shaw (the Pocket Vesta Tilley), aged five years, came all the way from Hull to appear at the Music Hall Ladies' Guild matinée at the Canterbury on Tuesday, is a life guardian of the principal hospital in that town, holding this big position through her aid to numerous charities.

Mr. Gus Elen on Monday next will be taking his Cockney carols into the provinces, where he will appear with his new entertainment, which possesses the additional advantage of being illustrated with cinematograph effects. The homespuns of ancient Rhodes were regaled with Attic salt in the Hellenic comedy of Aristophanes some four hundred years ago, and now our country cousins are to be tickled with "Elenic" humour, which also has an *attic* flavour. History repeats itself!

The directors of the Alhambra and Mr. George Scott are carrying out a scheme of reconstruction and redecoration of the auditorium that embraces the repainting, the reseating, and recarpeting of the entire house, and by Jan. 15—the probable date of the production of the new ballet—it is expected that the contract will have been completed.

Mr. Alfred Butt and the directors will celebrate the fourteenth anniversary of the Palace Theatre on Tuesday, Dec. 11. We expect to see many theatre and music-hall favourites on the stage and a great and distinguished crowd in the auditorium.

Mr. C. Blyth-Pratt has now entirely recovered from the nasty touch of malarial fever that compelled him to remain at home for a few days. Unfortunately, those who have seen service, like the popular manager of the Oxford has, in the unhealthy region of the West Coast of Africa, are only too liable to recurring attacks of the malady of the marshes.

We referred briefly last week to Miss Ada Reeve's severe bereavement by the death of her father, Mr. Charles Reeve, who passed away at the age of 63 on Thursday, the 22nd ult., from pneumonia. In her early days at the Pavilion Theatre she profited much by the advice of the sound legitimate actor, and she was bound to him not only by the ties of filial affection, but by artistic sympathy. As a stock actor at the Mile End Charles Reeve did much excellent work. His gifted daughter, whose brilliant career was a source of continual delight to him, is overwhelmed with sorrow, and is deeply sensible of the sympathy which has been shown to her in shoals of telegrams and letters, which she is quite unable to answer individually. He was buried on Monday.

Mr. Pat Carey, the president of the Music Hall Sick Fund, in a letter addressed to the secretary, expresses the heartfelt thanks of himself and wife to the committee and officers of the society for the handsome illuminated address presented on the occasion of his recent marriage. He also thanks the committee for their good wishes expressed in the letter accompanying the presentation.

At the 490th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, held at the offices on Wednesday, Mr. Joe O'Gorman in the chair, a motion was carried that a sub-committee be appointed to procure suitable premises for the proposed Music Hall Exchange. The weekly financial statement showed a total of £40 14s. 6d., and during the week fifty-one new members were enrolled. The Committee in future will hold its weekly meetings on Wednesday at one o'clock.

Mr. Harry Seymour, who was specially engaged by Mr. Arthur Collins to appear in the *Parisian* production of *Cinderella*, is playing the Cat, to the delight equally of the boulevardier and the children. His business in the picnic scene is adding much to the gaiety of *la ville lumière*, the large audiences that assemble nightly to hear the Anglo-French version of the old legend being convulsed.

Our forecast of the success of the Napoleonic sketch, *The Drummer of the 76th*, by Louis Cohen, has been more than justified by the bookings both in London and the provinces. This week it is scoring most unmistakably at Bradford, and is winning triumphant receptions everywhere. The Colonial and American rights, which are for disposal, should be speedily snapped up.

The New Tivoli, Liverpool, will be opened on Dec. 10. A private inspection is to take place on Saturday next, when Miss Vesta Tilley will unveil a memorial tablet affixed at the entrance of the hall.

The new manager of the Tivoli, Mr. James Marks, at present controlling the Park Palace, took a farewell benefit at that place on Tuesday evening, when a crowded audience put in an appearance, and all the principal variety artists of the city and Birkenhead attended to offer their services. The staff of the Park presented Mr. Marks with a charmingly inscribed silver cigarette case, and to Mrs. Marks a valuable bag was given.

An influential syndicate has been formed for the purpose of establishing an up-to-date variety theatre in Cheltenham. The syndicate has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Hugh Astley, the chairman of the London Pavilion, who will be chairman of the company, and his influence will enable the leading artists from the Pavilion to visit Cheltenham from time to time, thus ensuring a programme being placed before local audiences which otherwise would be unattainable.

It is proposed to place the construction of the building in the hands of Messrs. Wylson and Long, the well-known architects of King William-street, W.C., who designed the Oxford, Pavilion, Euston, the Newcastle Pavilion, the Chelsea and Walthamstow Palaces, &c. Naturally, a great deal of work in the construction of the house can be done locally, and tenders will probably be invited from all local firms for each department.

The growth of the variety theatres in England has been phenomenal of late years, most of the smaller towns now possessing their "Palaces" and "Empires," which all seem to be flourishing. In London and its suburbs, too, the increase is no less remarkable, and the conversion, or anticipated conversion, of the Brixton, Stoke Newington, and Islington Theatres, with the opening of the East Ham Palace in a fortnight's time, speak eloquently of the favourable attitude of the masses towards entertainments that are essentially light and snappy.

Through the kindness and courtesy of Mr. Fred W. Warden, the South African Rugby team and officials were invited to the Belfast Royal Theatre of Varieties on Thursday, 22nd ult. The visitors thoroughly enjoyed themselves, being especially interested in the mystifying illusions of Mr. Carl Hertz.

Regan and Ryan, whose entertainment is always up-to-date, are playing at the Court Theatre, Liverpool, for pantomime this year. They are well booked up at all the leading variety houses in Great Britain, and have also settled for Australia with Mr. Harry Rickards.

Mr. George Brooks has been secured by Mr. C. F. Williams as principal comedian for his pantomime *Blue Beard*, and it will be the good fortune of patrons of the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, to enjoy the rich fun of this capital *farceur* in the rôle of Sister Ann. Mr. Williams is to be congratulated.

Mr. Delno Fritz has intimated his resignation of the position as manager of the Empire, Paisley, which is under the lesseeship of Mr. J. H. Savile. Mr. Fritz, who has been in charge for five years, came with an excellent reputation, and has been offered an engagement as a performer at an increased salary by Messrs. Barnum and Bailey in America, he being attached to the mammoth circus for six years before becoming a manager in Paisley. His departure will be regretted by many friends. Mr. Fritz has been allotted a benefit next week.

From Mr. Chas. E. Machin's Sunderland office comes the news that bookings are going so strong for his weird and novelty sketch productions that Mr. Chas. M. Daly, his manager, author, and producer, has already started on four other novelties, and that by Easter almost a dozen productions will be in full swing. Arrangements are also in hand for a tour through the States, thence to Australia and South Africa, with a special company playing a sketch répertoire.

W. J. Ashcroft, thirty years ago, was as great a draw at a music hall as Little Tich is to-day. Since then he has been theatre proprietor, manager, and entertainer with the greatest success. There are thousands in Great Britain who even now remember the ovations the veteran Irish comedian and dancer received everywhere he appeared in the early 'seventies. The present generation have but to see him once to acknowledge that their fathers "knew a good thing when they saw it" in W. J. Ashcroft. It is just fourteen years since Ashcroft appeared in Leeds—long enough to be forgotten in the case of a mediocre man. But it is safe to assume that many who read the announcement that "the solid man" will appear at the Empire next Monday will receive the news with the greatest pleasure, and make a point of giving the veteran comedian and dancer a great welcome.

Mr. Ashcroft was born in far-away Pawtucket, in the United States. A few years ago he retired from the stage. "In my retirement," he told the writer, "the great difficulty I had was to find something to put in my time at. I tried many things, but no matter with what I occupied myself, there was a longing for the old life—a craving, I may say, for the glare and glitter, the rush and excitement of the stage, and so when my old partner, John W. Morton, came to me and discussed the matter I decided to return, provided it could be arranged that my work would not be of too heavy a nature."

Theatre musicians in Sunderland are endeavouring to get their wages raised to the standard prevailing in other towns, and with this object proprietors of local theatres had been approached. Mr. Thornton, of the new Empire, in response, wrote Mr. Williams, secretary of the Musicians' Union, stating that he had no desire to evade the rules of the Musicians' Union. It was his intention to employ the best talent and to pay the standard rate of wages. Mr. Williams has replied to Mr. Thornton from the headquarters of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union at Manchester, stating he has forwarded the letter to the Sunderland secretary, with directions to place the context of the same before the Trades Council, so that the trades unionists of the district shall know that his would be a fair house, and worthy of their patronage.

Isidore Gadbin is the only man in the world that can defy a motor car to run over him and not injure him. This remarkable human phenomenon, who has been giving demonstrations of his extraordinary powers in Paris, will appear at the Glasgow Empire next week, and anyone is at liberty to bring a motor car, of any weight up to two tons, and try conclusions with him. Gadbin is a native of Paris, thirty-six years of age, and has only had one imitator, who was immediately killed in attempting to emulate one of the feats Gadbin had just accomplished.

Mr. John Keating, the highly-respected and popular assistant-manager of the Argyle Theatre of Varieties, Birkenhead, has been the recipient of a handsome cabinet of table cutlery, presented to him by the staff of the establishment on the occasion of his marriage.

Owing to indisposition, Miss Lil Hawthorne has had to remain out of the bill at the Empire Palace, Leicester, this week.

Miss Rose Hamilton, of Jack Sheppard fame, who has been scoring a success with her répertoire of high-class character-songs, has only been out of town five weeks this year. Next week she will be seen in two new songs at the Stratford Empire, and on Dec. 10 she starts rehearsals at the Metropole, Glasgow, where she is to be principal boy.

Miss Margaret Ashton, who has recently returned from a visit to America, is still unfortunately prevented, by the state of her health, from fulfilling any of her immediate engagements. She should this month have appeared at Vienna, and in January at Copenhagen, but has been reluctantly compelled by the orders of her medical adviser to relinquish both engagements. She hopes, however, to make her reappearance in February at the Tivoli.

Mr. Albert Ward, who will finish to-night a most successful stock season at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, will on Monday next produce at the Queen's, Poplar, a new romantic episode in three scenes from his own pen, entitled *The Profligate King*. From all we hear this should prove a very strong attraction, a most powerful and dramatic story being well told, with the addition of picturesque costumes by Hyman and scenery by Bull.

The Palace, East Ham, will be opened to the public on or about the 17th inst. The place will be run in conjunction with Walthamstow and other variety consolidated houses in which Messrs. Joseph Davis, Henri Gros, Henry Tozer, and George Adney Payne are interested. As already stated in these columns, Mr. A. J. Barclay will control both Walthamstow and East Ham in much the same way as Mr. Fred Muller does the Canterbury and Paragon.

The matinée on Thursday at the Stratford Empire in aid of the funds of the West Ham Hospital was a huge success, artistically and financially. No fewer than fifty-one turns figured on the programme, including Miss Alexandra Dagmar, Mr. Dan Crawley, Miss Hettie Chattell, Mr. Harry Russon, Mr. Fred Frampton, and Mr. Dennis Drew, the latter of whom went enormous in "The Beat of the Drum" and "Come and be a Soldier." That pretty and fantastic sketch, by Mr. F. Bowyer, entitled *Crystal Gazing*, so well enacted by Miss Laura Dyson and Mr. W. H. Day, was a strong feature in a meritorious performance.

Mr. Tom Owen is an interesting yarn-spinner, and he is a born comedian of whom Swansea should be proud. Latterly he has been seen on the Moss-Stoll circuit, and will only leave it for eight weeks at Christmas to go into pantomime. Once Tom took a party of workhouse inmates out to Bracelet Bay. There his pierrot troupe fed and entertained the old people, afterwards making a collection for 'baccy and snuff amounting to £2 15s. The guests of the day were duly driven home, and the veteran of the party felt it incumbent upon him to make a speech of thanks to Mr. Owen. Said he: "There's old Tom—good old Tom. Look here, Tom, you've always been good to us in the workhouse, and I hope it won't be long before you're up with us altogether!"

Another true story. Owen was out with a show that stayed three days in one town and a like period in another. He was ahead one day prospecting for a pitch. Blaina was the little place at which Tom thought he could do good business. So he essayed to engage the local hall. But the proprietor refused, on the ground that the previous man who had rented it gave worthless cheques. Tom made his way back to the railway station, and there he met a friend, who strongly advised him to bring his show to the town. "The barber and I will surely come," he said, as an inducement to clinch the matter. "But," argued Owen, "the only place I can engage they won't let to me." "There's the chapel," explained the friend. "Chapel!" returned Tom; "you can't have a variety show in a chapel." "Yes you can," explained the other. "You see, it stands over a disused coal mine, and the congregation have shifted to yon iron building down the road. The old place'll collapse some day. But they don't mind letting it to theatre folk meanwhile."

The question of the fees paid to the directors of the Palace Theatre is to be the subject of a general meeting requisitioned by a little group of shareholders, who think the sum of £1,200 per annum is too large. The directors' fees paid by the three principal West End variety theatres last year were: Palace, £1,200; Alhambra, £2,007; Empire, £1,550.

It is understood that the Queen's Theatre, Leeds, will be turned into a variety theatre shortly, and form one of the houses on the De Frece circuit. The theatre will presumably be managed by the present company, with Mr. Walter de Frece as director. The De Frece theatres are increasing apace, both North and South; and the Portsmouth establishment will be opened under brilliant auspices during this month.

Collins's will celebrate its forty-fourth anniversary on Thursday evening next, when the first performance will commence at the early hour of six o'clock and the second at nine. The hall was founded by the Irish comedian Sam Collins on the site of the tavern known as the Lansdowne.

Mr. Sidney Bacon's two famous sketches are both starring in London this week. *The Duchess of Tooting* tops the bill at the Canterbury and *The Maniac* at the Middlesex.

Mr. John Grant, who has been stage-manager of the Walthamstow Palace without a break since the opening, has been appointed to fulfil a similar position at the new East Ham Palace, which, by the way, is announced to open on the 17th inst. During his stay at Walthamstow Mr. Grant has fulfilled his responsible, and often onerous, duties in such a manner as to win the appreciation not only of the directorate and the management, but also of the artists.

The interment of the late James Henry Jee took place at Norwood on the 22nd ult. Wreaths were sent by Mrs. Josephine Jee (wife), Mrs. Eliza Fillis (niece), Mr. and Mrs. George Holloway, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. P. Hyatt, Mr. and Mrs. Heath, Mr. and Mrs. Bihardo, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elvin, Mr. and Mrs. Selbini, Mr. and Mrs. Holloway, Mr. Lavater Lee (nephew), Mr. Joe Jee (nephew), Mr. Aguzzi, Mr. Reimann, Mr. C. Avolo, Mr. Robins, Mr. H. C. Rice, from Birmingham, Messrs. Alfred and John Clarke, Miss Irvene, and numerous other friends.

M. Guillaume Leone is now the chef d'orchestre at the Empress, Brixton.

The Sheffield Empire presented a brilliant appearance on Saturday, the 24th ult., when the annual benefit took place on behalf of the National Lifeboat Fund. The performance was under distinguished patronage, and the audience included the principal notables of the town and district. A long and well-arranged programme was gone through, including turns by the Boisset troupe, Mr. J. H. Milburn, Mr. Ben Albert, Miss Minnie Cunningham, and other favourites. A loudly-applauded item was a descriptive piece by the Empire band, conducted by the composer, Mr. H. Renton-Gardner.

Miss Lily Burnand was almost mobbed on the 23rd ult. when she visited the Stock Exchange to sell tickets for the matinée at the Canterbury in aid of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild. After selling her tickets she had to fight her way through the crowd. She is proud of the fact that she is the only lady who ever raided the Stock Exchange.

Miss Madge Lessing has just accepted a flattering offer from Mr. Oswald Stoll for a four months' starring engagement on the Moss and Stoll tour, starting at Glasgow in two weeks time. This charming actress will make a special feature of Jerome and Schwartz's Dutch song, "Lutie," in an appropriate scena, and with a strong chorus to assist her. This song is published by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd.

Mr. Tom Leamore returns to town on Monday next, and opens at Collins's and the London, Shoreditch, with two new numbers, "When I look in those eyes" and "Robinson Crusoe." He has been specially engaged by Mr. Geo. Adney Payne to produce a new scena at the Paragon, entitled *Sweet Liberty*, in which he will play the character of Convict '99. It will be produced on Dec. 17, with special scenery and effects. Mr. Leamore has also been specially engaged to open at the new Palace of Varieties at East Ham, Dec. 17.

The Brixton Hippodrome, the latest variety theatre in South-West London, will open this evening with a special programme, directed by Mr. Charles Read, the able chief of staff of Mr. Walter Gibbons, who is, we are very glad to hear, able to go out. The licence was confirmed on Friday, but in consequence of the opposition, clerical and otherwise, only one house a night will be allowed.

"Crystal Gazing," which is written by Mr. Fred Bowyer, part-author of *The New Barmaid*, is to be produced on Monday at the Hackney Empire, with Mr. W. H. Day and Miss Laura Dyson in the chief rôles. Mr. Day is by this time quite accustomed to the variety stage, and, strangely enough, made his first appearance thereon in the most famous of Mr. Bowyer's sketches—none other than the famous *Little Stowaway*, in which Mr. Day was the captain to Jenny Hill's waif. Mr. Day also supported the late G. H. Macdermott in *Our Lads in Red* at the Canterbury and Metropolitan, scoring a hit as the villainous officer.

The Holloway Empire will celebrate its seventh birthday on Tuesday next, the 4th inst., by a grand anniversary performance, commencing at 6 p.m. The acting-manager, Mr. C. W. Adams, will have the assistance of Mr. W. Collins and Mr. Will Bennet in welcoming the many friends of the proprietary.

Yet another recruit from the theatres, Miss Barbara Babbington, who has recently been playing Margery in Mr. George Dance's *Country Girl* company, made her London début on Monday at Collins's, where she immediately caught on, and through her agent, Will Oliver, was offered engagements for the next four years. Young, attractive, and possessing a fine voice, she opens at the Tivoli on Monday, and has been secured by Mr. J. F. Elliston for his Hull pantomime as principal boy.

Mr. Guy Stevens's troupe, consisting of five singing and dancing girls, gave a trial show at the Metropolitan on Tuesday, under the auspices of Mr. J. W. Edgar. The turn consisted of three songs and chorus, and appropriate dance music, written and composed by Guy Stevens. Special dresses and military uniforms have been designed for the production by Clarkson, the dances have been prettily arranged by Mlle. Grace, and the mise-en-scène and production are by the clever Fred Farren, of the Empire. So favourable was the impression created that the turn was at once booked.

Miss Lucy Weston, a dainty comedienne, whose impersonations are invariably interesting as well as artistic, is adding nightly to her high reputation by her successful singing at the Metropolitan of her latest number, "For fear that you might slip down," the chorus of which is sure to be heard all over London in a very short time.

Miss Lily Woolf, of 47, Great Portland-street, has been highly complimented on the tasteful designs and the ingenuity of the dresses supplied by her to Bert Coote's Kiddies appearing this week in a most successful series of scenas at the Holborn Empire. Amongst her other customers may be mentioned Misses Carlotta Levey, Daisy Jerome, Florrie Gallimore, Ray Wallace, Kittee Rayburn, Gipsy Woolf, &c. Owing to the rapid extension of her business she will be removing to larger premises in May next.

Mr. John Lawson's latest sketch, *The Devil's Sunday*, produced at the Metropolitan on Monday, will be seen in duologue form at the Empress, Brixton, next week. The rôles of Mr. and Mr. Faber will be taken by Mrs. John Lawson and Mr. A. Royston. Mrs. Lawson is wearing a dress specially made by Mme. Lucien.

Miss Lilian Dundas was the unexpected recipient of a handsome bouquet at the Holloway Empire the other evening. The young lady at once sent the flowers off for the use of the patients of the Great Northern Hospital close by.

In accordance with the Act of Parliament regulating patents, &c., the Elliotts and Savonas have been notified by the Comptroller of the Patent Office to give public warning that the whole of the appliances used in their musical act, including organs, instruments, musical lyres, and bells, &c., also all scenic and electrical effects, are protected by Royal Letters Patent, No. 24652/05 and No. 24653/05. They also wish to notify that the title of Savonas is fully registered, and anyone after this notice infringing the patent or name, or using any colourable imitation of such patent or name will be immediately prosecuted.

Miss Anna Lee (of Hanvarr and Lee), who has been appearing so successfully in South Wales, is, we regret to say, unable to appear this week at Gloucester, and her partner, Mr. Hanvarr, has had to appear *solus*. Miss Lee, who was feeling unwell while performing at Porth, pluckily went through the week, although she fainted after her performance on Thursday. On arriving at Gloucester Dr. Ancrum was called in, and he immediately put his veto upon any stage performances of the charming artist—at any rate, for a few nights at least.

Before Mr. Justice Bucknill and a common jury, on Thursday, in the King's Bench Division, was the case of Phillips v. Fitzgerald. In this case Mr. Samuel Redfern Phillips, comedian, better known in the music hall profession as Sam Redfern, sued Capt. Fitzgerald, proprietor of the Hippodrome, Coventry, to recover damages for personal injuries alleged to have been sustained through the negligence of the defendant, which was denied. The plaintiff went to Coventry to fulfil an engagement during Whit-week in 1904, and on the occasion of a matinée he crossed the stage and descended a staircase at the side. On reaching the bottom of the stairs the plaintiff said he fell into a hole in the ground, which was some twenty inches deep, breaking the small bones of one of his ankles and twisting his side. In consequence of the accident the plaintiff lost several engagements, and incurred medical and other expenses. The plaintiff admitted that the defendant had offered to pay all expenses incidental to the accident. The jury found a verdict for the defendant, and judgment was entered accordingly.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

Mr. Bert Coote's children's scene from *The Fatal Wedding* has been produced with great success this week at the Empire, Holborn, and the little ones have delighted the audience with their clever singing and graceful dancing. The Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., are the publishers of their three principal songs, "The Yankee-Doodle Girl," "My Dixieland Daisy," and "My Samoan Beauty."

The Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd. have this week acquired the following songs: Miss Alice Lloyd's "Share my little nest with me," by George Arthurs and Orlando Powell; "Fishing," by Bert Delmar, sung by Miss Gracie Grahame; "It's a gift" and "How to get on in the world," both written by George Arthurs and composed by Orlando Powell, and sung by Alec Hurley; "Naughty Angeline," written by Percy Ford, and composed by J. Chas. Moore; and "I want a Gibson Girl," written and composed by Herbert Rule, Frank Dix, and George Arthurs, which will be specially featured by Miss Hetty King and Mr. Malcolm Scott during their Liverpool pantomime engagements.

Balloons and airships are very much "in the air" at the present time, and Miss Florrie Forde has been testing the lung-power of the Camberwell Palace patrons this week with Mills and Scott's aeronautic chorus carol, "Sailing in my balloon." These writers seem to possess a happy knack of adapting the topic of the moment to the requirements of a popular song; and the said number is fast overtaking many established favourites for pantomime.

Mr. Tom Costello, who has just commenced the Stoll tour at Hackney, made an exceptional hit on Monday with Mills and Scott's patriotic stormer, "Nelson from his monument," the audience joining in the chorus with much gusto. It is a question whether anything has been heard like it since MacDermott roused the country with Jingo Hunt's "We don't want to fight." The Star Music Publishing Co., Ltd., are busy placing this certainty for pantomime.

Among the eleventh hour pantomime novelties none has a greater claim to consideration than Castling and Murphy's dainty Welsh love song, "On the Isle of Anglesey," which the Star Music Co., Ltd., have fortunately secured.

Mr. Alf. Gibson has secured a song, "I'm the unhappiest man alive," the work of H. F. Greenfield, who has also fitted Mr. Frank Harwood with a patriotic number, entitled "There's a dear little place called England."

That eminent singer Mr. Lloyd Chandos has specially selected for his tour the beautiful ballad entitled "Hope," by Clifton Bingham and Edward St. Quentin, which Messrs. W. Morley and Co. have published in four keys. The work is a successor of, and companion piece to, the same writers' admired number "Beyond."

Miss Vesta Tilley's smart song, "If the girl doesn't mind," which Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter have published, seems likely to be the vogue with many principal boys. Scott McKenzie, whose work it is, has also sold the same firm "free" song, entitled "Patsy, I want you."

"Courting at Hampton Court" (A. E. Sidney Davis and John Neat) is a song that will be heard in most of the London and suburban pantomimes this year. It is essentially of the popular order, and likely to be picked up by the man in the street. Price and Reynolds are the publishers.

Messrs. Murray and Sheppard have just completed a new song, specially written for the kitchen scene in *Cinderella*, which is decidedly tuneful, and should be a big success. They have also on hand a satirical topical duet for pantomime.

Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford have just placed a "catchy" new number, entitled "Carolina," with the Monte Carlo Publishing Company, which firm's "rapid placers" anticipate making one of their greatest successes in the near future.

Miss Vesta Victoria has just accepted from Messrs. John P. Harrington and James W. Tate three new songs, specially written for her to open with in America, entitled "All about him," "Better in the part," and "Don Juan." All three will be issued by the Monte Carlo Publishing Company in their "Sixpenny Successes" series.

During the present week the demand for J. F. Lambe's "Widow Doolin" for pantomime has been universal. The song has been already secured for various pantomimes, and is sung by J. W. Rowley, Pat Carey, W. J. Ashcroft, and is introduced on the Stoll tour by Mr. Fred Elton. The Monte Carlo firm are the publishers.

The Monte Carlo Publishing Company are daily receiving telegrams confirming the reports of the great success of "There's a big ship sailing in the morning," which is going especially well at the Empire, Glasgow. As this song is from the busy pens of Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, the fortunate proprietors of "I've built a bamboo bungalow for you," are to be congratulated on the production of yet another "winner."

Miss Edie King will produce Messrs. Tom McNaughton and Joseph Kandt's quaint song, "Come an' make a fuss o' me," at the Tivoli on Monday. This Monte Carlo number is being eagerly snapped up for pantomime.

Ever since it has become known that the Monte Carlo Publishing Company are issuing a selection of their popular songs this firm has been inundated with applications from musical directors, both of pantomime companies and music halls, in all parts of the country. The band-parts are now being expedited through the press with all possible speed to meet the ever-growing demand.

Mr. Fred Elton, who has been making such a success on the Stoll tour with hi sentertainment *On Board a Liner*, introduced on Monday the charming number "Queen of Old Samura" at the Empire, New Cross, making an instantaneous hit, and having to repeat the chorus three times to an enthusiastic audience. The Monte Carlo "winner" is indeed a certainty.

Three big pantomime hits have been published lately. These are "Boodle" (Ascherberg) and "Grandmamma's Glasses" (Francis, Day, and Hunter), by St. John Hamund and Sydney Shaw, and "My Prince" (Ascherberg), by J. H. Goldsworthy and Sydney Shaw. The first of these has been secured by Messrs. Howard and Wyndham and many other managers, and will be sung by Mr. J. F. McArdle, at the Prince of Wales's, Birmingham. It is a catchy song dealing with all the latest topics. All these numbers are melodious and quite out of the common.

Miss Frances Letty, who appeared at the Glasgow Empire this week, has added another success to her list with "There's a big ship sailing in the morning." This was taken up by the audience with a gusto that meant success, and is being whistled all over the city. Three pantomime producers heard it on Tuesday night and immediately secured this number, which they will specially featurise at Christmas. This artist has followed up her London success throughout the provinces, where she is playing on the Moss-Stoll tour. Will Oliver, her business agent, is rapidly completing her vacancies.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

At Midnight's Hour, by Leslie Dane, which is being played here this week by Miss Lillian Dundas and company, is correctly described as "an intensely dramatic episode." The only female character, Olga Ray, would possibly only find her counterpart in the lady who is theatrically notorious as "the worst woman in London." Olga's nature is just as vile, and her conduct just as indefensible as the leading character in Mr. Walter Melville's well-known play. Indeed, a woman with a very black past is Olga Ray; and in her drawing-room at a Mayfair flat we first meet her in the company of Paul Conway, a young medical student, whose infatuation for the beautiful syren has brought him to the verge of ruin and disgrace. Being in urgent need of money—his own having no doubt gone in satisfying the extravagant tastes of his mistress—he has committed the crime of forging a cheque. The name he has forged is that of Geoffrey Wynter, a stockbroker, who, however, forbears to take any legal action, and returns him the cheque. As Olga informs her lover, the reason of this clemency is that Geoffrey has fallen in love with Paul's sister. The woman does not conceal the fact that she is tired of the young man, and Paul pretends to take his departure, but, instead, steps into an anteroom, where he can overhear all that takes place. Geoffrey Wynter calls, and Olga appeals to him to renew their former relations, but he meets her advances with stolid indifference, and informs her that he is about to be married. She makes light of Paul's passion for her; and after Wynter, with the contemptuous remark, "You are not fit to live," has departed, there is a violent scene between Paul and Olga, the young man, in a fit of rage, strangling the woman. Miss Lillian Dundas plays with passionate intensity and abandon the part of Olga Ray, and receives powerful support from Mr. Charles Craston as Geoffrey Wynter, and Mr. Spencer Trevor as Paul Conway.

Mr. Phil Ray, the "peculiar patterer," is prominent in the current week's programme. This popular comedian has a style of his own that perhaps may be best described as free and easy, or the "go as you please" comedy method. A good deal of his patter is apparently spontaneous. The picture of a van in the scene painted on the back cloth suggests the remark that it has called to fetch his week's salary; and the uncontrollable mirth of a maiden in the stalls or gallery will elicit some pertinent remark, that causes another peal of merriment. As a piquant concluding *morceau*, Mr. Ray sings a sort of parody of "Who's that a-callin'," introducing realistic imitations of the raucous cries of costers, and the comical behaviour of a cockney couple, who indulge in a dip at the seaside. Mr. Ray has had a very cordial reception in Holloway, and is recalled to bow his acknowledgments. Wilson and Waring are a smart couple, who term their amusing entertainment *A Bit of Nonsense*. The lady is bright in manner, and a smart singer and dancer. The gentleman displays plenty of humour in the character of the lady's eccentric visitor, whose comic business with a soda-water syphon and a collapsible table, causes much merriment. He is also successful with his patter, while his partner makes a remarkably quick change of dress in effecting a transformation from a maid in short skirts to her mistress in a dazzling evening costume. The couple finish with a spirited dance. Alexander the Great looms large as a famous historical personage. The Great Alexander is a clever trick cyclist, who is very much up to date. His safety trick-riding performance on a table is quite astonishing, and must be seen to be appreciated at its proper value. Seated on a single wheel, the cyclist mounts a wooden staircase step by step, and then drops on the table. Carl and Mary Ohm introduce their trained animals, consisting of bears, monkeys, ponies, and dogs, and the performance is interesting, and in some respects unique. Mr. Harold Hughman achieves marked success with his mimicry of animals and birds, &c. Mr. Harry Anderson scores with his song, "My new pal," and another ditty, the theme of which is woman's chief weapon—her tongue. Miss Winnie Derson, comedienne, the Northern Troupe of International Dancers, and the Three Guitanos, acrobats, are also included in the current bill. Mr. Chas. W. Adams, the acting-manager here, is busy in completing arrangements for the approaching anniversary of the opening of the Empire.

THE DUCHESS.

It would be surprising if the general excellence of the programme which is being presented here this week failed to produce anything but the happiest of results, and, consequently, appreciative and orderly houses are nightly enjoying the fare provided to the utmost. Vacant seats are entirely conspicuous by their absence, and small wonder is it that Manager Ross's face is fairly wreathed in smiles. Miss Victoria Monks, the charming and always popular coon comedienne, is making one of her periodical visits to this hall, where she can always be sure of the heartiest welcome being extended to her. She is delighting everyone with her singing, and the unmistakable manner in which the choruses are taken up testify that her choice of songs could certainly not have been better. Charmingly dressed, her personality seems to appeal irresistibly to the house, and from the moment she walks on the stage to that of her departure she fairly succeeds in holding the audience. The two numbers which she is singing are "London town," with which everyone is now familiar, and "I'm leaving home," and the popularity of both is secure.

A novel yet interesting turn is that of Professor Duncan's collies, and the intelligence of these animals certainly borders on the marvellous. The way they go through their performance, without the slightest hitch, speaks volumes for their training, and shows that no small amount of time has been spent in this direction. The various items of their performance include many most laughable ones, that especially where one is dressed as a widow being very funny. Their fire engine scene also shows that several of these dogs possess sagacity almost human. The applause bestowed is certainly most deserved. Gilbert Girard, who, judging by the warmth of his reception, is another Balham favourite, is again presenting his interesting turn. Although the possessor of a nasty cough, this does not prevent him from giving his many imitations of dogs and other animals in his usual inimitable manner. He has recently added a new one, that of the roaring of lions, and this is quite entitled to take a foremost place amongst his others.

Mr. James Fawn, the one and only, has a couple of capital numbers, in both of which he appears to advantage. In the first, as a magistrate, he sings about the various people brought before him for trial, but it is in his second, which deals with a "wife-spoofing club," that he appears at his best, and the applause awarded him is of the most generous description. Mr. Charles Norton, the clever mimic, must certainly be accorded a high place in this week's programme. He has not been seen here for some time, and, as a result, his turn is as much appreciated as any. He is presenting his mimetic monologue about *A Day at the Races*, with which he is scoring heavily. In this he introduces several well-known and popular comedians, including Joe Elvin, R. G. Knowles, Willie Bard, Gus Elen, and Eugene Stratton. This he precedes with some capital impersonations, including Harry Lauder and George Lashwood, and the manner in which he succeeds in reproducing them is recognised by deafening applause. Sterling and Love are presenting their breezy domestic musical squabble. As a cornet and posthorn player, the male member shows himself a most able exponent, and they bring their turn to a conclusion with a clever pot-pourri song. Stewart and Morgan are in fine voice, and their singing of "Mavoreen" is loudly applauded. The Columbia Comedy Trio are all the possessors of capital voices, the bass in particular being of undoubted excellence. Their turn is most appreciated, and they are the recipients of hearty cheers. H. C. Lovell and company are presenting an amusing sketch, entitled *Madm'iselle Pompon*, which is well received, the antics of the dude being the cause of the heartiest of laughter. Alice Maple is a charming comedienne; and as pleasant a two hours as one could wish to spend is brought to a conclusion with some capital pictures on the bioscope, that depicting "The Child's Revenge" being most interesting. The able orchestra, presided over by Mr. Charles Longmaid, is heard to advantage in the overture from *The Catch of the Season*. Mr. Bertram C. Ross, the popular manager, does everything possible for the comfort of his patrons, and Mr. L. Westcott Hicks is his acting-manager.

HOLBORN EMPIRE.

Mr. Walter Gibbons is reaping the reward of his enterprise in two excellent houses here each evening, and were the shade of Weston to revisit the glimpses of the moon, it would be more than astonished to see the immense queues that form in Holborn nightly to obtain a seat in the house that has risen on the site of the hall he originated. Programmes of surpassing merit are given every week, and an especially bright and interesting item in the current scheme of amusement is the interlude contributed by Bert Coote's Kiddies, who have been appearing at the theatres in the great children's scene in *The Fatal Wedding*. Audiences are at once interested in the opening scena, in which Miss Dolly McCalla and the full company sing "She's a Yankee-Doodle Girl," the dresses—all of which are cleverly designed by Miss Lily Woolf, of 47, Great Portland-street—being patterned in "stars and stripes"—a happy recognition of international amity. Miss Madge McCalla heads a coon chorus in the scena, "My Samoan Beauty," and a tuneful melody and well-turned lyrics draw a radiant picture of a dusky beauty of the island that Robert Louis Stevenson loved so well. Miss McCalla comes on in an elaborately-trimmed shaded orange frock, and scores most unmistakably by her vim and sparkle. A red-silk dancing frock also makes a very becoming toilet, which is completed by a big hat and sunshade. The principals and chorus unite in a concluding American Indian number, entitled "Big Chief," in which the "braves" and "squaws" give picturesque effect and make the welkin ring with a characteristic chant. Miss Dolly McCalla is responsible for a capital cane dance; and quite a little genius in her way is Miss Winnie Crisp, the remarkable child toe-dancer, whose solo gives unaffected pleasure. Master Jack Grice is also a wonder as a juvenile clog-dancer. The youngsters are admirably drilled, and, evidently loving their work, they play *con amore*.

My Pal Jerry, a star attraction of the bill, is announced as a sequel to *The Bloomsbury Burglars*, who were known as Nobbler and Jerry. These interesting stage-cracksmen have a further series of adventures, which, however, end in disaster and the death of Jerry, who with his pal has been sentenced to Portland, and is shot in the back by a warder while attempting to escape from the Quarries. The bustling business in the Pentonville Prison scene and the comicality of the stage trial win for the sketch a very hearty reception.

Mr. John Terry and Miss Mabel Lambert, after a lengthened absence, return to town with new business, and each appears in a series of thumbnail sketches of characters from real life, which they term "Reflections of Characters, A.D. 1906." The men and women of the day include a cabby and a lady of the smart set, a Lancashire mill hand and his sweetheart, an aristocratic noodle to be found only in musical comedy and a smart American girl, a crushed tragedian and a serio, and, as a finale to a most interesting series, a judge and the woman he is about to sentence for theft, who owes her downfall to the man on the bench. The couple are great favourites, and completely justify the warm reception given to them so ungrudgingly by a delighted audience.

Mr. Harry Pleon makes his mimicry of some of our leading comedians of the halls something much more amusing than the mere mechanical details of gesture and intonation. For instance, to hear that genial cockney Joe Elvin recite a travesty of a speech spoken by Hamlet's father is to laugh consumedly. Mr. Pleon goes from gay to grave with complete success when he delivers a speech belonging to the character of Reresby the Rat, played by Mr. Martin Harvey in the successful play *The Breed of the Treshams*. Alex Kendal is decidedly quaint in his patter; Clown Barker's animal show is amusingly worked; Miss Victoria Monks is a great favourite; and other turns announced on the bill are Miss Amy Clevere, Mr. Harry Conlin, Farley, Rennie, and Farley, in their comedy act *Fun at a Railway Station*; Los Rupertos, novel equilibrists; and Rosa Loader, mimic at the piano.

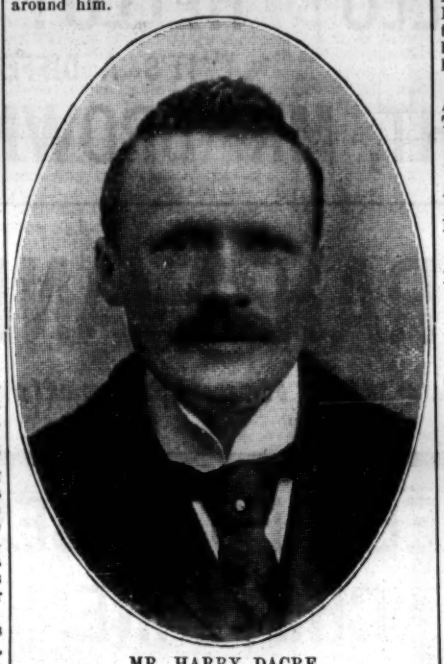
THE Canterbury will inaugurate to-day a series of Saturday afternoon matinées, commencing at 2.40 p.m., when the current week's programme will be given.

CHAT WITH MR. HARRY DACRE.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER).

Mr. Harry Dacre, the well-known song-writer, is now—like Mr. Owen Hall—submerged in a business enterprise known as the Successful Song Syndicate, which is issuing his songs only at the higher prices which ruled before the "pirates" attempted to revolutionise the music-publishing trade. The name of Harry Dacre has been for many years a household word among lovers of popular songs, and some of his verses, written and composed as long ago as ten years, are at this date remembered and sung in thousands of homes and upon hundreds of stages.

It is a pleasing personality and a very agreeable individual that one meets in Mr. Dacre. He is one of the most good-humoured and sincere of men; yet, for all that, he is alert and businesslike, ready of speech and quick of wit. There is nothing of that very annoying character, the long-haired æsthetic visionary, about him. You might at first glance take him for a smart city man. Apparently, and judging by his works, while he possesses the poetic temperament, he does not permit that quality to envelope him to such an extent as to absorb in its cloudy atmosphere his vision to the exclusion of what is going on in the world around him.



MR. HARRY DACRE.

Mr. Dacre is quite capable of speaking for himself without requiring the promptings of an interviewer. We will let him do so. Says Mr. Dacre:—

"The Successful Song Syndicate proposes to issue my songs at full price, as in pre-piratic days. If the experiment is not justified by results, the Syndicate will have to climb down from its pedestal. All the publishers of Sixpenny Pops prophesy failure of superior editions. *Nous verrons!* Personally, I believe I have my own particular public. It is well known that under the title of 'Frank Dean and Co.' I ran for ten years the most successful publishing business of its kind in this country; but at last the pirates became too hot for me, more especially as my songs could only be legitimately obtained at the old full price. Over a year ago I retired from business, declining either to write or publish songs until an Act of Parliament should suppress the scandalous robberies of the pirate printers. I believed then that the day of emancipation would never arrive; but thanks chiefly to that well-esteemed Irishman, T. P. O'Connor, I am again on the war-path. During the existence of piracy, I venture to say that no song-writer suffered as much as I did.

"Changing the subject, it has been said that unless I consented to write in the American style, otherwise in 'rag-time,' I should become a 'back number.' Well, I have never written a 'rag-time' song, and am not likely to; especially as the pretty waltz-refrain and domestic ballad are again capturing the hearts of the British public. I can remember the days when the public would sing into great popularity drivel of this kind:—

Down amongst the coals, down amongst the coals,
Wasn't it a jolly lark, all alone and in the dark,
Down amongst the coals, down amongst the coals,
Waiting to make love to my Jemima!

Other delectable ditties of the period included 'Mouse-traps, a penny, who'll buy?' 'Any ornaments for your fire-stove?' and 'Up in a balloon.' But the songs that have been popular in the last few years are a vast improvement. Take, for instance, 'Put a little bit away for a rainy day,' 'My little wooden hut,' 'Skylark,' 'What is the use of loving a girl?' These were very pretty melodies, and the words were a great advance on the old-time jingles. Modesty forbids that I should specify my own contributions to the happiness of nations, but the fact of being pirated to the extent of twelve popular songs all at one time speaks volumes.

"Well, I am going to make an attempt to improve upon my past performances. As this course has only very recently been decided upon, my initial effort comes rather late for pantomime purposes. This initial effort, I may tell you, is 'My Sugar-plum.' I have invariably noticed that when one of my songs has been born at some unearthly hour in the morning it has become extremely successful. I anticipate that this will be the case with 'My Sugar-plum.' But this is not going to be the kind of song I shall entirely depend upon, my true *forte* being the song of domestic interest, such as 'I want to see the old home again,' and 'As your hair grows whiter.' It does not necessarily follow that the song which brings the largest pecuniary profit is the composer's favourite; though in my case it happens to be so. 'As your hair grows whiter' will always hold first place in my affections. The words were inspired by real experience, and if you care to reproduce some of them, I will recite them to you. I am not ashamed of them, or their sentiment. I am proud of having been able to add pleasure to the declining years of one of the best of mothers by means of the proceeds of the song I wrote in her praise:—

Mother!
As your hair grows whiter I will love you more;
Though your eyes were brighter in the days of yore.
Though your footsteps falter,
My love shall never alter.
As your hair grows whiter, I will love you more.

Long years ago, when your life was full of trouble,
Mine was the hand that was clasp'd in your own;
Bravely you fought, in the face of pain and sorrow,
Bravely you labour'd, unaided, alone.
Rest on my breast, now the dark clouds are dispersing,
Safe in this haven of peace you will be.
Guarding you, dear, from the world and all its dangers,
Ah! what a labour of love 'tis to me.

"You ask me to give some account of my career. Suffice it to say that it was considerably chequered until the days of the discovery of that will-o'-the-wisp—the public taste. Then all became plain sailing, and sweet fame and good fortune have since been my close companions. I do not wish so much to recall the past as to gaze into the vista of the future, wherein I seem to see the kindly fates laden with still more costly gifts—the most precious of them all, good health; before which mere wealth fades into the insignificance which Rockefeller well wotteth of!"

CHELSEA PALACE.

To the masses of this great metropolis the name of Robbie Burns has become quite familiar this week, through the announcements of many musical functions organised to commemorate St. Andrew's Day; and it is, perhaps, just as well to remind the cockney occasionally that Burns of Battersea is not the only celebrity bearing the name. Miss Bertha Stuart, who comes from the land of brae and loch, is singing too, of the imperishable fame of her great countryman at the Chelsea Palace, and it is pleasant to hear the ringing applause that breaks out both in gallery and pit at the conclusion of each stanza. "Within a mile of Edinboro' toon" is another number, and this charming vocalist, picturesquely clad in tartan, does complete justice, the old melody being possibly new to many of its appreciative listeners.

Fun of the extravagant kind is in the ascendant while Mr. Lew Lake's company of comedians play two scenes of *My Pal Jerry*, an absurdity forming a sequel to that other successful concoction, *The Bloomsbury Burglars*. We have become quite accustomed, in a long experience of stage-productions, to the vagaries of stage trials. The administration of justice behind the footlights has to fulfil the purposes of tragedy, or melodrama, or farce. With *My Pal Jerry*, the judge, counsel, jury, police, and public all minister in their several ways to the love of laughter, and the sentence on Nobbler and Jerry, burglars of the most desperate character, are taken in the most light-hearted manner by these croppy-looking descendants of Bill Sikes. At Pentonville the diverting nature of the incidents evokes shouts of laughter, but there is a pathetic ending after the mutiny in the quarries at Portland. Success the most complete is achieved. A fanciful and bright interlude is *The Sea Nymph*, presented by Mr. Walter Hast and Miss Lennie. The latter impersonates the title-rôle, Coralline, who is imprisoned in a shell owing to the displeasure of Father Neptune. She learns much from the young middy whom she surprises on the seashore, and before she gets back to the bed of the ocean she not only hears but sings lines on the latest topics—social and political. The trifle goes exceedingly well.

Miss Peggy Pryde is not to be excelled in her impersonation of the lady with an aggressive tongue, who lectures on the rights and the wrongs of her sex, who finds fault, too, with the wearers of petticoats because they have hearkened to tyrannous man, and allowed him a latchkey. Hearty laughter follows Miss Pryde's exit, and her exhibition of low comedy in "He'd never been there before" shows observation and acuteness. Bob and Jennie Leonard bask in the sunshine of perennial favour, and amuse us all the time in their original act, *Point Duty*, in which one keeps one's eye on the force—excellently represented by the aforesaid Bob—and learns something that has not yet been divulged to the Police Commission. Mrs. Leonard is clever in her impersonation of a country lass and a coster girl, and the whole concludes with a neat double dance. Mr. G. H. Elliott, endowed with an excellent voice, is quite successful in realising the sentiment and romance of a tuneful coon song, and dances capitally; the Florias are comedy slack-wire performers, possessing a good notion of diverting business; and Charles Faning, comedian, and Maud Laverne, burlesque artist, also entertain. Mr. J. Norman Berlin, who is officiating as manager in the place of Mr. Teddy Swanborough, is a popular functionary; and Mr. Angelo Asher directs a capable orchestra.

THE FORESTERS'.

The management of the Foresters' are performing a goodly service this week. On Monday evening it was announced that collections would be made on behalf of the pensioners, widows, and orphans of the National Lifeboat Institution, and the first day's appeal resulted in £4 being secured for this admirable charity. It is hoped during the week to make a total of £25. As to the programme, it is, as usual, full of sound stuff. Miss Lily Black has a couple of delightful songs, which she sings in delightful fashion. These are "You are not the only rosebud" and "If roses could only speak." Smith and Johnson, the "society coloured duo," offer an attractive coon act which is highly appreciated; and Grey and Welford arouse a good deal of laughter with their funny patter and comic boxing. They show themselves to be lively and agile and to possess not a small knowledge of the noble art. Miss Addie Dorina, a quick-change artist of great merit, is seen within the space of a few minutes in no less than six different rôles in the sketch *Dr. Spot's Patients*, and her varying characterisations prove her to be a versatile and accomplished actress. A word of praise is due to Mr. Pat Waddock as the doctor. Miss Elna May is a winsome and engaging comedienne, and her rendering of "I've got no right to love you" is marked by appropriate feeling and expression. A vocalist and patterer who succeeds in making his hearers rock with laughter is Mr. Bert Danson. His ditty "If it wasn't for the girl" goes extremely well. Then there is an entertaining comedian and a smart dancer in Mr. Dan Filmer, whose song, "Life on the sea," is a distinct hit.

The Vaudeville Dramatic Company, under the management of Mr. Ernest Wingfield, appear in the sensational romantic sketch *The Better Man*. Mr. Herbert Pearson presents a most creditable impersonation of the Rev. David Clyde and Miss Helena Walbran charmingly, and with considerable realism, enacts the rôle of Grace Clyde. Mr. Ernest Wingfield presents an admirable study of the false and treacherous Walter Maitland; and Miss Ida Clifford characteristically portrays the part of the boy, Tim Tatters. The other rôles are in able hands, and the piece is well mounted. The Silbon Family, with their miniature circus, attract a good deal of attention, and the whole show is conducted in a praiseworthy manner, the different animals giving evidence of careful training and wonderful intelligence. Mr. Percy Hannon, the American baritone, delights the audience with his vocal efforts, as applied to the song "What is the meaning of Christmas?" and he should be heard of in the immediate future. Another gentleman whose work we can commend is Mr. Woolmer Young, a descriptive vocalist of undoubted talent; and for a clever burlesque actress we need seek no further than Miss Maude Beaumont, who is also receiving the enthusiastic plaudits of the patrons of the Foresters'. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux have a laughable series of pictures, entitled "The Drunken Mattress." The scenes are well conceived and admirably carried out, and the film is one which should be in great demand.

"THE WOMAN WITH THE RED HAIR."

Translation of an Episode by Paul Kosakin, played for the first time in England at the Cambridge Music Hall on Monday, Nov. 26.

Michel Kirillovich .....MR. WEBSTER LAWSON
Fedora Zasulich .....MISS MINNIE SADLER

The bomb has been used not infrequently in dramatic sketches both on the theatrical and variety stage; but a grim interest attaches to the above episode from the fact that it was written by the Russian revolutionary Kosakin, and completed the day before his execution. A wholesome story of wifely devotion is contained in the sketch, the dramatic strength of which is, however, obscured by the long inflammatory speeches which one of the characters has to deliver. Only two personages appear in the episode, which opens in the mean apartment of Michel Kirillovich, anarchist, in the Muscovite capital. It is the morning of a great coup, by which a hated member of the bureaucracy is to be assassinated, and Michel, to whom the foul deed has been assigned, awaits the arrival of final instructions from headquarters. They are brought by a lady—a notorious member of the conspirators known as "the woman with the red hair"—who occupies a high place in society circles as the wife of a Russian Grand Duke. The pair recognise in each other old sweethearts, who had been separated by a misunderstanding years before, and Michel elicits the information that Fedora had married the Grand Duke, although her heart was given to Michel. Since her marriage she has grown to love her husband, and is dismayed to learn from the letter of which she was the bearer that it is he who is to be the victim of the contemplated outrage. She entreats Michel to spare her husband's life; but tears and promises of reward are alike unavailing, and Michel catches up a bomb and hurls it at the passing carriage. There is a fearful explosion, and the sound of falling débris tells of the wreckage that has been wrought. Michel sends Fedora away through a secret passage, and, taking his stand at the window, receives a volley from the street below, and falls dead.

The rôle of the terrorist, Michel Kirillovich, affords much scope for declamatory effect, but though Mr. Webster Lawson, who played the part with dramatic fervour, delivered the dialogue with commendable light and shade, he was not quite distinct in the more intense passages. In appearance and gesture he was particularly impressive, and altogether submitted a clever study of the part. Miss Minnie Sadler realised the character of the red-haired woman completely. She was suitably deliberate and mordant in expression at first, while the strenuous emotion displayed in her appeals for her husband's life to be spared was also admirably done. The sketch was greatly strengthened by the accuracy with which some of the effects were obtained, and a cordial recall at the close pronounced the verdict of success.

THE Fimana open at the Palace Theatre on Monday next with their successful comedy act, for which an entire new scene has been painted by Charles Sayer.

MR. GUS ELEN in the song, "Wait till the work comes round."

MR. GUS ELEN in Private Dress.

MR. ELEN is starting Monday next on the Stoll tour with his new entertainment, a "Song Scene," which consists of a selection of his most popular songs, illustrated with cinematograph effects. The selection embraces the world-known ditties "Mrs. Carter," "Golden Dustman," "Pyjama 'At," "'E dunno where 'e are," "Down the road," "Faithless Dinah," "'E has my sympathy," "Never interdooce yer donah to a pal," "Down the Dials," &c.

THE FIGHT FOR BURSLEM WAKES.

PEOPLE'S ANSWER TO THE CORPORATION.

Without a doubt the one all-absorbing topic of the Potteries is the fight for the continuance of Burslem Wakes. We have already placed before our readers in ordered sequence the scheme of the narrow-minded, puritanical, and prejudiced section of the Town Council to do away with the people's old-time wakes. We have already shown that, for the time being, two distinct and separate parties on the Town Council combined their forces—the party for total abolition, and the party who desired to remove the fair from its admirable position in the squares and open spaces in the heart of the town, to a site somewhere in the outskirts of the borough. The total abolitionists made no secret of their intention, and loudly boasted that they represented the best thought and the most progressive elements of Burslem.

So insistent and so confident of victory was this party on the Town Council, and so effective for the time being their denunciations of the fair and all who supported it, that the more moderate and cautious-minded of the Council were carried away by the Cromwellian insistence of the abolitionists. Fortunately for the cause of justice, the municipal elections took place within a short time of the triumph of the puritans on the Council, and a number of the Town Councillors had to explain their position at ward meetings in the borough. At these meetings the electors severely heckled their representatives, with this very significant result, that the Moderates, who only wished to remove the fair, found themselves more in accord with the feeling of the town than the extremer members of the Council.

Even some of the men who held extreme views, and were pledged to the abolition of the wakes, began to temporise, and before the wards meetings were over, almost every member of the Council came round to the right and safe opinion that it was a matter for the ratepayers to decide. Even the leader of the abolitionists (although he stoutly defended himself and his views) was wise enough and man enough to admit that it was a question for the ultimate decision of the people of Burslem; that, although he might stand alone, he would still maintain that it was good to do away with the fair altogether, but of course he left it to the people to decide.

This significant change in the opinion of the Town Council was largely brought about by the activities of an influential local committee of tradesmen interested in the retention of the fair. We have already shown in *The Era* that the Showmen's Guild set to work as soon as the mistaken action of the Town Council abolishing the fair became known. Although the executive officials of the Guild have spared neither time nor money in safeguarding the interests of the showmen tenants of the fair, it has been an eminently satisfactory thing for them to have the eager and ever-ready assistance of the energetic body of local traders, "the Wakes Defence and Ratepayers' Committee," ably led by such well-known public men as Messrs. T. Bentley, Allen E. Wood, A. Boulton, and some forty other gentlemen. The Showmen's Guild issued a most telling manifesto, traversing every detail of the attack on the showmen's claim to carry on the wakes, and, at the same time, in bold and unmistakable terms, arousing the people of Burslem to the attack upon their popular pleasures and all too scanty opportunities for rest, recreation, and amusement, afforded by the old-time cycle of Pottery Wakes.

The magnificent demonstration of the working people in the Drill Hall (the largest public building in Burslem), fully reported in last week's issue, resulted in a vote of over two thousand in favour of the wakes, and only one person against it. This meeting was largely attended by members and officials of the Corporation, and there was no doubt as to the spontaneity, unanimity, and significance of the show of hands.

The town's meeting, convened by the Mayor upon the requisition of an influential body of ratepayers, was as crowded and as enthusiastic in its determination to maintain the wakes as the showmen's meeting, to which we have already referred. Numbers of persons failing to find sitting accommodation were compelled to stand in the gangways, down the centre, and the sides of the spacious Town Hall.

The tone of the meeting was very hostile to those who spoke in defence of the action of the Town Council, and the interruptions were so frequent and noisy that the speakers could be heard only with difficulty. In view of the possibility of a disturbance, a number of policemen were present during the proceedings, but happily the intervention of the officers was not required, the manifestations of hostility being confined entirely to shouting and hooting. The Mayor presided, and among those also on the platform were Aldermen W. Bratt, T. Edwards, W. Cartlidge, and S. Malkin, Councillors T. Willett, D. Porter, S. Johnson, W. E. Robinson, G. Wade, T. Mitchell, F. Averill, S. Ford, T. S. Green, J. Paterson Brodie, J. H. Edwards, J. Jackson, A. H. Gibson, J. H. Broadhurst, and S. Chadwick; the Town Clerk (Mr. Arthur Ellis), the Revs. H. H. Redgrave (Vicar of St. Paul's), W. Stanley Lamb, J. Griffin, Messrs. T. Bentley, J. Kent, A. Boulton, H. T. Arrowsmith, S. Oulsnam, M. S. Pickering, and W. Wade.

The Mayor said he was sorry that the meeting had not been held during the term of office of Mr. Dobson, who was better able to stand the strain of presiding at such a gathering than himself. He should refrain from expressing his own views, although he had strong convictions on the subject; but he promised that he should be perfectly neutral, and should do his utmost to conduct the meeting fairly and squarely. (Applause.) His Worship then outlined the procedure which would be adopted for the control of the meeting, and appealed for the support of those present.

THE RESOLUTION.

The following resolution was then moved by Mr. T. Bentley:—"That the Town Council be requested to rescind the resolution passed on Oct. 8, 1906, prohibiting the Burslem Wakes Fair from being held, and that such fair be held at the usual time and place, and that the Council instruct their toll collector to let the town lands and thoroughfares for the purposes of the said fair as heretofore."

Mr. Bentley said he spoke as a native of the town, and he claimed that the wakes was the only amusement in the town, and said he had no wish for it to be destroyed. The wakes gave the people great pleasure, and it was the means of affording delight to the children of the workhouse, who, through the hospitality of the showpeople—(applause)—were provided with a splendid entertainment at the wakes. (Applause.) Each one of the men who had signed the requisition to the Mayor was a tradesman. For his own part, he had earned his living in the town for many a long year, and he did not see why he should have a portion of it taken away. (Hear, hear.) If the meeting decided to accept the resolution, it would meet with the approval of those who had signed the requisition; if not, they would demand a ballot. (Loud applause.)

A Mr. Roberts left the audience and seconded the resolution from the platform. The audience, however, only heard his opening sentences amid a volley of interruptions of encouragement and approval. Mr. Roberts said, as a boy he had enjoyed Burslem Wakes, and asked why should not their boys enjoy the fair? (Applause.) He wanted to know who had invited all those on the platform to occupy the seats, and said he did not see why a few ordinary ratepayers should not sit there as well. (Cheers.) Several members of the audience disconcerted the speaker by their laughter and interruption, and he retorted by inviting them to "go and have a try." Eventually, Mr. Roberts, after failing to secure a hearing for all he had to say, left the platform.

Mr. Paterson Brodie, on rising to speak against the resolution, was greeted with a storm of groans and hisses. He made many ineffectual efforts to gain the ear of the audience, and the Mayor several times intervened on his behalf. His Worship said he had asked those present for fair play, and they were not giving it. If they had a good cause, they ought not to be afraid of the subject being ventilated. (Applause.)

Mr. Brodie told the audience he had attended the meeting, expecting to hear some sound sufficient reason why the resolution should be rescinded, but had heard no such reason advanced. (A Voice: "What's they know about it?" and laughter.)

After another appeal by the Mayor, who said that the meeting would be closed if a hearing was not given to the speakers, Mr. Brodie drew attention to the resolution of the Council which it was suggested should be rescinded. In the requisition to the Mayor, and in much of the printed matter that had been circulated, there seemed to be an attempt to deceive the public. (Interruption.) It was stated that the wakes was to be abolished. No such thing was proposed by the Council. (Loud applause, and a voice, "They daren't.") In the first resolution the Council decided "That no booths, shows, or stalls should be allowed to occupy any ground, public street, or main roads, or squares in the centre of the town during Wakes Week." The second resolution was: "That the toll collector be instructed not to let or enter into any contract to let any land in the centre of the town or in the main thoroughfares, to be occupied by booths, shows, or stalls, during the last week in June or the first week in July." In neither of those resolutions would they find one word about abolishing the wakes. (A Voice: "Same thing.") The resolutions simply meant that in future the centre of the town should not be used for the wakes. (A Voice: "Where then?" and applause.) After further noisy interruptions, Mr. Brodie said that there was nothing in the resolutions to prevent the Town Council from finding land for the purpose of the wakes. If they would give the Council time, they would no doubt be able to find land.

Alderman Cartlidge, whose reception was less embarrassing, claimed equal right to speak on the subject as Mr. Bentley, having been born in the town, and being a ratepayer. The people ought to consider the matter very carefully, and without bias created by selfish motives. (Hear, hear.) As chairman of the Sanitary Committee of the Town Council, he told the audience that there were several features objectionable from a sanitary standpoint connected with the last wakes. He did not wish to say a word against the showmen, but an unpleasant state of things existed after the visit of the shows, which was not to be found before. (A Voice: "Rats!")

It was often said that they could not trace imported diseases to showpeople, but he could say that at the last Burslem Wakes a travelling musician and his wife and child came into the town, and the child was seized with scarlet fever. The child was taken to the Isolation Hospital, there until Aug. 15, and cost the ratepayers £20. (A Voice: "Do all scarlet fever cases cost that much?" and interruption.) Alderman Cartlidge failed to proceed further with his speech in the face of the manifestations of disapproval of his remarks.

He was succeeded by Alderman Malkin, who said he was a ratepayer like anyone else, and claimed to have as deep an interest in the town as any of his fellow-ratepayers. He attended the meeting, he said, not to draw a feather over the eyes of those present, but to give them his reasons for the action he had taken on the Council. He declared that he was one of those who went to the meeting arranged by the showmen on Wednesday night, and he wished he could have had a few words there. The only thing he could do was to hold his hand up against the resolution. The meeting in the Drill Hall did not appear to him to be a ratepayers' meeting, it was a showmen's meeting. (Interruption.) Well, they could have it their own way. (Laughter.) The chief speakers at the showmen's meeting was a lawyer and a parson, both very good men. If he (Mr. Malkin) employed a lawyer, he would take his view of the matter, and if he paid him he would do any amount of talking. (Laughter and interruption.) Nobody had paid him (the speaker) for going to that meeting or for being on the Council. He did not object to the showmen holding a meeting, but he did object to their holding up something and telling the people that the Council was trying to knock it down. It was in the best interests of the town, he believed, that they should not allow their open spaces to be filled with all sorts of shows. (Prolonged interruption.) There were shows and shows. Some of them were all right, but, as a ratepayer, he objected to the aggregation of shows being allowed in the town. In conclusion, Alderman Malkin said he was the one on the Council who proposed that only ratepayers addressed that meeting—(hear, hear, and uproar). His reason for doing so was that he thought it would not be to the credit of the ratepayers if they were to get an outside lawyer to talk to them, or, indeed, any person not a ratepayer. (Hear, hear.)

There were many cries from members of the audience asking Mr. Malkin to sit down, and the Mayor appealed to those present to allow Mr. Malkin to proceed for another two minutes; but practically all this period was filled with noisy shouting at the back of the hall, above which the Alderman could not make himself heard. Eventually he resumed his seat amid an outburst of laughter and cheering; but he managed to shout, "If you pass this resolution I shall be like Nelson—I shall go my own way." The remark provoked a renewal of the shouts, so that when the Rev. J. Griffin rose to oppose the resolution he had to wait some time before the noise had subsided, and then there were occasional interruptive shots, which were disconcerting to the speaker. Mr. Griffin appealed for a patient hearing. When, during the election, he had addressed the townspeople from that same platform, they had listened to him because they agreed with him. He hoped they would extend the same courtesy towards him now that they disagreed with him. (A Voice: "It's not the same thing.") He said he was not an opponent of legitimate amusement, pleasure, or recreation, but he saw no reason why the wakes fair should not be held outside the town. Amid further interruption, Mr. Griffin said that one of the most popular fairs in Yorkshire, held at Hull, took place some distance from the centre of the town. He argued that it was the business of the authorities to see that the sanitary and moral condition of the town was conserved, and he supported the Council's action with all his heart.

Mr. T. Bentley, on rising to reply to arguments brought forward by the opponents of the resolution, was heartily cheered. He said, although there was nothing in the Council's resolutions about the abolition of the wakes, it was proposed to remove the fair, and removal meant abolition in the end. (Loud applause.) The experiment had been tried before and had failed. (Applause.) He could not remember anything of an insanitary character attending the wakes, and the town was no more insanitary at the wakes time than it was at ordinary times. If they removed the fair, where would they put it? (A Voice: "Alseeger," and loud laughter.) The fair would be far less harmful in the centre of the town, under the eyes of everyone, than in a field.

The resolution was then put to the meeting by the Mayor, who asked that only ratepayers should vote, and was carried by a very large majority.

On the proposition of Mr. Bentley, seconded by Alderman Malkin, a vote of thanks to the Mayor was carried with the greatest possible heartiness.

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"THERE'S A MAN IN MANITOBA."
"SNOWFLAKES."
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("IT'S A DIFFERENT GIRL AGAIN.")
"GOOD-NIGHT, MR. BROWN, I'M OUT."

"ARRAH WANNA,"
Our 11th Hour Sensation.

"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING."
"CHEYENNE."
"FIGHTING FOR THEIR KING & SIRELAND."
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The Absolute Headquarters for Pantomime "HITS."

"THERE'S A MAN IN MANITOBA."
"COME BACK TO BORNEO."
"BOY BLUE."
"I WONDER WHAT WE'D DO WITHOUT OUR GIRLS."

"ARRAH WANNA,"
Our 11th Hour Sensation.

"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE."
"IN MY PAGODA."
"WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO LEARN TO LOVE ME."

(FOR FULL LIST SEE PANTOMIME BOOKS.)

FRANCIS, DAY, AND HUNTER

The Music Market of the World.

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

In acknowledging this vote, the Mayor said that, though they might differ from one another, he hoped they should go away the best of friends. (Applause.) All that the Council desired was that the children of the town should be made familiar with those principles which made them honest men and women, and that the town should be made happier and brighter. (Applause.)

In compliance with the unanimous desire of the local committee, the Rev. T. Horne and Mr. Watson Wright agreed to address an open-air meeting in St. John's-square immediately after the town's meeting. The main reason for this action was that, by an express resolution of the Town Council, *only ratepayers were eligible to address the town's meeting*, and the local committee felt that the showmen's view of the matter ought to be heard, and, if not at the Town Hall meeting, immediately afterwards. The weather turned out to be extremely inclement, and, although the open-air meeting was well advertised, it became evident to the executive officials of the Guild in the late afternoon that an outside meeting was extremely doubtful. In this emergency, Mr. Jeffreys (business-manager for P. Collins) interviewed the Town Clerk, the chairman of the Markets Committee, and finally the Committee itself, and, by the special grace and favour of the Mayor and Corporation, the Showmen's Guild was permitted to hire the Town Hall for a meeting to follow the town's meeting.

Never in the history of Burslem has such a striking contrast been exhibited as that shown by the extremely clamorous and indignant meeting of the ratepayers, and the same people when under the magnetic influence and the charm of oratory of the Honorary Chaplain of the Guild and its equally eloquent and distinguished solicitor.

Mr. Bentley, who had so ably led the people at the town's meeting (and without whose moderating influence that meeting would have degenerated into a chaotic exhibition of ineptitude), took the chair, and received a magnificent ovation, the prophet of the people being indeed justified in his own country. The Rev. T. Horne and Mr. Watson Wright, on mounting the platform, were received with cheers, again and again renewed. Mr. Bentley said that he had no need to ask them to hear Mr. Horne. His magnificent appeal at the Drill Hall the previous evening had touched all their hearts, and he was quite certain that Mr. Horne's address on "British Shows and Showmen" would be heard and fully appreciated by the magnificent audience before them.

On rising to begin his address, Mr. Horne was again received with enthusiasm. He stood there that night, he said, by the courtesy of the Mayor and Corporation of Burslem, and at the very forefront of his speech he desired to acknowledge the kindness and courtesy of the Town Clerk, of Alderman Bratt, and the members of the Town Hall and Markets Committee. It would have been impossible for him to have fulfilled his intention of speaking to the people of Burslem again that night, owing to the inclemency of the weather, but for the kindness of the Mayor and Corporation in permitting them to occupy the Town Hall at the close of the town's meeting. He had not come to that platform with any idea of intensifying or perpetuating the heated or angry feelings of either of the parties concerned in the controversy raging around Burslem Wakes. On the contrary, he assumed that the Town Council, having made their appeal to the people, would abide by the very unmistakable answer the people had given them that night. (Loud applause.) He had found, after a somewhat lengthy, and, at times, strenuous public career, that the best thing to be done at all times was to go before the people, to trust the people, to tell the people the truth, and leave the final issue to the sound judgment and justice-loving decision of the people.

He had no concern that night in dealing with the mistaken notions, the prejudiced statements, or the false issues raised by the opponents of the wakes; in fact, it was not his mission there and then to pull down falsehood, but it was his mission to build up truth, "for truth, eternal truth, is mighty, and will prevail." (Great applause.) He claimed to speak as an expert upon the subject he was now bringing before them—the showman industry, like all other industries, had grown with the growth of the National Life. It had its rootage in the dim, historic past, and there was no country and no civilised race in the world which had not its shows and showmen. In our own country, not a page of our glorious history but what had its showmen and its shows. Unfortunately, there were people in the world who refused to recognise (so twisted and perverted had their lives become) that there was any necessity for shows, showmen, fairs, or wakes. One of the most urgent and insistent of his duties was to show to this type of mind that, whilst they had a perfect right to keep away from such amusements as those afforded by shows and showmen, they had no right to abuse the high position that public work on public bodies gave them, in order to impose upon the people their own narrow views of life.

Another constantly recurring error was the opinion formed (without any evidence) that British fairs were dying out, and that the conditions of industrial life did not now require such amusements. On the contrary, the fact was that, for every fair that had ceased to exist, ten other fairs had sprung into existence. He was prepared to prove that there were more fairs, and necessarily more shows and showmen, in existence to-day than at any other period of our history. Any impartial study of the history of our country will give abundant evidence that the industry of the fair-ground (like all the industries dependent upon the increasing demand of the national will) had prospered and grown in harmony with the growth of the population, the extension and development of the great industrial centres of the nation. He would give them one or two most significant examples, examples well within living memory:—George Wombwell, "the father of menageries," commenced his remarkable career as a showman by the exhibition of some serpents purchased by him at the East India Docks. Wombwell's menagerie became a national institution, and, wherever Wombwell's show was located, the people made holiday, and went in their crowds to see the show. One of the most striking examples of oratory within his experience he had heard from the front of Wombwell's menagerie. After the band had played the National Anthem, the doorsman—"that persuasive orator of the show"—came forward, and, with a voice that commanded instant attention, delivered himself thus:—

"This is Wombwell's mammoth menagerie, containing birds, beasts, and reptiles, selected and collected from all parts of the inhabitable globe. It were impossible for me, in the short time at my disposal, to attempt to give you any detailed account of the marvels of nature contained within the limits of this portable menagerie; suffice it to say that it takes upwards of fifty horses to convey this concern from town to town. We are now about to commence, and our own naturalist will go from den to den, and fully explain the nature, the country, the habits of life, of every specimen of the animal creation within the menagerie.

"Finally, Martino Maccomo, the African lion hunter, will enter the den of eighteen forest-bred African lions, and put the animals through their matchless performance—the lion hunt, the capture, and the reconciliation of the mighty lions of the forest, and illustrating the power of man over the brute creation. The prices of admission—one shilling, sixpence to the working classes—places it well within the reach of one and all to pay a visit to this stupendous aggregation of living marvels. Now we begin; admission one shilling—sixpence to the working classes."

That menagerie was the father of a number of similar concerns, and, at the present time, the descendants of Wombwell, the Bostocks, were carrying on the same line of business, not only in the British Isles, but on the Continent, in the United States of America, and our colonies. The one menagerie of George Wombwell had grown into four (if not five) huge travelling menageries, one of them always in England, one travelling the Continent, and the others in America or in the British colonies. Probably the most striking example of all was that afforded by the honoured president of their Guild, the greatest showman in the world—Lord George Sanger, a name honoured and esteemed throughout the British Empire. The rise and progress of the Brothers Sanger in the circus world was a striking example, and as significant as any afforded in our national life, of enterprise, ability, and industry, rewarded and blessed with singular and striking success, and, when the story of the heroes of English industry is written, an honoured place will be found for George, John, and William Sanger. His last illustration would be one locally well known and universally esteemed, he referred to Patrick Collins, the principal showman on the Midland circuit, and the chief tenant at Burslem Wakes. It was almost "a fairy tale" of individual success, Mr. Collins's wonderful career. Starting with a very small concern, by sheer pluck, ability, and hard work, he had achieved the position of the principal roundabout proprietor and fair-ground lessee in the world of shows. Now, at the very centre of a strenuous public career, he had an invested capital at stake, variously estimated at between thirty and forty thousand pounds. There were engaged in the show business some seventy thousand persons, and indirectly concerned in the business were a number of industries engaged in making, or supplying, the multiplicity of goods used or vended at our popular fairs. So far from the truth is the mistaken notion that fairs are a dying quantity, that the very opposite is the truth, shows and showmen are an important, well organised, and largely capitalised section of the British community.

A good deal has been said about the insanitary conditions alleged to prevail at, or resulting from the holding of, Burslem Wakes. The showmen had asked for, but up to the present moment had not been supplied with, specific cases of danger to public health at their fair. He, however, would remind their pastors, and masters, and would-be leaders in Burslem, that there was a great aspect of sanitary reform to which they might with profit devote their attention. He referred to "mental hygiene, the sanitation of the brain." Sir William Crichton Browne, the greatest living authority on mental disease, has recently proclaimed a gospel of recreation. In his presidential address to the Sanitary Congress at Blackpool, he said "That he and all other doctors in these days of strenuous activity were compelled to be preachers and teachers of a gospel of recreation." So great was the strain upon the human intellect of the speeding up of industry by the universal use of machinery, that man had become, in most instances, merely the minder of a machine. The specialisation and the division of labour had this terrible effect upon the mental powers—most workers were using only one or two of their brain cells, and the others were inevitably atrophied, or, at the best, only partially employed. For this condition of affairs in the modern and industrial world there was only one remedy—more recreation.

Sanitary experts were bound to carry their principles on to this higher plane of experience, and provide for the necessary sanitation of the brain. He commended the conclusions of the eminent scientist to the Town Council, and he asked them to remember that, for hundreds of years past, before hygiene or sanitation had become an important department of public usefulness, that the travelling showman, in providing popular amusement for the people, had been, whether it were known or not, the prophets and apostles of this latest of all the gospels of modern life—"the gospel of recreation." (Loud and continued applause.)

Mr. T. Watson Wright, Guild solicitor, in the course of a twenty minutes' address, fully explained the legal bearings of the showmen's claim to continue Burslem Wakes, his principal points being, in the first place, that the fair was a statutory fair, set up by the town authorities under powers they undoubtedly possessed; but though they had power to create a fair, it was not within their powers to abolish a fair by mere resolution of the Town Council. (Applause.)

The Fairs Act of the year 1871 was the statute under which local authorities might apply to the Home Secretary by petition to abolish a fair. The preamble of that Act set out in no uncertain terms that the people who frequent the fair must have a deciding voice in the question of its continuance—in other words, the Act fully protects all the interests of the authorities, as in this case, the legal owners of the fair, of the tenants and traders using the fair for business purposes, and of the general public frequenting the fair, either for business or pleasure. Burslem Wakes was, he asserted, a properly constituted and legal fair, created under statutory powers, and, without statutory power, could not be either abolished or removed from the centre of the town, where for so many generations past it had been held. (Applause.) In the second place, he doubted not that the members of the Borough Council, having seen and heard, as they had done that night, what the people thought of the proposal to interfere with their fair, they would, as sensible men, rescind the obnoxious resolution which the town's meeting had so emphatically rejected, and that we should hear no more of the matter. He would, however, in the event of anyone hesitating as to the justice and wisdom of this course, point out the serious dilemma in which the Town Council had become involved. If it were contended that since the year 1880 Burslem Wakes was not a properly constituted legal fair, what about the illegality of imposing upon, and receiving from, showmen, of tolls and rents for a fair that has been all the time illegal? (Applause.)

As regards the showmen (whom he was proud to represent), he ventured to warn the Council, and to inform that magnificent gathering of the townsmen of Burslem, that the showmen were fully organised, fully prepared, and able to defend their trade interests; that, under the leadership of such men as George Sanger, Patrick Collins, and other showmen, but above all, the devoted and inspiring guidance of the Rev. Thomas Horne, the showmen of the United Kingdom were fully determined to defend their business rights and privileges, and that, since the starting of the Showmen's Guild, this work had been carried out with signal success and distinction.

Pre-eminently the showmen linked their cause with the cause of the common people. The British people, under the hard conditions and overstrain of their working life, needed just that kind of amusement provided by our modern fairs. They had seen in Burslem, as in all other towns where necessity had driven them to make the appeal direct to the people, that the justice-loving and the show-loving public would not tolerate the invasion or the deprivation of their ancient fair rights and franchises.

The Rev. T. Horne proposed, and Mr. T. Watson Wright seconded, votes of thanks to the Mayor and Corporation for the use of the Town Hall, and to Mr. T. Bentley for presiding over the meeting.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

DARLINGTON NOVEMBER FAIR had for its entertainments the very best shows and machines on the North round, and comprised Randall Williams' (Monte Brothers) theatre of living pictures and varieties, and similar concerns by Messrs. W. Wilson, Paine, and A. Testo, J. Storey's fine art show, W. Murphy's motor cars, Wingate's Japanese air ship, H. Carris' gallopers, Baker and Sons' steam yachts, Morley's helter-skelter, Newsome's, Key's, and Robinson's manual swings. The shooting concerns were Taylor's, Hancock's, Sherran's, and Kelly's rifle galleries, and Illingworth's bottle battery. The minor varieties were provided by Messrs. Smith, J. Wright, Cooper, Illingworth, A. Smith, and Wright.

ULVERSTON kept its fair with Wilden's cinematograph theatre, Marshall's motor cars, Hoadley's steam horses, Casey's swings, Rostron's rifle saloon, Wilson's bottle battery, Russell's, Broughton's, Wilson and Talbot's Emma sheets, Taylor and Jones' cokers, and Stockwell's variety stall.

THE novelties at Crowle Fair were as follows: Ball and Eva's living picture show, Harniess' roundabouts, Ball's swings, rifle gallery, and throwing games, Fossett's rifle saloon, and Gillat's varieties.

THE local committee defending Burslem Wakes is following up its triumphant appeal to the people by a memorial addressed to the Mayor and Corporation of Burslem, worded as follows:—

IN THE MATTER OF THE BURSLEM WAKES FAIR.

To the Mayor and Corporation of Burslem.

The Humble Petition of the Ratepayers and Owners in the Borough of Burslem.

Sheweth as follows:

That the Festival of Saint John, or otherwise known as "The Burslem Wakes Fair," has for many years past been held in the last week in June or the first week in July in each year for the amusement and entertainment of the Ratepayers and Inhabitants of the said Borough of Burslem, in the County of Stafford.

That at a meeting of the Council of the said Borough held on the 8th day of October, 1906, a resolution was passed refusing to grant the Town lands and thoroughfares for the said Wakes Fair, and instructing the Toll Collector not to let the said Town land and thoroughfares for the said purpose.

That on the 15th day of November last, a Town's Meeting was held to ascertain the views of the Ratepayers upon the subject of the abolition of the said Fair, and at such Meeting there was an overwhelming majority of the company present in favour of the said Wakes Fair being continued as heretofore.

That your Petitioners verily believe that the abolition or removal of the said Fair from its former position is not in the interest of the general body of Ratepayers and the people of Burslem.

That to further testify that the Ratepayers require the said Fair, your Petitioners humbly pray that your Council in fairness to the people of Burslem rescind their resolution of the 8th day of October, 1906, prohibiting the Burslem Wakes Fair being held, and that the said Fair be held at the usual time and place, and that you instruct your Toll Collector to let the Town lands and thoroughfares as heretofore.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

THAT enterprising showman Tom Norman is not only the recognised auctioneer and professional expert in all that concerns the business of show-

"MY SUGAR-PLUM."

A VOCAL SWEETMEAT THAT POSITIVELY MELTS IN THE MOUTH, ITS DELICIOUS FLAVOUR CLINGING TO THE MOST EPICUREAN PALATE.

Sing this Chorus over three times, and forget it IF YOU CAN!

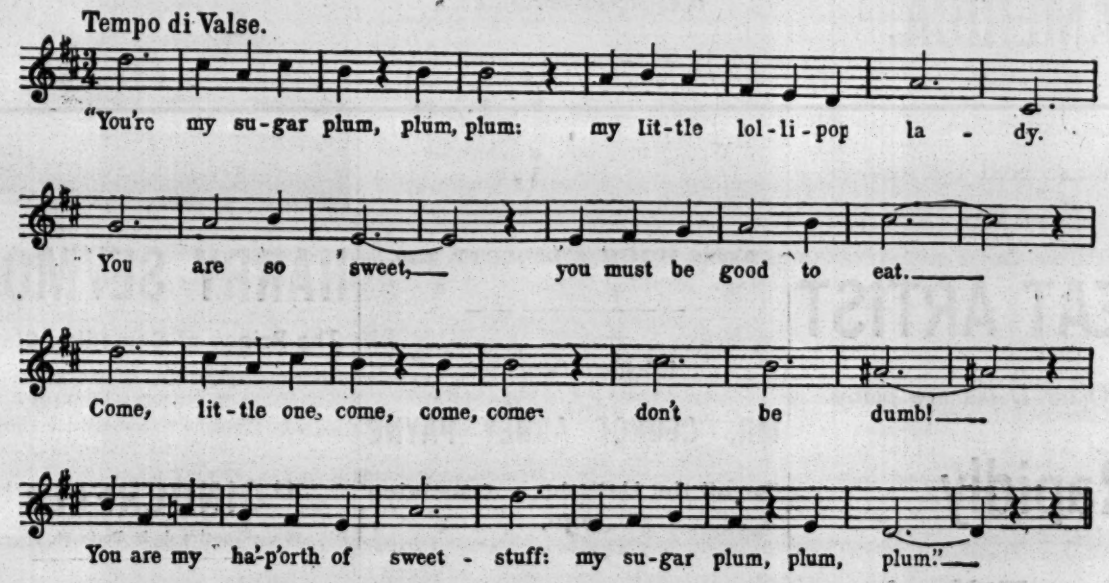
Suitable for "Boy."

HARRY DACRE'S CHRISTMAS SUGAR-PLUM

(Dragée bien sucrée).

Suitable for "Girl."

CHORUS.



Suitable for "Girl."

HARRY DACRE'S CHRISTMAS BON-BON

(Très bon).

Suitable for "Boy."

The music of the Verse is *à la Schottische,* and is quite as alluring as that of the Chorus.

IT IS FREE FOR PANTOMIME!

But Written Permission must be obtained. Applications are already pouring in rapidly.

WE ARE GRANTING A LIMITED NUMBER OF FREE PERMISSIONS FOR MUSIC HALLS.

ARTISTS SHOULD APPLY IMMEDIATELY. BAND-PARTS IN THE PRESS.

THE SUCCESSFUL SONG SYNDICATE, 20, Nassau Street, Mortimer Street, London, W.

men, but he is also on another side of his manifold enterprises honoured, esteemed, and patronised in his own country. The enterprising "Silver King" has just concluded the most successful of his Michaelmas farm sales. These yearly sales are not only growing in popularity, but provide a distinctly felt want in the Sussex district in which Mr. Norman's residence—Manor Farm, Dallington—is situated. In addition to these yearly sales, the genial "Prince of the Rostrum" is in considerable demand for farm and other property sales. Quite recently he has conducted two farm sales at the Home Farm and one at Burton Latimer. Showmen will do well to watch Mr. Norman's advertisements.

To showmen taking the Lincolnshire round, either for the fairs or private business, it is of interest to know that the Corporation of Horncastle (like many another public body, we are glad to say) has provided excellent accommodation for travelling showmen by opening a much larger fair-ground than the old one. This is the well-known stock fair-ground known as the "Wong." Some interest attaches to this, because it indicates that corporations are beginning to recognise that it is good business to encourage showmen to pitch within their borders, and that they recognise that the visit of a travelling show is much appreciated by the people of the town.

YORK Martinmas Fair, despite rumours to the contrary, is still held in the centre of the town, and during the present week Parliament-street and St. Sampson's-square have been crowded with eager and good-humoured sightseers. The advent of the Bioscope seems to have entirely changed the character of the fair, and this form of entertainment has undoubtedly obtained a firm hold on the public favour. In this department the exhibitions of Capt. Payne and Mr. Tuby are to the fore, and have done excellent business. Aspland's motors on their old stand have been crowded, and the same firm's whirling-the-whirl has done exceedingly well, as has also a similar machine belonging to Relph and Pedley. Collins's motors have also received their quota of patronage, and, as usual, Chipperfield's menagerie has not been neglected. Ling's fine exhibitions have done well, the slave-market picture being well patronised. Wright's pictures, Holdsworth's lighthouse, and Westray and Ball's side-shows, motor-cars by Ben Howden and Sons, and Cornwell's rifle saloons, and varieties by Gunthorpe, Leat, Stewart, Walker, Cornwell, and other caterers have all had their share of patronage.

AT Hancock's Winter Gardens, Devonport, this week an evening's cinematograph entertainment has been substituted for the usual variety entertainment, and the experiment appears to be a great success.

EAGLE DAVIS and Wild Bess have opened a Palace of Novelties in the Overgate, Dundee. The Dahomey Amazons (Princess Gooma and Chieftain Angazza Lobogolo) have paid a flying visit and attracted enormous crowds. One of the most successful features of the exhibition is the character delineations of the highly-recommended American lady palmist, Mme. Davis. Tattooing by Professor Donaldson, wire-working by Signor Wormaldi, and glass etching by Miss Dennis are amongst others worthy of notice.

AN interesting event to West of England and Welsh showmen takes place at St. Mary's Church, Southampton, on Wednesday next, when the marriage of Jacob Studt, jun., son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Studt, of roundabout and show renown, to Mary Ann Dooner, the daughter of Richard Dooner, an equally famous showman, will be celebrated. We are quite certain that the best wishes of their numerous friends in Showland will go out to the bride and bridegroom in anticipation of the happy event.

THE Fancy Fair at Dudley was under the control of P. Collins, of Walsall, who exhibited the No. 2 cinematograph and theatre of varieties, and the racing cockerels. With him were associated Harris's exhibition of reptiles, Harry Cullis with school of boxers, Messrs. Craddock and Hayes with swing-boats, and Ford with juvenile motor-cars and miniature roundabout. Shooting saloons were supplied by Dobson, Ford, White, and Tom Dobson, and the well-known providers and caterers of fairground novelties were Messrs. Humphries, Wright, Wagstaffe, Beach, Birch, Wimsper, Robins, Stokes, and Joyce.

THE annual pleasure fair was held at Guildford on Thursday, the 22nd ult., and attracted a large number of people, especially from the country-side, into the quaint county town of Surrey.

AT the "World's Fair," Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, great progress is being made with the gigantic programme arranged for the coming 28th annual, which, it is anticipated, will eclipse all its predecessors. Mr. T. E. Read's wide travels in the early part of the year have resulted in his being able to place on record the greatest and most varied programme ever given at London's greatest of all Christmas fairs. The remarkable aerial acts, augmented circus, an ideal indoor zoo, together with other great attractions yet to be announced, will certainly form a mammoth entertainment for the million, with easy access from all parts, at the customary price of sixpence admission.

A MONSTER carnival will be held in the spacious Corn Exchange, Arbroath, N.B., from December 29, 1906, until Jan. 5, 1907. An orchestra and numerous free stage attractions have been engaged, including Jack's marionettes, Mlle. Jeanetta, the Handcuff Queen, Lyric Sketch Co., Revillo, the Royal magical jester, and the Carnival mascots. The carnival is under the management of Mr. Oliver, and should prove a financial success.

ROYALTY AND SHOWMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—There is sufficient proof that we are not forgotten by Royalty. In an illustrated paper this, Thursday, morning there was a photo of some of our Royal children driving in that splendid carriage drawn by the beautiful ponies presented to them on behalf of England's showmen by that grand old man, Lord George Sanger. The faddist may attempt to exterminate us; but Royalty still respects us.—Yours faithfully,

TOM NORMAN.

Manor Farm, Dallington, Sussex, Nov. 29, 1906.

GREAT DRAW.

GRAHAM,

The Human Marionette.

"A Sure Top."

Agent,

GEORGE BARCLAY.

Mr. LEO DRYDEN,

Business Manager for

The Australian Diva,

MADAME

ADA

COLLEY,

PRIMA DONNA,

Thanks Messrs. T. Barrasford, J. De Frece, Sam Lloyd, E. Dottridge, H. J. Worswick, W. Robinson, and the various Agents for Offers for the

BRITISH ISLES,

CONTINENT,

AND

AMERICA,

and wishes to inform those who have not secured the services of this

GREAT ARTIST

that Open Dates are being

Rapidly

Filled.

All coms.,

LEO DRYDEN,

KING'S THEATRE,

GATESHEAD.

IT MUST BE GOOD.

Top of the Bill,

OXFORD MUSIC HALL,

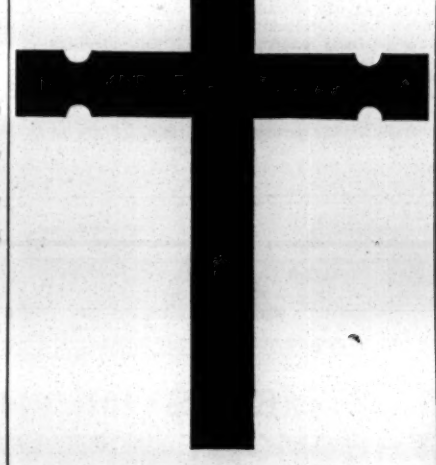
LONDON,

AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

ENORMOUS SUCCESS.

A WONDERFUL DRAW.

THE MYSTERIOUS CROSS.



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MR. ARTHUR PRESTON & COMPANY.

(Registered No. 2,633.)

Solicitors, Messrs. Stanley, Woodhouse, and Hedderwick.

Agent, HUGH J. DIDCOTT, Esq.

RE-ENGAGED BY

MR. GEORGE ADNEY PAYNE

For all the Halls he is associated with.

SOLE PROPRIETOR,

"CARLTON,"

HIPPODROME, PAISLEY.

Then Pantomime Rehearsals,

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRISTOL.

Specially engaged to play the Circus Proprietor.

GUS W. BLAKE. and MAUD GRANBY.

Just returned from most Successful Tour in Australia.

BLAKE & GRANBY

Laughter-Makers

(That's all).

Mr. Leete (Manager of the Tivoli, Sydney), says "The Man in Possession" gave him the heartiest laugh he has had for twenty years.

BLAKE and GRANBY,

Billed by Mr. Rickards, after our opening, as "The Great Laughter-Makers."

Tivoli Theatre.

Blake and Granby, comedy burlesque artists, made a palpable hit in their sketch, "The Man in Possession." The farce is screamingly funny, and as both the artists are admirably suited for their parts, the house was kept in roars of laughter throughout the performance.—Sydney Herald.

Tivoli—Harry Rickards' Co.

The latest star turn at the Tivoli is contributed by Blake and Granby, comedy duologue artists, who made their initial appearance in Australia last night before a crowded house. The newcomers contributed a comedy sketch entitled "The Man in Possession." . . . The sketch is brimful of fun, and had a very enthusiastic reception, the principals being honoured with several recalls.—Sunday Times, Sydney.

An amusing addition to the programme was "The Man in Possession," by Blake and Granby, who, on Saturday made their first appearance in Australia. It is screamingly funny and bright throughout. The two performers are good in their business, and altogether kept the audience constantly laughing while they held the stage.—The Argus.

Tivoli Theatre.

The new arrivals at the Tivoli yesterday, Blake and Granby, English comedy artists, proved very acceptable additions to the programme, and their sketch, "The Man in Possession," is very amusing. . . . Her method is absurdly far-fetched, but it is funny; and the way she bounces, bangs, bumps, beats, and batters that unfortunate broker's bumbailiff when she finds out the truth indicates that Miss Granby has a muscle like Hackenschmidt.—Australian Truth.

Tivoli.

Blake and Granby made their first appearance in Australia at the Tivoli last Saturday. Their sketch is of a highly humorous nature, entitled "The Man in Possession." The sketch is brimful of fun, and raised considerable laughter, the principals being honoured with several recalls.—Sporting and Dramatic News, Australia.

Blake and Granby are introducing a new and very entertaining sketch, "The Late Lamented," which is a screamer from beginning to end.—Referee, Australia.

Tivoli Theatre.

Blake and Granby, a pair of comedy burlesque artists, made their first appearance at the Tivoli on Saturday in an original comedy sketch, "The Man in Possession." . . . The sketch is decidedly humorous, and the lady and gentleman responsible for its production present it well, receiving most flattering approval from a big audience.—Sydney Daily Telegraph.

There are two comedy contributions—one by the Homer B. Mason and Marguerite Keeler Company, and the other by Blake and Granby. Both combinations, however, are front-rankers in their own particular direction, and are responsible for roars of laughter. . . . Throughout the week Blake and Granby went spiffing, and the result of competition in their own particular line only goes to show up, all the more clearly, the excellence of their work.—Australian Truth.

Vacant Dec. 10 and 17, and Jan. 14 and 21.

Only vacancies till 1908.

Sole Agents, PACEY and REEVES.

THE HIT OF THE PARIS THEATRICAL WINTER SEASON, 1906.

HARRY SEYMOUR

The Prince of Comedian Clowns,

Specially Engaged from the New York Theatres By Mr. ARTHUR COLLINS, To Appear in Several Leading Parts In the French Production of

"CINDERELLA"

At the Theatre de la Porte St. Martin.

What the French Press says about HARRY SEYMOUR.

LE MATIN says:—

One's attention is almost taken off Mayol, the leading comedian in "Cinderella," by the most original impersonation of the cat, which is produced by the clever comedian, Harry Seymour. His antics, as he scampers round the balcony of the theatre, electrified the audience.

THE FIGARO says:

One of the most decided hits of "Cinderella" is the clever performance of Harry Seymour, a young English comedian, who has the speciality of playing dumb parts and imitating animals. His impersonation of the cat is simply stupendous.

LE PETIT JOURNAL says:

In the pic-nic scene of "Cinderella" the house was absolutely convulsed with laughter by the eccentricities of Harry Seymour, the English comedian, who has been a revelation to the Parisian public.

Address, "The Era," Paris Office, ESCOLE, 60 rue Caumartin.

NOTICE.

In accordance with the Act of Parliament regulating Patents, &c.,

THE

ELLIOTTS

AND

SAVONAS

Have been notified by the Comptroller of the Patent Office to give public warning that the whole of the appliances used in their Musical Act, including

ORGANS INSTRUMENTS,

MUSICAL LYRES & BELLS, &c.

Also all Scenic and Electrical Effects, are protected by Royal Letters Patent, No. 24652/05 and No. 24653/05.

They also wish to notify that the title of Savonas is fully registered, and anyone after this Notice infringing the patent or name, or using any colourable imitation of such patent or name, will be immediately prosecuted.

Agents are appointed in all towns visited by the SAVONAS to look after unprincipled pirates.

PRESS OPINIONS.

ANOTHER GREAT TRIUMPH FOR

THE SAVONAS

Read what they say in Bradford, the greatest musical centre in the world.

The production of WAGNER'S

OVERTURE TO TANNHAUSER

BY THE

SEVEN SAVONAS

is the big event of their engagement, and is a real musical treat; they gave a fascinating and impulsive performance, which achieved a glorious and instantaneous success. Great praise must be awarded for their painstaking and effective rendering of all the technical requirements in Wagner's delightful musical masterpiece, in which they were eminently successful, and received long and loud applause from a huge audience, who testified their appreciation of such talented and refined musicians by delightful lusty cheers, the demonstration being so great they were not allowed to proceed with the programme for some moments.

The YORKSHIRE POST says:

The Seven Savonas gave a bright, bold, and brilliant performance of Wagner's Overture to "Tannhäuser," which was fully recognised and appreciated by a large, critical audience, for which they deserve all credit; also their sire, Mr. J. B. Elliott, the inventor and producer of this classical and popular style of entertainment.

The dresses, by Alias, designed by J. B. Elliott, at a cost of £300, are effectively are good figures and pretty faces, all of brilliant and gorgeous, added to which which go to make a pleasurable successful evening's amusement.

Why are the

ELLIOTTS

AND

SAVONAS

Such popular favourites with the Managers and Public?

Because they draw the Money for Managers, which makes them happy and cheerful.
Because they give a good show.
Because they are good musicians.
Because they dress well.
Because they are poetic and fascinating.
Because they have always something new and grand.
Because they have good scenery and marvellous electrical effects.

That is why they succeed where others fail.

Address en route, or

42, St. Paul's Road, Middlesboro'.

FRED KARNO'S COMPANIES.

GLASGOW.
GRAND. Wednesday, Dec. 5.

GORGEOUS XMAS PANTOMIME.

"The House that Jack Built."

Fred Kitchen, Harmony Comedy Four, the Fourteen Black Hussars, Kirby's Flying Ballet, Miss May Mars, Miss Luna Love, Miss Frances Kapstowne, Sisters Hopkins, Little Maudie Francis, Wee Mona, Bob Sloan, Fred. Whittaker, Helier Le Maistre, Miss Genevera Tree, Miss Agnes Lane, Harry Lappo, Frank Douglas, Frederic Booth, E. Sydney Smith, Dave Laird, Harold Wellesley, Barry Searle, Albert Leonzi, H. Victor Smith, Misses Holly Errol, Eva Norman, May Prichard, Freda Vaughan, Lallie Forsyth, Kathleen Morland, Dora Grey, Nellie May, Florence Raymaur, Florence Fenwicke, Eva Carlisle, Flo Pragnell, Helen Temple, Ianthe Gordon, Florence Marks, Gabrielle Wallace, Violet Crossley, Helen Le Maistre, Lydia Granville, Louis Wollett, Alys Hardy, Jessie Clapham, and chorus and ballet of 150 performers.

Produced by HAROLD L. HILLIARD,
Under the personal supervision of FRED KARNO.
General-Manager, Mr. J. B. HELM; Stage-Manager, Mr. KENNETH MACLEOD; Musical Director, Mr. HENRY HENDERSON.

GLASGOW.
COLISEUM. **"Moses and Sons."**

Messrs. Albert Bruno, T. Ellis-Buxton, Herbert Landeck, Anthony Gordon, J. Springsohn, Nat Lewis, Bernard Katz, Gipsy Dolin, H. Myers, Phil Sinclair, D. Asher, W. Davis, N. Goodman, B. Hart, Frank Lester, F. Westcott, M. Rutherford, E. H. Carl, Harry E. Stafford, L. Banjamin, Fred Bentley, Misses Aggie Morris, Janet Reeve, Madge Rockingham, Rosa Abrahams, Lydia Weber, Leah Holland, Bertha Hymans, Kate Hymans, Blanche Newmann, Etty Ray, E. Silve, A. Boyce, A. Spencer, B. Asher, C. Gordon, Herbert Landeck,
Manager, Mr. M. CRAMMONDE; Musical Director, Mr. DUDLEY POWELL.

AMERICA, U.S. NEWHAVEN.
POLI. **"Mumming Birds."**

Messrs. Harry Royston, James Russell, Sidney Chaplin, W. Fern, Ernest Stone, Fred Bendo, Bert Clark, Arnold McFarlane. Misses Amy Minister, Beatrice Barnes, Agnes Clark.
Manager, Mr. A. FORREST.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
THE EMPIRE. **"Dandy Thieves,"**

Messrs. George Hestor, Frank Morton, Harry Howe, R. H. Kitchen, Tom Manardo, Alec Munro, Sydney Bolton, Charles Usher, B. Moore, S. Gossling, Frank Douglas, Cecil Frere, Misses Leonora Castelle, Kitty Brunton, Chloey Johnson, Margaret Ruby, Daisy Hestor, Edith Ager, Amy Hermance, Marjorie Gossling, Maud Darrell, E. Terry, J. Hylton, K. Elthorn, G. Moore.
Manager, Mr. L. GREENWOOD; Musical Director, Mr. F. H. J. MORAN.

AMERICA, U.S. MASS.
WORCESTER. **"Early Birds."**

Messrs. Billie Reeves, George Welch, Arthur Dandoe, Will Stanley, Charles Emerald, Jack Osborne, Chas. Sivado, Reed Almonti, Will Crackles, G Seamans, J. Aubrey. Misses Rosie Fenton, Mabelle Welsh, Minna Dixon.
Manager, Mr. A. REEVES.

WEST BROMWICH.
THEATRE ROYAL. **"Saturday to Monday."**

Messrs. Rolando Martin, James Fletch, Fred Palmer, J. W. Bradbury, Dick Harcourt, Victor H. Crawford, T. McDonough, George Cooper, C. Herbert Summers, Sydney Lansdown, Bertie Crew W. Lawrence, E. Pablo, Mark Milton, Misses Amy Rogerson, Ada Maskell, Daisy Stone, Lucy Walden, Lulu Lillian, Kathleen Dennis, Valetta Rushton, Muriel Palmer, Ethel Milton, Louie Arnold.
Manager, Mr. H. A. DOOLEY; Musical Director, Mr. A. D'ALBERT.

NEWCASTLE.
EMPIRE. **"Jail Birds"**

Messrs. James Le Fre, Bob Lewis, Chas. Wragg, Bert Williams, Will Moran, Frank Melroyd, Will Lorenzi, George Craig, Albert Layton, E. E. Giles, jun., B. Dean, Misses Marie Dayton, Sara Dudley, Louie Decubas, Marjorie Williams, Rosie Mayville.
Manager, CHAS. SEWELL.

LONDON.
OLYMPIA. **Christmas, 1906.**

Special production of the Famous Old-Time RICHARDSON'S SHOW,
A faithful revival of all the old glamour and glory of ONE OF THE MOST AMUSING AND BEST-BELOVED FEATURES OF OLD ENGLISH FAIR LIFE.

Harry Paulo, Fred Newman, Watty Lewis, A. Danville, Prof. Burnett, G. Romali, D. Robins, Sid Dinah, Misses Madge Lloyd, Marian Homes, Maud Tribe, Dot Robins, The Three Walkers, Band, &c.
Manager, Mr. J. M. JONES.

MANCHESTER.
PALACE. **"The Football Match," Christmas, 1906.**

Messrs. Harry Weldon, Ernie Myers, Robb Gilmore, Will Poluski, jun., Brien McCullough, Bertie White, Jack Royal, Jack Murray, A. E. Johnstone, John E. Doyle, Alec Thomas, Miss Lily Lonsdale, Miss Eunice Bell, supported by the Karno Troupe of comedians, and pantomimists, and two real first-class football teams, comprising well-known football players selected from the leading clubs of the United Kingdom, and chorus and auxiliaries of over a hundred artists.

KARNO'S THEATRICAL FACTORY,
CAMBERWELL, S.E.

The Magnificent **NEW WING** just added to the above, comprising a Paint Room, Rehearsal Room, and Storage Dock, is now complete. The new Paint Room is furnished with Two Frames capable of carrying any Cloths. The new Rehearsal Room, splendidly lighted, ventilated, and heated, is 72 feet long, 21 feet wide, and owing to its exceptional height (26 feet 6 inches) can be used as a Practice Room for any Gymnastic or Aerial Acts. The huge Storage Dock, thoroughly ventilated and dry, covers an area of 316 square yards, and has a cubic space of 32,648 feet.

GENERAL STAGE DIRECTOR,
AUTHOR, and PRODUCER,
Harold L. Hilliard.

ACCOUNTANT,
T. Scott Bell.

SOLICITORS,
Stanley, Woodhouse, and Hedderwick, E.C.

Sole Proprietor and Director,

MR. FRED KARNO.

26, 28, & 28a, VAUGHAN ROAD, CAMBERWELL, S.E.

Telegrams, "Karno, Camberwell."
Telephone, Nos. 2341, 2341a Hop.

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MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
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THE PUBLISHER,
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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, April 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Dec. 17, March 11, 25, May 6, 13, 20.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Jan. 7, 28, Feb. 4, 18, 25, March 4, 11, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Feb. 11, March 4, 18, 25, April 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
Feb. 18, 25, March 4, 25, April 1, 8, on.
GRAND THEATRE, LEICESTER,
March 25, April 1, 8, 29, May 6, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Jan. 7 (three nights), Feb. 18, March 11, 18, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
May 6, onwards.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
Dec. 17, March 6, April 22, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 11, 18, and April 1.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Jan. 7, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 25, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Feb. 11, 25, March 18, 25, April 8, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Dec. 10, 17, 31, March 4 (three nights only), onwards.
Add., E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, SPENNYMOOR.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Dec. 17.
Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, Jarrow.

LYRIC THEATRE,
BROMLEY.

WANTED, First-Class Companies,
Three Nights, Dec. 13 and 20,
Six Nights, Jan. 21, Feb. 11.
And a Really Good Pantomime,
Six Nights, Feb. 18.

Address, F. W. PURCELL,
"Lingwood," Yerbury-rd., Tufnell Park, London, N.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.

WANTED, Companies, Jan. 28,
March 4, 18, April 1, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Company, for
Dec. 17.
Dec. 17.
Wire,
THOS. SWINTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Comic Opera, Musical Comedies, &c., April, onwards. Address, HERBERT VERE.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, Jan. 28, March 11 and 18, 1907. L. CARSON, Keighley.

WANTED, for Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool, March 25, April 1, 29, May 6, important attractions only. FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

Dramatic and Pantomime Companies.
WANTED, Dec. 24, 31, and Jan. 7, Feb. 11.
WM. B. BROADHEAD,
Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions,
OPERA HOUSE, COVENTRY,
Xmas, suddenly vacant

Address, H. G. DUDLEY BENNETT,
Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, HEBBURN.
WANTED, First-class Companies (Musical preferred), Dec. 17, Feb. 11 to follow "The Toreador" and "Three Little Maids." Feb. 25, Good Pantos. write. CHARLES ELDERTON.

GRAND THEATRES, CHORLEY AND RADCLIFFE.
WANTED, Big Musical Attraction, Dec. 24, Jan. 7, Grand, Radcliffe; also Feb. 11, Répertoire, Grand, Chorley. Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, RYDE.
WANTED, Companies, Feb., onwards.
HARRISON-BROADLEY, Manager.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.
WANTED, Pantomimes for Jan. 14 and dates in Feb. Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, April 15, 22, 29,
May 6, 7, 20.

Apply, JAMES KIERNAN, Owner and Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, JARROW.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Dec. 10, through disappointment. Wire, ROBERTSON, Theatre, Jarrow.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Jan. 7, 21, Feb. 4, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Dec. 10 (three nights), and 27, 28, onwards, with exceptions.
Wire, PHILLIPS

WANTED, First-class Companies, Dec. 17 and Feb. 18 (one night benefit). F. J. ROBINSON, T. R., Darwen.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, Really Good Dramas,
Jan 14, March 4, 11, and 25.
E. H. PAGE.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Good Attractions, March 11, April 8, 15, 22, and 29.
Apply, MARK H. LINDON.

WANTED, First-class Attractions,
Dec. 17, Jan. 10 (3 nights),
and Jan. 28.
Apply, SHERWOOD and Co., Theatre, Wakefield.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Feb. 25, March 11, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE METROPOLE, DEVONPORT.
Vac. Dec. 10, 17, April 22, onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Dec. 17, 31, onward, with exceptions.
(Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Dec. 3, 10, Jan. 28, onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant Dec. 17, 31, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant Dec. 3, 10, 17, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD,"
Vacant April 8, 22, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE."
Vacant Jan. 21, Feb. 18, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S."
Vacant Dec. 31 Jan. 14, 21, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA."
Vacant Feb. 4, 11, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.
To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."
Excellent plants printing.

All communications to
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.
Holds £90 at ordinary prices.
This week, Mr. Louis Calvert's "Sunday," Return Visit.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Jan. 21, through obliging Fredk. Mouillot, Esq.; March 11 and 18 also open.
The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring.

All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

AVENUE OPERA HOUSE,
SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, High-Class Musical Comedy or London Successes, for the following dates, 1907:
Feb. 11.
Feb. 18.
Feb. 25,
April 15,
April 22,
April 29,
May 6,
May 13,
May 20,
and onwards.
Address, CHAS. E. MACHIN.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED. First-class Attraction,
Dec. 10.
Wire, JAMES BELL. Wire.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, through obliging Mr. Dance, First-Class Star or Musical Attraction, Feb. 25 and March 4. Could entertain good Pantomime one week. Also Attractions May 6, and onwards.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

RAMSGATE.
SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.
WANTED, First-Class Companies,
Feb. and on.
Address, HENRY BOWMAN.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, HORWICH.
WANTED, Dec. 17, 24, 31, onward, with exceptions; must be good Cos. Theatre well lighted, heated; good band. Copy of daybill, F. LEWIS.

KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION and OPERA HOUSE, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, Dec. 10 (three or six nights) and onwards, with exceptions. W. PAYNE.

WANTED, for the Theatre Royal, Bolton (through the dissolution of a well-known Comic Opera Co.), a First-class Company for Christmas Week, Dec. 24. Address, J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton.

ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE, PONTYPRIDD.
WANTED, First-Class Companies,
Dec. 17, Dec. 17, Dec. 17,
March 25, April 22, May 6.

Apply, CHARLES TRENCHARD.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Inverness, Attractions for Feb. and March. Vacant dates apply, CAMERON BURGESS.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Colchester, Dec. 3 and 10, Xmas, Jan. 7, Feb. 25, Clacton Xmas. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-Class Attraction, Dec. 13 (three nights), Jan. 3 (three nights), April 15, 22 (Fair Week), May 20.
Address, FRANK KING.

THEATRE ROYAL, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.
Now a beautiful Theatre modernised in every respect at a cost of over £1,000.
WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, 28 (3 nights), Feb. 11 (3 nights) or Feb. 14, and a few on. MONTEFIORE, Bury St. Edmunds. Opening Dec. 10 with Moody-Manners Opera Co., "Faust," with Mr. Charles Manners as "Mephisto."

NEW THEATRE, CAMBRIDGE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Jan. 21, 22, 23, vacant through transfer, and through obliging Mr. George Dance, Feb. 4, 5, 6, is vacant. A few vacant dates latter half of April, also May 9, and 23, and June 3. Apply,
W. B. REDFERN.

WANTED, Good Fit-up Companies, one or two nights each, Operetta House, Clacton, from Xmas, onward. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Companies, for Opera House, Wakefield. Vacant Dec. 17, Jan. 10 (3 nights), Jan. 28, March 18, Easter, April 15, and onwards, with exceptions.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, Companies, Dec. 17, 24, Jan. 14, 21 (latter dates can be booked in conjunction with Opera House, Perth). W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, First-Class Dramatic or Musical Attractions for a Midland Theatre, Dec. 10, 17, and 24. No. 1 Companies only entertained. BARNARD, Chiselett-road, W. Hampstead, N.W.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
WANTED, for Xmas and New Year's weeks, big Holiday Attraction; rent or share; must be first-class. Fullest particulars to CHARLES F. JOHNSON, Manager.

CASINO, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-Class Fit-up Companies, Musical Comedy preferred; Share or Rent.
Apply, THORNELL, Casino, Bexhill-on-Sea.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Magnificent New Town Hall, moderate rental, permanent stage, excellent accommodation. F. W. WESTERN, Sandy, Beds.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

WANTED, Dec. 26, 27, Town Hall, Maidenhead. Fit-up Company, Panto. preferred. Musical Comedy. Sharing terms. LEONE, Park-st., Maidenhead.

COMPANIES WANTED.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.

The Leading Theatre of the Town.
The only Theatre in the Town Lighted by Electricity.
Stage capable of any Production.
Can Fly any size Cloth.
This week, "The Wearin' o' the Green" (return); next week, Mr. Charles Harrington's Co., "The Sailors of the King."
To be followed by "The Shulamite,"
Miss Minnie Palmer in "My Sweetheart,"
"Sherlock Holmes," &c., &c.

None but the Best Companies Booked at this Theatre.
WANTED, Jan. 21, Feb. 4 and 25.
Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-Class Companies, for vacant Spring dates,
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 25 (?), March 4, 11, 25.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE,
Jan. 28 (?) Feb. 11 (?), March 4 (?).
Easter vacant through disappointment at Hastings and Folkestone. Big Musical Comedies wanted; Whit Week also vacant, both Theatres; Must be big Shows or not entertained.
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, Companies,
Vacant First-Class Dec. 10, Glasgow,
Dec. 17, Dec. 17,
Dec. 24, Dec. 24.
Wire, Wire, Wire.

R. C. BUCHANAN,
Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS, STROUD.
WANTED, First-Class Drama, Fit-up, Share, Dec. 26 and 27, 1906.
Apply, H. TWITCHETT, at above.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, Feb. 18 and March 11.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11 and March 11.
Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 24, March 11.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE,"
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, Feb. 18.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, March 4.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, Jan. 14.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 28, Feb. 18.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Jan. 21, March 11.
Easter week vacant.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Theatre Royal, Barnsley.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of Dec. 31 and Jan. 7,
Scala Production.
Wire or write, W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Feb. 11 and 18, through transferring.
Nov. 26,
His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness.
Aut., 1907, Grand Production, "Rollicking Rory."

"SAILORS OF THE KING."
WANTED, Important Theatres, Dec. 24, on,
Big Production.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, H. M. T., Barrow.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, Jan. 7.
Full Chorus, Big Specialities.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Carlton T., Birmingham.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED Jan. 7,
Feb. 4,
March 4, 11, 18.
Address, J. W. CORDINER,
Grand Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
See Companies' advertisements, page 2.

"LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres for the above big and novel Attraction; Vacant Feb. 18 (South or London), also Aug., 1907, onwards, with exceptions. Fast booking third returns.
SANTE, P.O.W., Nuneaton; T. R., Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Feb. 11 and onwards, for first-class Pantomime Production, with Powerful Cast and Chorus. Theatres capable of holding good money only. Address, J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton.

By arrangement with Mr. Wm. Greet,
"THE SHULAMITE,"
From the Savoy Theatre.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 24 and 31, Jan. 14, and a few later dates. Apply, re dates, J. FRED WATSON, Victoria, Broughton, Manchester. Other communications, H. THEODORE, 25, St. Anne-street, Manchester.

WANTED, for "The Girl Who Went Astray," Aug. 5, onwards.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

WANTED, Christmas and New Year's week, for "WHEN WOMAN HATES."
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, Christmas, New Year, for "Are You a Mason?"; Jan. 28, "Mr. Popple." Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, "Revenge; or Death or Glory Boys," Star Cast, including E. Hill-Mitchelson, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 25, and March 11. E. HILL-MITCHELSON, P., Preston (two weeks).

MESSRS. SHINTON and GREENWOOD'S TOUR.
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL."
WANTED, Big Theatre for Xmas.
Better bus. than ever return to Yarmouth.
Address, JOHN B. SHINTON,
Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND."
Enormous Success. Miss V. St. Lawrence as Fiend.
WANTED, Dec. 31, Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 18, 25, March 18, April 15, 22, June 3, 10, 17 (?), July 1, 22, 29.
MONTAGUE BEAUDYN, next, Prince's, Bradford.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE."
WANTED, Feb. 4 (between Liverpool and South Shields), for production from Shakespeare, Liverpool. Cast includes those great favourites, the Waldrons, and No. 1 Company of over forty artists. Wire, EDWARD MARRIS, Theatre, Grantham.

FRANK BERTRAM'S TOURS.
"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, and Easter, for this Popular Attraction.
EUGENE BERTRAM, T. R., Chatham.

THEATRES WANTED.

LINGFORD CARSON'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, Managers to kindly Note that all the following Plays are beautifully staged and well played, and any production not satisfactory to the resident management, I shall take it as a personal favour if they will acquaint me immediately, so that I may have an opportunity of rectifying.—Faithfully yours, LINGFORD CARSON.

"THE DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Autumn Dates, for this most excellent attraction, August, on. L. CARSON, Keighley.

"BABES IN THE WOOD."
Beautiful Dresses, and, above all, a Company of Carefully-selected Artists.
WANTED, Feb. 4, First-class Theatres only.
CARSON, Keighley.

ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Dates,
Mr. John Clyde and Company,
in a Special Production of
"JEANNIE DEANS,"
Feb. 11, on.
2, Park-terrace, Queen's Park, Glasgow.
Telegrams, "Jefferson, Glasgow."

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Best Theatre,
Vacant Dec. 24, Dec. 24,
also Feb. 18, 25, and few later.
Sixth year of tour, and success continued.
Mr. CROSS as PETE,
Miss WATERSFORD as KATE.
Dec. 3, PIER PAVILION, EASTBOURNE.

MISS MARY NEIL AND MR. GEORGE KIRK'S CO., "HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
New Year's Week, Jan. 7, 21, 28.
A few Autumn Dates still open.
CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
This, O., Manchester; next, T. R., Stockport.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction,
Dec. 31,
Jan. 14, 21,
Feb. 4, 11,
on, with exceptions.
Metropole, Glasgow, Dec. 3.

"COAL KING."
Polini and Maitland.
WANTED, Dates, Jan. 7, 21, Feb. 4, 11, and 25.
POLINI, 93, Penge-road, Anerley, London, S.E.

"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, with large holding capacity, Whit and August Bank Holiday weeks, for the Biggest Financial Success touring. Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham

WANTED, for "An Actor's Romance" Co. Jan. 7 and 14. Now booking spring and autumn. CHARLES DURIE, Opera House, Perth.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Jan. 21, Feb. 4 (Lancs. or Yorks.), March 4, 11, and 25 (North), only vacant Spring dates. DICKIE CLARE, Theatre R., Glossop.

Grand Xmas Production. E. A'DELL AND CHABOT'S CO'S. (The Name a Guarantee.)
"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR," by Eva Elwes, Vacant Jan. 28, Feb. 4, on. Special plant of printing, three tons of scenery, and a cast second to none touring. "THE ROMANY'S REVENGE."
WANTED, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, March 11, on. Wire, E. A'DELL, T. R., Darwen.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, Jan. 7,
"For Better or Worse."
Wire, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
Sixty-sixth week of present Tour.
Booked and re-booked into Oct., 1907.
WANTED, Whit Week Midlands
March 25 (follow Jarrow), April 15.
FRANK AVERTON, Grand, Rawtenstall (return).

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Dec. 31, Jan. 7 and 14,
Dec. 31, Jan. 7 and 14,
to precede Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.
As many laughs as a Pantomime.
To-day, HARRY FOXWELL, Theatre Royal, Batley; Dec. 3, Theatre Royal, Hebburn.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Dec. 31.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

SIDNEY DENCH'S TOURS.
"RICH AND POOR OF LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 17, 24, 31.
SIDNEY DENCH, 33, Tudor-road, Cardiff.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, Feb. 4, 11, 25, March 11, 18.
BEAUDYN and LIVESEY,
Theatre Royal, Colne.

"THE NIGHT OF THE PARTY."
WANTED, Dec. 24 (Xmas), for the above No. 1 Co., between Manchester and London. Add., this week, Pavilion, Eastbourne; next, O. H., Doncaster.

E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, Theatres, Xmas and New Year's Weeks, Jan. 7 and 14 (North).
GEORGE DENHAM,
This, W. London; next, T. R., Huddersfield.

BEAUDYN AND CROWE'S COMPANY.
"THE WAY OF THE WORLD."
WANTED, Dec. 17 (Midlands), also Xmas, by special arrangement with Mr. Preston, "Rogues of the Turf," can be played either singly or in conjunction with "Way of the World," in towns beyond barring clauses of Music Halls. Racehorses travelled. Xmas and various on vacant for both plays.
HERBERT SKARDON, Theatre Royal, Rugby.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE."
WANTED, Feb. 4 (between Liverpool and South Shields), for production from Shakespeare, Liverpool. Cast includes those great favourites, the Waldrons, and No. 1 Company of over forty artists. Wire, EDWARD MARRIS, Theatre, Grantham.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
WANTED, Dec. 31 (New Year's week), for this Great Play, one of the biggest draws on the road. Band of Drums, Fifes, and Bugles, for Parade. F. G. KIMBERLEY, Vauxhall, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

HARDIE AND VON LEER'S CO.
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres,
Jan. 14, 21 (?), 28, March 4, 11.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard.

WANTED, good Date for Xmas week, for Miss Dorothy Grimston, supported by strong Company, in "East Lynne," Dec. 10, Kennington Theatre, Kennington; Dec. 17, Grand Theatre, Croydon. Write, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

HENRY E. LEIGH'S COMPANY.
"THE 'VARSITY BELLE."
WANTED, Xmas, Jan. 7, and various Spring Dates, Aug. Bank Holiday. ANDREW W. SPENS, 1, Brookwood-road, Southfields, London, S.W. See Companies advertisement.

WANTED, for Florence Glossop-Harris and Frank Cellier, in "Carmen" and other Plays, Jan. 14, between St. Leonards and Harrogate; also Jan. 28 (three nights, Midlands). Write, CELLIER, New Theatre, Oxford.

"A HEART'S DESIRE."
An Exceptional Cast.
A Play of Intense Interest.
An Unmistakable Success.
WANTED, Dec. 24.
H. ELLIMAN, 5, Vernon-street, Dublin.

"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, for this Pantomime Attraction. Enormous success. Refer any Manager where piece has been this tour. Wire for New Year's Week (must be first-class theatre) to F. G. KIMBERLEY, T. R., Sunderland; next, Jarrow.

WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

WANTED, for J. W. Turner's English Opera Co., Jan. 7, Vacant through alteration of Birmingham arrangements. Wire, Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.

WANTED, Dates for
"WHEN IT WAS DARK,"
"WHEN IT WAS DARK,"
Jan. 7, 28 (?), Feb. 18, 25.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
Jan. 14, 28, April 1.

"HONOUR THY FATHER,"
Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21.

MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"BLUEBELL IN FAIRYLAND."
Forty-Five in Company.

WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Jan. 14 (South), to oblige a Manager,
and Easter.

Only Vacant Dates
till Xmas, 1907.

E. GRAHAM-FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

ALLAN WILKIE,
Supported by
Mr. G. Alexander Marsh, Miss Carrie Baillie, Miss Ine Cameron. The Strongest Shakespearean Company Touring the British Isles.

WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11 (three nights, South), May 13 (North or Midlands), May 20 (Midlands or South), June 10. Wanted, good Theatre for four weeks' stock répertoire of eighteen plays, Shakespeare, drama, and comedy; also Aug. 5, onwards, with exceptions. ALLAN WILKIE, Opera House, Kidderminster.

WANTED, for Lingford Carson's "Drama of Life" No. 1 Co., Xmas and New Year's weeks. Wire, VAN BIENE, this, Q. T., Gateshead; next, New T., Consett.

"SAPHO."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Dec. 24,
Jan. 21, 28.
No greater success touring.
Wire,
JAMES BELL,
T. R., Darlington.

GRANVILLE AND THORNE'S CO.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Money-maker, Dec. 24, Feb. 4, 25, an excellent Holiday Attraction.
Wire for Xmas.
FRANK M. THORNE, T. R., Croydon.

"THE STREETS OF LONDON."
WANTED, owing to continuation of Tour, Dec. 17, Xmas, Jan. 7, 14, 21;
This week, County, Reading;
Dec. 3, Grand, Swansea;
Dec. 10, Theatre Royal, Bristol.
Company includes Mr. W. Rokeby, Mr. Joe Bracewell, Mr. Riddell Robinson, Mr. Charles O'Connor, Mr. Charles Keen, Mr. Clarmont Gaskell, Miss Dorothy Caley, Miss Helena Rigby, Miss Winifred Ingham, and Miss Florence.

Wire, MONTEFIORE, Bury St. Edmunds.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE."
WANTED, Feb. 4 (between Liverpool and South Shields), for production from Shakespeare, Liverpool. Cast includes those great favourites, the Waldrons, and No. 1 Company of over forty artists. Wire, EDWARD MARRIS, Theatre, Grantham.

LINGFORD CARSON'S REPERTOIRE CO.
"MODERN ADVENTURESS," "HEART OF A HERO," "TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN," AND "OCTOROON."
Enormous Business at every Theatre visited.
WANTED, Theatres (unexpectedly vacant through transfer), Jan. 14, 21, and March 4. Only Vacant Dates until Sept. 16, 1907. Apply at once for Jan. 14 and 21 to
CHARLES DRAYCOTT, Royalty Theatre, Barrow.

"THE TRAITOR."
E. HILL-MITCHELSON and HARRIS FINEBERG'S MAGNIFICENT PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Jan. 7, 28, Feb. 4. One of the strongest attractions touring. E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

MR. F. B. WOULFE'S TOURS.
"ROBIN HOOD; or,
THE KING OF SHERWOOD FOREST."
An entirely new and original version, by Clifford Rean.
Mr. F. B. Woulfe as Robin Hood.
Miss Ethel Griffies as Maid Marion.
A gorgeous production; magnificent scenery and dresses; large plant of printing.
Managers, please note.—This is a Melodrama pure and simple, and infringes the rights of no other version.
Company of eighteen; quartette of glee singers.
WANTED, Dates, for this Ideal Xmas Attraction, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21, Feb. 18, and various on. F. B. WOULFE, Her Majesty's T., Carlisle.

"PUSS IN BOOTS."
"PUSS IN BOOTS."
WANTED, for this Gigantic Production, Important Theatre,
for week of Feb. 11,
to follow Hull and Sheffield.
Address, C. and F. RENAD, Grand Theatre, Hull.

MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD'S COMPANY.
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, Feb. 18, on, with exceptions; excellently advertised, sumptuously staged, brilliantly played.
Add., STUART CLEVELAND, 30, Victoria-st., Fleetwood.

WANTED, Theatres, January, for "Cricket on the Hearth," Elaborate Production.
HARRISON-BROADLEY, Manager, Theatre Royal, Ryde.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON,"
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON,"
By Geo. R. Sims.
WANTED, for this never-failing Attraction, big Theatre for Xmas week, vacant through theatre transformed to Music Hall.
Wire,
H. HOLLISTER, to-day, Empire, Southend.
Monday, T. R., Norwich.

WANTED, for "Her Lost Self," by Nita Rae, "The Biggest Scamp on Earth," by F. A. Scudamore, New Year, New Year. Wire, FRANCES DELAVAL, King's, Gainsborough; Dec. 3, T. R., Leicester.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Dec. 24 and Jan. 28.
Address, FRANK E. BURDETT,
To-day, Rotherham; Dec. 3, T. R., Leigh.

"THE THRONE OF TERROR."
WANTED, Dec. 24, 31, Feb. 25, March 11 (Midlands or North), April 1, 8, 15, June 24 (London district). W. J. MILLER, Royal, Houghton.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE."
WANTED, Feb. 4 (between Liverpool and South Shields), for production from Shakespeare, Liverpool. Cast includes those great favourites, the Waldrons, and No. 1 Company of over forty artists. Wire, EDWARD MARRIS, Theatre, Grantham.

THE "APEX" ANIMATED AND TALKING PICTURE CO., with the CHRONOPHONE (Gaumont's patent),
The Greatest Wonder of the Age.
WANTED, Theatres, Music Halls, Halls, &c. Feb. 11, on, with exceptions.
Shares or certainty.

All communications to
GENERAL-MANAGER,
81, Victoria-avenue, Hull.
Telegrams, "Chrono, Hull."

NELSON and HARDY'S ANIMATED PICTURES AND VARIETY COMBINATIONS.
WANTED, Halls, Theatres, &c., week of Jan. 7, 1907, and onward, share or rental; three special nights in every town. Enormous attractions. Address all coms. to MANAGER, c/o 1, Stanley-terrace, Middle Market-road, Great Yarmouth.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for "Sign of the Cross," rehearse 10th inst., Gentlemen for following parts: Philodemus and Melos (double), Servillius, Strabo, and Viturius. Those with good tenor voices to assist in Chorus preferred. Also tall Baggage and Fit-up Man, to work limes. Full particulars in first instance, photos., references (with addresses), to
HENRY CHATTELL, Watford.

WANTED, for Long Stock Season, the following First-Class experienced Artists: Leading Man, Heavy, Comedian, and Character; also smart Chambermaid, with songs and dances, and Character Old Woman. Rehearse Dec. 17; open Dec. 24.
Send full particulars, photos, and absolute lowest terms, PERCY WILLIAMS, Grand Theatre, Plymouth.

"THE LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE."
WANTED, Rehearse, Dec. 17, Young Actor, tall, powerful voice, combine A.S.M.; Young Lady, tall, pretty; also First-class Carpenter; good, long engagement. Photos. and full particulars, G. CARLTON WALLACE, 6, King Edward-street, Islington, N.

"THE CONSCRIPT."
WANTED, Immediate, Smart, Dashing Chambermaid, for soubrette part; must sing and dance. Lowest terms, photo., references, to Mrs. F. WYBERT CLIVE, this, Carlton, Birmingham; next, P. O. W., Mexborough.

"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH" CO.
WANTED, through illness, good Emotional Actress for Kate Strong; rehearse London; open Dec. 24, North. References, latest photos. (or no use), and full particulars, SAM LIVESEY, Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham Junction.

MESSRS. SEDDON AND ROBERTSON'S CO., in "CHARLEY'S AUNT."
(By arrangement with Mr. Brandon Thomas.)
Fit-up Tour.
WANTED, a Charley. Photo. and lowest terms. Silence polite negative.
ROBERTSON, T. R., Loughborough.

"LIFE OF A SHOWMAN."
WANTED, Aristocratic Old Man, capable of Character, not under 5ft. 10in. (robust), to rehearse Tuesday, Middlesbro'. Send lowest terms, age, height, photos., references, SANTE, Theatre, Nuneaton, until Sunday's post; then, T. R., Middlesbrough.

WANTED, for "Bluebell in Fairyland," Gentleman for Blib, Small Child who can sing. Age, height, references, lowest terms child's photo, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford. Harry Vernon write.

WANTED, to support Walter Bentley, in "Rob Roy" production, Gentlemen, for Francis (must be tenor vocalist and actor), Captain Mornton (must be able to fight broadsword combat). Ladies for Hostess and Jean, to speak Scotch and sing Soprano and Contralto; also good Advance Agent. Letters only, with full particulars and lowest terms, to Miss PHYLLIS ORME, 35, Hartismere-rd., Fulham, S.W.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
WANTED, Heavy Gent., for Dr. Zambra, six nights, Dec. 10, rehearse Rawtenstall 5th inst. Fullest particulars, lowest inclusive terms, to FRANK AYRTON, Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall.

WANTED, Good Juvenile Gentleman, Répertoire Co., rehearse near Liverpool, Dec. 11. Full particulars, HARDING THOMAS, Theatre, Paisley.

WANTED, Light Juvenile Gentleman, Sketch, Dec. 10, one week, London. Photo., terms, references. Letters only, GRAHAM, Crown Theatre, Peckham.

WANTED, Refined Comedian for Fiery Old Colonel in Sketch, long Tour. Letters only. SELLERS, 9, York-buildings, Adelphi, W.C.

WANTED, Gentleman to play Responsible Parts; must be tall and of good address. NORMAN V. NORMAN, Lyceum Theatre, Newport.

WANTED, First Tenor, also Second Baritone and Bass, for Quartette, Provinces.
C. NAYLOR, 60, Chestnut-grove, Balham.

Exceptional Opportunity.
WANTED, a few smart young Ladies, no previous experience necessary, no fees. Send photo., which will be returned immediately if not suitable. Mr. G. LEONARD, 101, Trinity-road, Upper Tooting.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Miss Laura Hansen thanks Mr. Allan Wilkie and Mr. Sam Livesey for offers. Disengaged, Lead. 86, Church-road, Hove.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, all Artists, Chorus, and others engaged for Pantomimes to write at once to J. F. ELLISTON, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

WANTED, for Pantomime, Chorus Ladies and Gents; must be tall.
Address, with terms and references,
J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton.

WANTED, for Pantomime, Comedians, for Emperor and Vizier. Age, height, references, lowest terms. E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

WANTED, for West-End Pantomime Production, Principal Boy, pair Refined Knockabouts, pair Sisters, Second Boy and Girl, Baron, Wolf (Baritone), Dame, and Fairy Queen (Soprano). Call and state where to be seen,
SOMERS and WARNER, 1, Tottenham Court-road.

WANTED, for Mr. and Mrs. John Walters' Pantomimes, Principal Boy, young and refined, and a good singer; also Artists, for Clown and Pantaloon, and a few Chorus Ladies and small-part people; rehearse Birmingham, Dec. 17, tour till Easter. J. WALTERS, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, for "Aladdin," Principals, Conductor, Chorus. Photos., references, lowest terms first letter.

SAM DUCKWORTH,
Theatre Royal, Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Experienced Comedian, for part of Baron, in "Cinderella." Those who have played part before acceptable. GANNON, Westgrove, Bristol.

WANTED, Lady for Princess of Morocco ("Whittington"). Age, photo., last two references, to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, pair of Sisters, for second boy and girl, quartette of Lady Dancers, and Specialities. J. W. JOHNSON, Variety Agent, 86, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, for Pantomime, First-class All-round Dancers, to rehearse at once. Call or write, SYDNEY T. RUSSELL, 88, Boston-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Good-looking Chorus Girls and Ballet. Apply, any morning, 12 o'clock, Grand Theatre, Islington, N. Also Pianist-Conductors; nothing to score or arrange.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, Pantomime, London and Provinces; good salaries and fares paid. Apply Thursday next, 2 to 3, EDWARD CRANSTON, Rule's, Maiden-lane.

LONDON and PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES CO.
WANTED, First-Class Ballet Mistress, for three weeks, to train children and arrange Ballets; also Wardrobe Mistress, for Scotch Touring Pantomime. Terms and references to STANLEY ROGERS, King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Lily Stewart, vacant through misunderstanding, Principal Girl last year, West London. Perm., 14, Hutchison-st., Aldgate, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Flora Macdonald, A.L.C.M., 5ft. 9½in., Lib. Panto., Fairy Queen preferred, last season Bros. Luck. 56, Drayton-road, Harlesden, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Maud Esmond, London's refined burlesque artist, open panto., boy. Dec. 3, Empress and Putney. 10, Kenbury-gardens, Camberwell.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Fred Alberto, comedian, vocalist, actor, and dancer. The man who made E. G. Falcon's panto. last season at Bedford. Queen's Palace of Varieties, Ilkeston.

WANTED, Known, Liberty for Pantomime, Animal Part, good Comedy Tumbler. Perm., CADEROS, 1, Reed-street, West Hartlepool. Thanks to A. Carlton, Renad Bros., for offers.

WANTED, Panto., by Arthur Wade, Baritone, sure success. Powerful, exceptional range.—Era. Offers, c/o 44, Trigon-road, Claylands-road, Kennington, S.W.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Victor Vernon, Principal Comedian, four seasons, Theatre Royal, Plymouth. Wire, 69, Cranworth-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Panto., Bob Baxter. Dame preferred; four seasons, J. F. Elliston, Esq.; last two seasons, R. Arthur, Esq. Address, Regent, Salford.

WANTED, Known, The Lurins (Frank and Alice), open for Pantomime, with their most successful Novelty, "Cinders," fully protected. Palace, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Known, Barrett and Knowles, most pronounced success with new Act at Palace, Manchester; next week, Royal, Oldham. Come and see us.
At Liberty for Panto.
Last year, Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

WANTED, by Denby and Dent, Pantomime.
Address, "Era Office."

WANTED, Panto., by Drum and Major, Prin. or Second Girl and Comedian. Address, c/o "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Panto, the Smartest Dog Act in the Known World. A Lightning Show; not a dull moment. No inconvenience or waits in setting. CHARD, Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, by York, Mac, and York, Panto., dame and speciality, original, novel act, for kitchen scene. MAC, Lyceum, Stafford.

WANTED, an Engagement, for Illuminous Flying Ballet, Pantomime or Big Spectacular Show preferred. Good lithos.
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WANTED, Known, Frank Keegan and Co., Funniest Knockabout Act on the Road, at Liberty for Panto., Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21. Com., 8, Somerleyton-road, Brixton, London.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, to co-operate in Sketching Speciality, variety theatres, share small expenses. State particulars, METRO, Box 4,051, "The Era."

WANTED, a good Scenic Artist; must be able to paint and write advertising curtains and have own brushes. Apply personally, Monday morning, 10 o'clock, 26, Gt. Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, for two weeks, commencing Dec. 10.
Address, Box 4,066, "The Era."

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, S. Beltram open to receive Contracts, large or small, Touring Scenery re-painted; salary or contract. Address, c/o Waterloo Hotel, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, G. Sackmann, Scenic Artist and Contractor. Painting-room, Kennington Green, Kennington-road, S.E. Tel., N3296 Hop.

WANTED, Engagement, or Contract, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, at Liberty Dec. 1. Address, 44, Randolph-gardens, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Known, G. S. Evans, Scenic Artist, Disengaged; extensive experience in good theatres. Reasonable terms. 8, Buckley-st, Limehurst, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Contracts for Bright, Effective Scenery, at lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, by Young Man, Situation, to paint Scenery or assist; good character; on job or otherwise. H. S., 79, Rochester-row, S.W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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Theatre.
WANTED, Known, a most favourable opportunity occurs for the investment of £500 in the production of an entirely new Farcical Comedy, by well-known and successful authors. Liberal terms can be arranged. Parts open. Address, COMEDY, care of Anderson's, 14, King William-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Acting-Manager, who thoroughly understands working up a Theatre; only those who have held similar positio ns before need apply. Send detailed list of ideas to MANAGER, Box 99, C/o W. L. Erwood, Advertising Offices, 30, Fleet-street, E.C.

WANTED, Experienced Acting-Manager, for London Suburban Music Hall.
Apply, with references,
Box 4,078, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Smart Secretary, good penman, assist Window Billing and Inspection; join immediately. Send photos. (returned), references, JOHN HENRY COOKE'S Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Smart Young Man, as Secretary, must be thoroughly experienced, rapid shorthand writer and typist, and have knowledge of theatrical work. State terms required, references, &c., to FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Smart Man, used to Musical Hall Agency, must be well accustomed to booking Turns at the Halls; steady and reliable. State age, salary, and qualifications to Box 4,057, "The Era."

WANTED, Electrician, used to Variety and Theatre, one knowing how to work chronophone preferred. A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

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WANTED, Known, the Name of Martin Comstock on any bill corresponds to the sterling mark on silver and gold.
Now at Liberty, Manager or Agent. Offers invited. Address, MARTIN COMSTOCK, Opera House, Coventry.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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WANTED, Re-engagement, by thoroughly experienced Manager, Theatre or Music Hall, Touring or Resident; excellent references. Box 4,067, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Acting-Manager, young, smart, energetic, experienced in all duties, accountancy, bars, &c. Highest refs. Box 4,072, "The Era."

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WANTED, by Clerk, 22, references, Situation assist Manager, anything respectable; can play small parts. JOHN MOAR, 13, Langside-place, Langside, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, Carpenter, parts, anything; tall, experienced, total abstainer, age 27; resident or tour. Wife, chorus, parts; good voice and appearance. Joint or singly. First-class refs. CARPENTER, 44, Trigon-rd., Kennington, London.

WANTED, Known, W. H. Grieves, Carpenter, own tools, Dis. Xmas and Spring, resident or tour, or sketches in music halls. Princess T., Bristol.

WANTED, Known, Theatrical Managers, Educated Man, now leaving Telephone Company, seeks employment, stage-door keeper, night fireman, bill inspector, experienced theatre work. B., 37, Strathleven-road, Acre-lane, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, in Box Office; excellent references; late Theatre Royal, Stockton-on-Tees. Address, Miss L. DALE, 23, Sydney-street, Plymouth.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

CIRCUS, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Leader (Violin), Piano, Cornet, Drums, and Clarionet.
Send references and state lowest terms in first letter, to open Dec. 10, '06.
Address, ALGIE.

WANTED, for Pantomime, Two Good Conductors.
Terms and references, address,
J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton.

WANTED, for Volunteer Band, a Bandmaster (Army preferred).
Reply, stating age and qualifications, and salary required, by letter to
V. B., 887, care of Messrs. Deacon's, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

WANTED, Musical Director (Piano), used to Panto., through releasing Mr. Forshaw Kershaw. Terms, refs., to JAS. KIDDIE, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

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WANTED, Good Second Violin, to Open Dec. 10, thoroughly used to circus and variety business.
References and lowest terms to
HARRY WAMBA, Conductor.
N.B.—Lowest terms and references must be forwarded.

WANTED, First and Second Violins, Viola, and Clarionet, variety experience indispensable. Apply, stating lowest terms and refs., to AUGUSTE DENTON, Mus. Dir., Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy, S. Wales.

H. and F. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, to open Reading, Dec. 24, First Violin, wear evening dress and assist fittings. WELDON, Esq., M.D., Assembly Rooms, Bognor.

WANTED, Dec. 3, Greenock Pavilion, Cornet; Dec. 10, Drummer and Pianist. Trial, reference, to HOWARD GALPIN, M.D., Pavilion, Glasgow. Cornetist wire.

WANTED, Dec. 3, Greenock Pavilion, Cornet; Dec. 10, Drummer and Pianist. Trial reference to HOWARD GALPIN, M.D., Pavilion, Glasgow. Cornet wire.

WANTED, Good Trombone, well up in variety, open Monday; must be steady.
Wire, MAITLAND LACEY, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Euphonium, Pitching, join Monday next, shares. Thanks to those who wrote last week. T. JACKSON, 3 Leslie-grove, Croydon.

WANTED, Three Good 'Cellists, Two Solo Violinists, One Violinist and Pianist combined for White Star Mediterranean Service. Musical Duties only; second-class accommodation. One First-class Pianist and Flautist, for Cunard Service. Mr. C. W. BLACK, 19, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Wanted, 'Cellist, must be reliable.
Apply immediately,
SHERWOOD and Co., Theatre, Wakefield.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Northampton, Flute and Piccolo; must be good, and well up to variety business. State salary and references to MUSICAL DIRECTOR, 16, Abington-avenue, Northampton.

WANTED, to commence soon, Second Flute and Piccolo, for the Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra; must be first-class performer, with experience in high-class Music and Military Band Work. 4½ hours daily; no Sunday work. Apply, with terms and references, to Mr. DAN GODFREY, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Pianist, to open Dec. 10; experienced in Variety Business. Lowest terms and latest references, T. HULLEY, Conductor. Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Pianist, to combine Violin. Age, references, lowest terms.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, good Drummer, with effects, to open Dec. 10; permanency. Terms, age, and references to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, G. T., Hamley, Staffs.

WANTED, for the World's Fair, Agricultural Hall, Brass Band of 12 performers; must be strictly sober and attentive. Apply, E. COOK, M.D., Fossett's Farm, Ravensthorpe, near Northampton.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

COLWYN BAY,
Season 1907.
WANTED, Applications, for supplying
Town and Promenade Band (voluntary),
Minstrel Troupe,
Pierrots,
and other Specialities.
For information, apply to the
CLERK to the Urban District Council,
Colwyn Bay,
North Wales.

A Plot of Land to Let, adjoining the Promenade, for Cinematograph or other similar performances.

WANTED, for the new Palace of Varieties, Stoke Newington, full Orchestra, all departments write in; good players only. State age, experience, terms; open Dec. 24; two houses nightly, one matinée.
Write, Box 4,068, "The Era."

WANTED, Drummer, full effects, tymp. preferred; must be good, refs., open Monday. McMILLAN, Hippodrome, Oldham.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director, Violinist, Disengaged, Composer of Music "Silver King," &c. Pantomimes arranged. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, by Orchestra Conductor, Re-engagement, Theatre, Music Hall, or Municipal Orchestra; open to compose music for Panto. or Musical Comedy. Terms, &c., apply H. VINCENT KEIGHLEY, "The Ledgers," Heythorp-st., Southfields, S.W.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Young Conductor, piano, violin, composer, arranger, theatre, hall. HENRI ROCHELLE, c/o Burbridge, 22, Knowle-rd., Brixton, London.

WANTED, through Disappointment, Engagement, by well-known first-class musical director, theatre, or good variety. Highest refs. Box 4,073, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First Violin, open about Dec. 21, theatre or hall. Excellent refs.; abstainer. C. VINT, P.O., Carlisle.

WANTED, Engagement by Reliable Cornet Player, any business; can join at once. Address, C. BURROWS, 7, Stone-street, Hastings.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionetist, any business, reliable refs., total abstainer. McCORMICK, 28, Aylmer-rd., Wendell Park, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Known, Gentleman desirous of filling in his evenings wishes to offer his services as Second or Ripieno Clarionet, in good London theatre. Salary secondary consideration. Box 4,071, "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced Clarionet, Engagement, any Business; good refs., abstainer; distance no object. SHEEHAN, 11, Pelham-street, South Kensington, London.

WANTED, Known, Good Bassoon, at Liberty any Business; brilliant soloist; highest references; theatre preferred. BASSOONIST, 74, Sharderloes-road, New Cross, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced Double Bass Player, Theatre or Variety; first-class references. G. Fox, 134, Queen's Park-rd., Brighton.

WANTED, Re-engagement, as Double Bass, thoroughly experienced, excellent references, permanency preferred. LYND, 170, Drakfell-road, Brockley, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombone, Theatre or Music Hall, or Deputising.
W. GOFF, 111, Upper Kennington-lane, S.E.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, Engagement in London. No Sunday work. Address, 'CELLIST, 118, Elgin-av., Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, Known, owing to reduction of Eastbourne Municipal Orchestra, C. Herrick, late Solo Oboe, requires Engagement. C/o DODD, 72, Victoria-street, Westminster, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Oboe, open for panto. or variety business. WEBB, 75, Newington-butts, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Æneas Gibson, First-Class Harpist and Pianist, immediate engagement; young, gentlemanly, travel abroad. MUSIC SELLER, Bayswater House, Roundhay-road, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Maud Estlin Grundy, age 19, Harpist; brilliant Soloist. All letters, 7, Provost-rd., Hampstead, London, N.W.

WANTED, by Experienced Lady Harpist (solo or orchestral), engagements.
Box 4,064, "The Era."

WANTED, by Harpist, Engagements with Quadrille Small Band, &c.
Box 4,060, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, orchestra or business, would deputise, long reference (theatre closing). FLAUTIST, Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by N. Robinson, pianist, any business, exper. var., drama business, good reader, excel. refs., steady, reliable. 227, Bowling Back-lane, Bradford, Yorks.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady, as Accompanist, London or Tour. 39, Chelsham-rd., Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement during day or evening, Herbert Knight, L.A.M., accompanist, transpose, read sight, music publishers, rehearsals. 126, Lambeth-road, London.

WANTED, Engagement as Pianist or Saxhorn, combine if required, at Liberty Monday. WILLIE SWIFT, Lee-street, Ravensthorpe, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Engagement, by Brilliant Pianist, fine soloist, good reader, respectable, sober, late piano-conductor on boat. CHAS. KEETON, Red Lion, Costock.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, Concerts or Orchestra, young and steady, travelled Continent and America. J. VERNON, 12, Hunter-road, Thornton Heath, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Waterman, Deputy Pianist, Varieties, Dance or Concert work, London only. 76, Hamball-road, Clapham Park, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, finishing tour Dec. 8, could train chorus, abstainer, good accompanist. R., 59, Amesbury-avenue, Streatham Hill.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianist, combine violin, experienced, smart, steady, excellent refs, permanency, or auxiliary for panto. MANTON, 101 Heath-rd, Ashton-in-Makerfield.

WANTED, Engagements, by First-class Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, Variety preferred; steady, reliable; good refs. A. LILLE, 93, Queen's-road, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Shop, as Double Drums, any business, or deputising. A. EASOM, 16, Stonebridge-rd., South Tottenham, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Drummer (orchestral), theatre or music hall, thoroughly experienced. DRUMS, 10, Cadogan-st., Sloane-sq., S.W.

WANTED, Known, the Shikissimma Band, ladies' Japanese orchestra, at Liberty, magnificent costumes, large répertoire. CONDUCTRESS, Volthurst, Boundary-rd., Newbury.

WANTED the Shakespearean Ladies' Orchestra (Viennese), copyright registered Stationers' Hall, twenty-two (or less) performers, magnificent costumes; highest criticisms. Conductor, Miss GASCOYNE OLD, 238, Edgware-road, London.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington. Bookings Johannesburg, Jan. to Dec. Quartet now Disengaged.

WANTED, Known, Miss Dorothea A. Vincent, lady's quartette, instrumental, for at-homes, concerts, hotels, &c. 28, Marjorie-grove, Clapham Common, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Ladies' Trio, First-class Instrumentalists, open for dinners, at homes, dances, and tea-rooms. Madam WILTON DAVIS, 42, Linton-street, Islington.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND CIRCUS,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

WANTED, Big Novelties in all Lines, at once and future dates; also Wanted, the Talent of the World; Riders, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Clowns, and Startling Sensations, for King Ohmy's Grand New Circus, which will open for the season in the town of Hyde, Lancashire, Dec. 24, 1906. State when last in above towns. Address, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, for future dates, a Man and his Wife, to play Sketches, and Bareback Equestrians, with or without their own Horses, and Artists of all Kinds. No fancy prices, but money sure. Apply to W. C. S. HANCOCK, Hippodrome, Plymouth.

FETES AND GALAS. FETES AND GALAS. 1907.

WANTED, Attractions, High Rope and Wire Shows, Aerial Flying Acts, Acrobats, Three Bars, and all kinds of Sensational Novelties, &c., &c., for fêtes, Whit Week, May 20, July 1, 8, and 15, August Bank Holiday, Aug. 5, 10, and other dates. Apply, stating lowest terms, along with all particulars, also sample litho., to W. and J. WILDER, Fête Agents, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, First-Class Tumbler, for Recognised Act; well Booked. State age, height, and weight; also line of Trick. Amateurs save stamps. Address, Box 4,052, "The Era."

WANTED, Immediately, Young Man, good all-round tumbler. State lowest terms and tricks to Mr. LEE, Palace, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Lion Show, best trained, cleanest, and finest existing Lions (full grown) on the Stage. Vacant Dec. 24 (Xmas week), Jan. 7, 14, and 28. Address, Week Dec. 3, Hippodrome, Cambridge.

WANTED, Don Miguel's, the only Troupe Performing Bulls, suitable Ring and Stage. Disengaged Feb. next, 1907, onward. Address, DON MIGUEL'S, up till Dec. 17, Olympia, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Jan. 28, for three weeks only, the refined John Scott Family of male and female Equestrians, &c., five in number (one lady and four gents.), including Poor Billy, the King of the Ring. For particulars, lithos., &c., address, 12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, Lillian Davies, the Premier Equestrienne, will terminate a most successful Tenting Season with the Barnum and Bailey, Greatest Show on Earth, Nov. 17. Nov. 26, Hippodrome, New York, until further notice. For correspondence, address as above, or Perm., Irvinstown, co. Fermanagh.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Dec. 24, and onward, the Biddall Family of male and female equestrians, and other first-class acts. Address, BIDDALL'S Circus, Murton, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Known, Mr. and Mrs. S. Anderson, Barebacked Equestrians, and Clown, own Horse, at Liberty. Address, Saturday, Hengler's Circus, Glasgow. After Saturday, 6, Thornley-st., Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Bobby Davies, All-round Equestrian, own Horses, Tom Hall and Family, Clowns, Acrobats, Wire Walkers, Dogs and Monkeys. Thanks for Offers. Still Vacant Xmas. Circus Wallsend.

WANTED, Known, to Proprietors, Managers, and Agents, Happy Jackles and his new and original Act, "The Savage Brutes," an Act away from all others; a success every town we visit. Three years through South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, &c. with Bostock and Wombwell's Great Shows. Will arrive home about the middle of Jan. For dates, 77, North-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, Eccentric Clown, met with a great success on my opening night, at Gilbert's Hippodrome, Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, Les Steckels, Gymnastic Speciality. Dec. 24 and 31, also Jan. 21. Big bit this week, Grand, Stalybridge. Mon., Hippo., Oldham.

WANTED, Dec. 17, 24, Mayeno Troupe, 2 ladies, 2 gents, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Wire Walkers, Stilt Tumblers, Tub Posturers, &c., the only vacant dates. Perm., 30, Great George-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Ariel and Astarte, Lady and Gentleman Gymnastic Act, free Dec. 17, 31, Jan. 7, 14, North. Address, Grand, Bolton.

WANTED, Known, Elton and Elma, Comedy Bar Act, Liberty Monday through being barred King's, Gateshead. Wire, Albert Hall, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lolo, Charming Lady Gymnast and Teeth Speciality Artist; also Little May, in her graceful Contortionist and Dancing. Wire, this week, Theatre, Worthing; Liberty Monday.

WANTED, Monday. Wire, The Maros, Hippo., Scarboro'. What a Hit; a Roar for twelve minutes. Perm., 126, Porter-street, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Four Zolas, Lightning and Herculean Acrobats and Tumblers; also Bros. Alpine, on the High Perch, Monday, Ohmy's Circus; at Lib. Dec. 10, and onwards, also for Panto., Speciality and Animal Parts. Address, OHMY'S CIRCUS, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Known, the Three Lloyds, Wonders of the Double Bounding Cables, entire act without balance poles. Big success, Hippodrome, Glasgow; going strong here. Vacant Dec. 3, 10, and 17. Coms., 49, Station-road, King's Heath, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Almero, Flying Spar and Smart Wire Act. Vacant 3rd and 10th. Address, 2, Grange-cottages, Wright-street, Small Heath, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Gymnast Engagement, or would work up with another; can tumble, hand balance, 9st. 8lb. London district preferred. Box 4,054, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Tall, Gentlemanly Young Man, lately with Mr. Frank Bostock in France, seeks berth in menagerie, circus, or travelling show, home or abroad, thoroughly experienced with horses and animals, excellent references, abstainer, reliable, disengaged. D., 10, Clifton-street, Brighton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for the Opening of the Coventry New Hippodrome, Variety Artists of every Description, Big Productions, Military and Equestrians, Spectacles, Ballets, Pantomimes, scenes with 100 or more people taking part, in fact, the very cream of every branch of entertainment, fit to be exhibited on a First-class Variety Stage.

Any price paid to right class of talent.

A comfortable engagement, no outside interference, and, above all, no commissions stopped.

Apply, with terms, &c., T. M. SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, London, W.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Nothing too big. Send full particulars, with lithos. (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Dec. 10, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Serios, Burlesque Actresses, &c., Dec. 10, and onwards. A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Classes, for 1907, Gala List. Lithos., Memos., FARNSWORTH and DYSON, Agents, 124, Crookesmoor-rd., Sheffield.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Dec. 10, onwards. WM. B. BROADHEAD, Hippodrome, Manchester.

NEW EMPIRE, STAFFORD.

WANTED, for Dec. 10, and onwards, Variety Artists, in all Lines, nothing too big, anything with drawing power. Apply, with lowest terms, to Sole Agent, JACK MORRIS, Camberwell Palace.

WANTED, Variety Artists, of all Descriptions, Dec. 31, and onwards. Absolute lowest terms. Money sure. Address, ALBANO TROUPE, 39, Newcastle-road, Wavertree, Liverpool.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Gaiety Theatre of Varieties, Anderston Cross, Glasgow. Manager, W. H. Howard.

First-Class Artists in every line, Dec. 24, and onward dates; Good Comedians, Good Comedy Sketches, Good Vocal Combinations. Good Lady Artists, Good Duettists, Trios, and Quartettes, Good Single and Double Turns, of every description. Nothing too big or too good, and being good, must be free from the slightest tinge of vulgarity. Reasonable terms to desirable Turns.

All Artists known to W. H. HOWARD specially invited to communicate.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.

General-Manager, H. L. SKIVINGTON.

WANTED, Star Artists in all Lines. Nothing too big. Salary or Share.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists for Glasgow Concerts. Lowest terms and permanent address to the SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Palace, Lancaster. J. FELL, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, for Scotland, immediate dates. ANDERSON'S Agency, 5, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists in every Line, Dec. 10, and on. Big and Small Specialities, Dumb Shows, Star Comedians, and every Act on the Face of the Earth, for the North. 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, for High-Class Concerts, in and near London, Dec. 24, and onwards, Talented and Refined Artists, for one, three, and six nights. Animal Acts, Vents., Conjurers, Jugglers, Balladists, Piano Acts, especially invited to write. Big Acts also required for Tops of Bills. State number of nights vacant, where show can be seen, with lowest terms per night and weekly. PAUL VANDY'S Agency, Barnes, London, S.W. 'Phone 222 Putney. Wires, "Vandyking, London."

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 18. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Empire Palace, Dover, and the Alhambra, Sandgate. FRED DURHAM'S Variety Agency, 14, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Telephone 15, Brixton.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines. Two cheap turns wire for Monday next. SAPHRINI, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Dec. 10. Address, WILL ONDA, Pier Pavilion, Southport.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, nothing too big, for Palace, Leigh, Dec. 10, onwards. J. LARDER, 51, Fairhurst-street, Leigh, Lancs.

THEATRE ROYAL, HEBBURN.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Dec. 17. Send lowest terms as introduction. Turns known to me write in. CHARLES ELDERTON.

WANTED, Artists coming North, 17th and onwards, to write R. LOMAS, Empire, Shildon.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Oldbury and Bilston; nothing too big. TOM PRICHARD, Palace, Oldbury.

POOL and BOSCO, LTD.

WANTED, for Aldershot Hippodrome, Star Artists of all Descriptions. Nothing too big, suitable for Circus Ring. Dec. 10, on. Write, Bosco, Circus, Aldershot.

WANTED, Known, Artists wishing to be booked for First-class Music Hall Engagements communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Rugby, Dec. 17, Those in the neighbourhood write with Combination terms. HICKS, Alhambra, Sandgate.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, nothing too big, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, 27, 29, and every Saturday onwards. Artists can work their London engagements same time. Write, VICTOR W. ROWE, 28, Herbert-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.

WANTED, Artists, to Note ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL, SANDGATE, KENT, is Changing Proprietorship on Dec. 31, 1906. All artists holding contracts to open on that date or later must communicate at once with Mr. Fred Durham, 14, Loughborough-road, Brixton, to obtain New Contracts, as the New Syndicate refuse to entertain any Contracts other than their own booking.

ALHAMBRA, EDINBURGH.

WANTED, Known, Rehearsal Monday, 12 o'clock, for Clyo and Rochelle, Arthur Goodman, Maud King, Charles Howarth, The Lorraines, Will Coon, Bioscope, Kloof and Ramsay. Wanted, Artists, all Lines, Immediate dates. Address, MANAGER.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.

Proprietors, COVENTRY HIPPODROME CO., LTD.

WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contracts will be recognised unless signed by the Secretary and Manager. T. M. SYLVESTER, Manager; G. E. WRIGHT, Secretary.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, DALTON'S AGENCY. Always send DALTON'S AGENCY. House Address as well DALTON'S AGENCY. as Theatre. DALTON'S AGENCY. A feature in connection DALTON'S AGENCY. with this Agency will be DALTON'S AGENCY. Artists Vacant "Monday DALTON'S AGENCY. next," also "Artists Vacant DALTON'S AGENCY. Immediate Dates," and Art- DALTON'S AGENCY. ists are requested to post DALTON'S AGENCY. me if open Monday next, DALTON'S AGENCY. and mention at same time DALTON'S AGENCY. any immediate vacancies; DALTON'S AGENCY. but "Monday next" being DALTON'S AGENCY. a feature in the future, a DALTON'S AGENCY. penny stamp may mean a DALTON'S AGENCY. shop. Please note to always DALTON'S AGENCY. send private address where DALTON'S AGENCY. staying in the respective DALTON'S AGENCY. towns for early delivery of DALTON'S AGENCY. telegrams. Tele., "Granbeste Withington." Tele- DALTON'S AGENCY. phone, 193 Didsbury. 29, DALTON'S AGENCY. Mauldeth-road West, With- DALTON'S AGENCY. ington, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Special Notice to Artists and those it may concern, that the Hippodrome, Plymouth, is now being carried on by W. C. S. HANCOCK.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.

WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin, All the Greatest Stars in the Profession, Acts New in Dublin, for the above, the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland, Direct or through Agents. All communications to WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester. Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester." Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, for Immediate Dates, on, the Biggest Stars in the Profession.

Full list of bookings and absolute lowest first instance, HARRY BURNS'S AGENCY, Head Office, Empress Theatre, Hartlepool.

Telegrams, "Burns, Empress." Telephones, 0231 and 0231A.

BARNARD'S AGENCY, 24, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, Nothing too Big. Telephone, 1114.

WANTED, Big Stars, Big Numbers, Anything Big, Anything that can Draw, Dec. 10, 17, 24, and onwards. I can book you. Not only odd weeks, but First-class Tours. Wire or write, with full particulars, JESS VERNO'S Agency, 16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Big Stars and Specialities, bigger the better, Dec. 24, 31, onwards. Terms, bookings, lithos., photos., &c., EDGAR STEBBINGS, Agent, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone, 09261. Wires, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Stars and Specialities for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, for Dec. 10, 17, and 24, Stars in all Lines. Stars in all Lines. Full up for Smaller Items. State Towns at Liberty for. Can Fix Big Numbers any Odd Weeks. CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand, W.C.

ROYAL HIPPODROME, BELFAST, Now in Course of Erection, and when Finished will be the Largest and Handsomest Building in Ireland.

WANTED, February, onward, all the Finest Acts in the World. Price no object. New and Novel Turns of every Variety. The above is Booked in conjunction with TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.

WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

GRAND PAVILION,

CARNARVON, NORTH WALES.

WANTED, Startling Acts for Dec. 31 and onwards, through season, Comedy, Musical Teams, and anything novel for Top and Bottom of Bills. Address, JAMES W. BOSTOCK, as above.

Still a few Spaces for Side Shows, Wireworker, Glass Engraver, Novelty Stalls, &c.

WANTED, Known, any Star Acts who have odd weeks vacant should send list of vacancies to FRANK LYNNE, Palace, Manchester. (ATTOUN'S Agency.)

WANTED, for Palace, Kilmarnock, Lessee and Manager, J. Cummings, Star Acts all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly.

WANTED, all Dec, onwards, for South and North Wales, South Coast, Sunderland, Variety Acts all Lines. Full Bookings, permanent address, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Telegrams, "Fêtes, Bristol." Telephone 2536X Nat.

WANTED, Speciality Acts of all Kinds. Immediate Vacancies. Send Bookings. MARTINO'S Agency, Empire, Merthyr Tydfil.

WANTED, for Keighley Institute, Yorkshire, for week commencing Jan. 7, Refined Artistic Novel Acts that can be done on a small stage, Humorist, Smart Juggler, Vent. Conjurer, &c., &c., anything new and good, new to Keighley. State terms, with private address, to CHARLES CLIFFORD, c/o Mrs. Melrose, 6, Great Clyde-st., Glasgow. Silence polite negative.

WANTED, Big Tops and Bottoms, Star Turns, for Dec. 10, onward. Send list of bookings and lowest terms, &c., to FRED NEIMAN and Co., 108, Strand, London, W.C. Telephone 8488 Gerrard.

CIRCUS and HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE. Rehearsal, Monday next, 2 o'clock prompt, for: Musical Palmers, D. Almer, M. Walker, Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, J. Truman, Vernon's Bioscope, Lady Julia, B. McArdle, C. Rowen.

WANTED, Variety Talent, Share or Salary. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, HYDE.

WANTED, from Dec. 31 onwards, the Best Variety Talent, Novelties and Stars, Nothing too big. Vacant dates and terms to FRED GRANVILLE, as above.

N.B. — First-class Equestrian and other Circus Acts that can perform on the very large stage write.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c., 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester. Boston Twins communicate.

JAMES FIONI'S AGENCY, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Numbers, Wanted, First-class Numbers, Dec. 10, onwards. Artists Free Xmas and New Year's Weeks write. JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, L'pool." 'Phone, 1686 Royal.

WANTED.—The Albemarle Syndicate, 157, Strand, W.C., have vacancies for a few First-Class Numbers. Those that can work another turn in London Dec. 17, and on. Send particulars, terms, &c. Telegrams, "Templify, London." Telephone, No. 4957 Gerrard.

WANTED, strong Top Liners, must have strong power of attraction.

Write, stating terms and full particulars, to Box 4,079, "The Era."

WANTED, big Animal Acts and Sketches, smart Sisters and Boys' Band. Apply, with lithos, photos., &c., to A. SAKER, and Co., 17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns, Big Variety Turns, Big Variety Turns, Big Variety Turns, Big Variety Turns,

Something New and Up-to-Date, Something New and Up-to-Date, Something New and Up-to-Date, Something New and Up-to-Date, Novelties and Sensational Acts, Novelties and Sensational Acts, Novelties and Sensational Acts, Novelties and Sensational Acts,

For Immediate and Future Dates.

Send at once, Terms, Dates, and Lithos. Those having a Good Act can rely on Immediate Work. I can give you nine months' solid work. Also Wanted, Big Acts, of all Kinds, for the Coming Season, for the Seaside.

WILL SLEY, WILL SLEY, WILL SLEY, WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, 41, Oxford-street, 41, Oxford-street, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester. Manchester. Manchester. Manchester.

Telephone 09144.

Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."

WANTED, the Cream of Profession. Those new to London can have a trial show. Send lithos., memos., and bookings, lowest terms, &c. Keep me posted every week. Many thanks to Henri Gros for giving Lily Arthur two dates at the Metropolitan, and two at Chelsea, also Parisian offer, 1,200fr. Sauteron. BILLY HENDERSON, seen by appointment only. Manager, Frank Lantin. 30, Handforth-road, Brixton-road London.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, big Combinations, with Singing Pictures preferred, Dec. 17, Jan. 7, new Stage 22ft. by 46ft. When writing send particulars of Acts, with bill and programme. TUDOR, Blyth.

WANTED, Two Girls, really experienced Stepdancers, good Singers, attractive appearance. Photos. and details experience indispensable. M. HOWARD, G.P.O., Birmingham.

WANTED, Sandow Girls and Artists' Models, for tour. FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Three or Four Smart Pierrots, Xmas engagement, town. LOTTO, 2, Lambeth Palace-road, S.E.

CIRCUS, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.

WANTED, Good Funny Comedians, Comedy Acts, and Specialities of every Description, to open Dec. 17, and on. Address, ALGIE.

WANTED, Comedian, Good Amateur Entertained, for comic strong man, sketch, for four, shares, not under 5ft. 8in. STONE, 49, Abbeville-rd., Clapham.

WANTED, a Good Smart Acting Pantomimist; one able to posture and do splits preferred. Apply by letter only, JOHN LEOPOLD, JUN., 40, Fairmead-road, Holloway, N.

WANTED, Good Comedians, Comedy Acts, and Small Specialities doing two Acts. Apply lowest terms, GEO. ZALVA, Hippodrome, Scarboro'. Almero wire address.

WANTED, immediately, Young Man, from 16 to 22 years of age, good Flip-flap Thower, also good Bender or Hand-balancer, to enlarge well-known troupe. State lowest terms and tricks to CARLTON, Palace, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Baritone Vocalist that can do Comedy Dude, Patter and Dance. Apply, TRIO, 77, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Conjurer, to do a few Smart Tricks, Xmas engagement, town. LOTTO, 2, Lambeth Palace-road, S.E.

WANTED, a good Acrobat, able to play a Comedy Part in an Acrobatic Sketch. Box 4,069, "The Era."

WANTED, Hypnotic Subjects. Address, MANAGER, 13, Rosamond-street, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Bioscope, also Young Comedians and Lady Serios, used to Choirs. Lowest terms, particulars, to TRAVIS, Post Office, Bicester, Oxon.

WANTED, Bioscope, Electric, Latest Films, to open Monday, 2 weeks, Brighouse and Farnworth. Wire lowest. DALE, Theatre, Hoyland.

WANTED, Bioscope (electric) Operator, proficient, at once, for Chronophone; Tuition whilst on tour. Alternating and Direct Current, Accumulators. Good salary to suitable man. Address, with references, MANAGER, 81, Victoria-av., Hull.

WANTED, Experienced Bioscope Operator, used to electric and lime; open Saturday, 8th; teetotaller preferred; references. STONE, Hall, Mardy, S. Wales.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, used to Alternating Current, open Monday. Wire, ONDA, Pier, Southport.

WANTED, an Operator, for electric and lime, Gaumont's machine; must understand his business. R. SILVESTER, Town Hall, Falkirk, Scotland.

WANTED, Marionette Figure Worker, Single. State age, experience, by letter only, to MARIONETTE, 116, Englefield-road, Canonbury, London, N.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Engagements, by Little Lottie Lonsdale, Juvenile Comedienne and Dancer. Last week, Hippodrome, Blyth, with startling success. Write or wire, 13, Summerhill-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, Miss Elsie Russell, the handsome, dashing, stylish, up-to-date Burlesque Actress, Liberty Monday next, Dec. 10; also for Panto (second boy). All coms., c/o HAMLET, Privry House Privry-street, Coventry.

WANTED, Known, Kitty Lea, the Favourite Ballad Vocalist. Lib. Monday; also Panto. Sure success. Perm. address, New-road, Prestbury, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Engagement, by the Great Henri Hartz, World-renowned Conjurer, Great Hypnotic Act, New Chinese Levitation Mystery; also original Card and Cigar Act. Imitation impossible. And Vi Studholme, Serio and Dancer. Two hours, if wanted. Wire or write, 13, Lower Buckingham-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Dec. 24, on, by Harry Keeble, Versatile Comedian, also Hoozee?, the Perfect Ventriloquist. Always successful. Monday, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, by Har[illegible] Attwood, Dec. 10, owing to rehearsing Panto. week later. Wire, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, an Agent, by Edwards, the Ideal Song Illustrator; would join a first-class touring company. 14, Guildford-st., Rochdale, Lancs.

WANTED, by Harry Vernon, Descriptive Baritone Vocalist, Monday next. Wire, 249, Meanwood-rd., Leeds; or c/o STEBBINGS, Manchester.

WANTED, by Vosper, the Master Mimic and Necromancer, Dec. 10, 17, and 24. Address, Grand Theatre, Stalybridge.

WANTED, Known, Phil Rabey, Comedian and Tonical Vocalist, vacant Monday. Bottom of Bill this week. Wire, Empire, or 29, Lambpit-street, Wrexham, Wire.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, Musical Eccentric, left Tom Foy's Company of Comedians of his own accord, and is now appearing nightly with great success, and had a fine reception on his opening at Gilbert's Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Dan Ashton, in Original and Copyright Collier's Song Scena; interesting, instructive, entertaining, and successful. Monday next and immediate dates, offers Theatre Varieties, Colne, Lancashire.

WANTED, Known, I have Photo. Blocks for Daybill and Throwaways for my Act, and Lantern Slides for week in advance. DAN ASHTON, Theatre Varieties, Colne.

WANTED, Monday next, by Harry Gold, smart Singing Comedian, with a successful Song Scena, "Cloudland," a big hit on any programme. Offers required for the above date. This week, Empire Theatre, Hull. Panto. settled.

WANTED, Dec. 10 and 24, by De Ora, Great Speciality Gymnast, heading bill Hippo., Wakefield. Next, Palace, Boston, Lincs; Empire, Hull, Dec. 17. Address, Boston.

WANTED, Known, Kingsley Disengaged, Hand-Bell Expert, Dec. 3, 10, 17. Wire, Post Office, Glastonbury. Write, 73, Saltoun-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Known, Stylo, Marvellous and Only Hoop Act in this country, requires Dec. 3 and 10; sure attraction. Address, 7, Clifford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Dec. 10, 31, Jan. 14, '07, The Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box, presented by The Original Kyoto, a Clever Contortionist, Comedy Juggler, Conjurer and Dog, A Laughing and Applauding Hit. Also Dainty May Geraldine, Chic Comedienne and a Sprightly Dancer. "Say," don't overlook this advert. Enormous Success, Palace, Blackpool. Monday, 5th return, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, World's Champion Boy Wrestler and Pupil of the Russian Lion, posing and taking on all comers. Always a success. All coms., MEDSON'S Agency, 8, Woodsley-road, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, The Elbas are at Lib. Christmas and New Year, with their Refined and Amusing Second-Sight Performance. Write, 59, Kirkgate, Leith.

WANTED, Dec. 3 and 17, Trick and Trixie, Comedy Musical Artists, Conclude Bedford, Camden Town. Big success everywhere.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, Sardou's Illusionists, Marvellous Mystifiers; also Marie Riviers, Comedienne. Empire, Winchester, Hants.

WANTED, Monday next, by Douglas and Gordon, Scottish comedy duo, in "Scotch and Polly." Success, Alh., Brighton, 45, Kensingotnplace, Brighton.

WANTED, Monday next and onwards, by Reeski and Raszki, Gymnastic Grotesques, and we're gluttons on it. 6, Beech-grove, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Known, F. Wyze and A. Adna, at the twist, day and night, with Geraldo and Lord. Lyric, Liverpool. BENTLEY'S.

WANTED, Known, Austin and Austin, eccentric acrobatic chair pyramidists, Tivoli, Dublin. At Lib. Mon. next. Wire, or STEBBINGS, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Rezene and Robini, Vacant Dec. 31 and Jan. 14. Always a hit everywhere. Monday, Chelsea Palace.

WANTED, Monday next, Poole and Poole, comedy couple, world's greatest pedestal dancers. Wire, 18, Winchester-st., Lupus-st., Pimlico, London.

WANTED, Known, Myles and May, Comedians, thanks for offers. Still vacant Panto. Theatre Royal, Warrington; next, Park Palace, Liverpool.

WANTED, by The Monckton, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, in Musical Farcical Episodes, including latest laughable success, "Are Wives Dummies?" Complimented by Messrs. Broadheads. Hippo., Preston (return).

WANTED, by Three Danbrooks, Lady and two Gentlemen, Refined Musical Comedy Act, Solo Harpists, Panto., as Speciality; would join Touring Company. 16, Burtop-rd., Lower Tooting, London.

WANTED, in or near Glasgow, Dec. 3 and 17, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, by the famous Mitchelson Family, up-to-date International, Continental, and Speciality Dancers, &c. 98, South Portland-street, Glasgow. Telephones, National 4Y1 Gorbals. Glasgow Post Office, 40, Red.

WANTED, by The Henderson and Stanley Quartette, Monday next. Good agent write. 9, Salisbury-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Dec. 24, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, by Los Granadas, "Sensational Happening Outside an Hotel." Monday, Empire Theatre, Coventry.

WANTED, Known, Bert Leonard Trio, Herculean Acrobats and Equilibrists, Liberty Dec. 3 and 10. Wire for Monday. 140, Oak-st., Norwich.

WANTED, by the Five Halyards, Comedians, Vocalists, and Instrumentalists, in their New Musical Scena, "Jack at Play" (own scene). Address, Rock Cottage, Deganwy, N. Wales.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, by the great Albano Troupe, Dec. 17, Dec. 17. Add., 39, Newcastle-rd., Wavertree, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Seven Wulfrunas, lady and gentlemen comedy acrobats, "Fun in a Café," own scenery and effects, Liberty Dec. 17 and 24. This, Merthyr; next, Hippo., Dewsbury.

WANTED, Dec. 3 and 10, by The Boultons and Mlle. Bartenelli, two acts. Wire, Alhambra, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Enormous Attraction, THE HUNGARIAN MILITARY BOYS' BANDS, and the Beautiful Hungarian Dancers, in the Famous "CSARDAS."

Band A, thirty in number, four months Casino de Paris, 5th month in Riga (Russia).

Band B, twenty-four in number, in Buda-Pesth.

Extensive Répertoire. Elegant Uniforms. Can arrange for any part of the World, on Sharing Terms or Certainty.

Communications to HARRY FRIEDMAN, Hotel Cecil.

WANTED, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist, two smart acts, Dec. 10 and Jan. 21. Offers, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Monday next, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist, really first-class turn. Wire, Hippo., Stalybridge; after Sunday, c/o STEBBINGS.

WANTED, Known, Le Warren, Ventriloquist and Vocalist, big show, at Liberty Monday, Dec. 3, 10. Wire, 1, Holden-square, Nottingham.

WANTED, by King Leo, Ultra-smart Ventriloquist, Dec. 3 and 10. Success guaranteed. Wire, City Varieties, Leeds. After Sunday, 29, Mytton-street, Manchester.

THE ROUGE ET NOIR VAUDEVILLE CO., Vocalists, Instrumentalists, and Society Entertainers.

WANTED, for the above Phenomenally Successful Costume Concert Party, Halls, &c., for Boxing Day, Dec. 26 (afternoon and evening), Thurs., Dec. 6 (3 nights), Monday, Dec. 10 (3 nights), Monday, Dec. 17 (?) (3 nights). Sharing or certainty. Press opinions, photos., répertoire, &c., &c., on application to Mr. PHIL PIERRING, Business-Manager, 12, Helena-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Known, The Spangelettis, Animal Circus, Big Act, with Novel Competitions. Sure draw. Liberty Dec. 17, 24, and New Year's week. Wire or write, 173 Queen's-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Caban's French Cirque, Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs, at Liberty to accept Dates. All coms., 9, Artillery-st., Londonderry.

WANTED, by Mlle. Roza's Canine Hippodrome, Dec. 10, through being barred, Putney, topliner, football team a draw. Com., Queen's, Poplar.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Immediate Dates, a Lightning Act, a Sure, Big, Reliable Draw; just finished four weeks Victoria Hall, Sunderland. The smartest and most sensational Act ever seen with Dogs Great Panto. Speciality; can follow any Animal Act in the Known World. If not as represented, salary forfeited. Chard's Dog Circus, and the World's Greatest Troupe of High-leaping Hounds. Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool. Open for Continent.

WANTED, Engagement with Good Concert Co., by Advertiser, who has Latest Bioscope, and can also introduce Conjuring Act, or join Partner who could play Piano and do Agency. Address, Bioscope, Carrick-on-Shannon, Ireland.

WANTED, Known, James Ferguson, late Casey's Court Company, wishes to join Comedy Sketch, Singer and Buck-dancer. C/o Mrs. McCartney, 324, Gallowgate, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Frank Ogden, Comedian, vacant for sketch; late "Landgrabbers" Co. Wire or write, 113, Burlington-street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Engagements, public or private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements for Lingwood's Bioscopes, complete change of up-to-date Films weekly; electric or limelight. Lingwood, 31, Watcombe-road, S. Norwood.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Important to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Amusement Caterers, Speculators, Cycle Dealers, and Others.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Tom Norman (Silver King, regd.), having been favoured with instructions from the Owner to Sell by Private Treaty the whole of the Stock and Plant of those Three well-known Roundabout Riding Machines, together with the Goodwill as a going concern, and as now erected in the grounds of that world-renowned amusement resort, the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, Kent.

The above Machines consist of:—Firstly, all that well-known Riding Machine, the Boston Riding School, having 72 Life-sized Horses and 2 Full-sized Wagonettes, and being the only one of its kind in this country, and cost over £2,500 to construct. This Machine has taken over £143 in one day, and still capable of doing so. The above is complete, and in thorough good condition and repair, and is driven by an 8½ horse-power steam engine by Thuxford and Sons, Boston; also Organ and Organ Engine to same. Secondly, a Steam-driven Roundabout, having 24 Horses and 2 Boats, with 5 horse-power engine, by Walker, Tewkesbury; also Organ and Organ Engine for same. Thirdly, a Steam-driven Set of Cycle Roundabouts, carrying forty persons at one time, with Engine by Savage, King's Lynn. Also a number of Covered Trucks for removing the above Roundabouts; likewise three Sheds, comprising Workshop, Tool House, and Paint Shop; also a large quantity of Water Tanks, Oil Cans, Jacks, Ropes, Fittings, Engineers' and Workmen's Tools, &c., &c.

The Auctioneer desires to call special attention to the above very Important Sale, which offers a chance that very seldom occurs in this line of business. Each of the above Lots are complete in every detail and in good condition and repair, and the rent of the ground they stand on being moderate, as well as having no opposition in the same business on the ground, and considering the Palace has recently been reorganised, and that great preparations are now being made to make the Palace and Grounds more attractive than ever before, the above should, under good management, be a good paying concern.

Each of the machines can be seen built up complete, and a trial run given to intending purchasers between the hours of 12 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Thursday next, Dec. 6.

Applications for cards to view, catalogues, and all particulars to be made to Tom Norman, Showman Expert and Authority, Auction Office, Manor Farm, Dallington, Sussex.

N.B.—If the above concern is not disposed of by Friday next it will then be sold by Public Auction, for the date of which and all particulars see next Saturday's "Era."

Also Wanted, to Sell, at great sacrifice, two Living Carriages, road or rail, one a Pullman Car, 17ft. 6in. long by 6ft. 6in. wide, built by the Gloucester Wagon Company, in splendid condition, comfortably fitted with separate bed place, lounge, cupboards, drawer, tables, mirror, Larbert cooking range, Mallakoff roof, &c., &c., door on side; price £40.

Another, same size, barrel top, nicely fitted with cooking range, separate bed place, chest of drawers, table, corner cupboard, &c. Has been used as back wagon, for shuttered booth to build to, and carries its own proscenium, and has every convenience for carrying shutters and frame; also has packing place at back for tilt lamps, &c. Price £25.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. Minerva Automatic Co., 120, York-rd., King's Cross, London, N. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Don't buy worn-out machines of old pattern; get a genuine Mills 1906 pattern.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, Electrical, Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, manufacture four and six pole Showmen's Dynamos (improved pattern), also new Flame Arc Lamps, geared motors, for driving organs and roundabouts, large stocks, cable, carbons, globes, incandescents, all classes of repairs; new line, direct coupled portable electric plants, driven by paraffin.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen, Circus, and Roundabout Proprietors, that De Salis and Co., of Leighton Buzzard, are manufacturers of Showmen's Colours, Paints, and Varnishes, suitable for Switchbacks, Galloping Horses, Rounding Boards, Swings, &c., &c. Specially recommended by Mr. A. Higgins, Artist, of Totterdown, Bristol, and others.

All Showmen should send for price list and samples.

Specialities,
"New Royal Red,"
"Salisello," a perfect white enamel.
Extra Pale Durable Body and White Copal Varnishes.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the Gourock Ropework Co., Ltd., Largest Tent Manufacturers in the World, have a large stock of New and Secondhand Circus Tents made from their famous Rotproof and Waterproof Tent Canvas, "Birkmyres Cloth." The most durable and waterproof Canvas for Showmen's Tents, &c. Buy from Manufacturers and save middlemen's profit. Gourock Ropework Co., Ltd., Lancaster-pl., Lowestoft.

WANTED, Known.—Write or call at Greene's, Falmouth-road, London, S.E., for .22 ammunition, rifles, globes, targets; absolutely cheapest market.

WANTED, Known, Showmen's Letter Cloths, made and attractively painted in fancy colours. All kinds of Showmen's Painting undertaken. Rocus, Artist, 22, Lansdown-rd, Lee, London, S.E.

WANTED, Living Novelties, for Good Show, just opening for the Season, open on Saturday. Terms, shares or salary. Wire, Prof. Barker, Stanhope-road, Fair Ground, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Novelties, with paintings, Richmond, Woolwich, and other places; good Giantess or Trance write. Proprietor, 100, Lowermarsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, for new departure in Show business, a quick high-class Novelty, Second Sight, Illusion, or Trance preferred. Salary £2 10s. weekly, show or not. Apply Tom Norman, Manor Farm, Dallington, Sussex.

WANTED, Good Freaks and Novelties, for Best Position in Kettering; any good show write or wire for Monday, 3rd, and following dates. Shares. Manager, 32, Gold-street, Kettering.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the following is a complete COPYRIGHT LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, WAKES, AND CARNIVALS FOR DECEMBER, 1906.
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ENGLAND.

Dec. 1. St. Ives (Cornwall) (6,094)
Dec. 6. Northwich (17,600)
Dec. 11. Boston (15,700)
Dec. 11. Cobham (2,300)
Dec. 11. Leighton Buzzard (6,400)
Dec. 11. Ringwood (4,400)
Dec. 14. Millom (10,400)
Dec. 22. Bilston (24,000)
Dec. 22. Birkenhead (111,000)
Dec. 22. Bristol (392,840)
Dec. 22. Cheltenham (49,600)
Dec. 22. Deptford (110,000)
Dec. 22. Islington (World's Fair)
Dec. 22. Jarrow-on-Tyne (31,300)
Dec. 22. Kirkby Lonsdale (1,600)
Dec. 22. Newcastle-on-Tyne (214,803)
Dec. 22. Northampton (87,000)
Dec. 22. North Shields (50,000)
Dec. 22. Northwich (17,600)
Dec. 22. Portsmouth (189,000)
Dec. 22. Preston (113,000)
Dec. 22. Rushden (12,500)
Dec. 22. Ryde (I. of W.) (11,000)
Dec. 22. Southampton (104,911)
Dec. 22. Southport (48,400)
Dec. 22. South Shields (97,300)
Dec. 22. Tunbridge Wells (33,400)
Dec. 22. Wellington (7,300)
Dec. 24. Rowthorne (67)
Dec. 24. Salford (Trinity Market) (221,000)
Dec. 27. Rugeley (7,181)
Dec. 27. Uttoxeter (5,200)
Dec. 28. Nantwich (7,700)
Dec. 28. Sandbach (5,500)
Dec. 29. Newport (Salop) (3,200)
Dec. 22. Newport (Mon.) (67,000)

SCOTLAND.

Dec. 19. Govan (164,000)
Dec. 22. Motherwell (54,274)

WALES.

Dec. 22. Cardiff (164,000)
Dec. 22. Merthyr Tydfil (26,500)
Dec. 22. Mold (4,000)
Dec. 22. Morriston (15,055)
Dec. 22. Pontypridd (23,000)
Dec. 22. Swansea (90,423)
Dec. 24. Flint (5,125)

WANTED, Freaks and Novelties, Open at Once, sale of books and post-cards allowed. Charles A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, and Illusions, or any good Money-taking Show, for Bristol and other towns. Thompson, 78, Castle-street, Bristol.

WANTED, good Freaks and Novelties of every description, for several good Shops in London. Write, Professor Ruby, Exhibition, 213A, Rye-lane, Peckham.

WANTED, Pictures, Marionettes, Novelties, Automatics, Freaks, Tattooer, Peep Show, Shooting Jungle, &c., largest shop Kirkgate, Leith. Proprietor, 1, Promenade, Portobello.

WANTED, at once, for the best position in Liverpool; good Illusion or Show; anything good. Manager, 34, Scotland-place, Liverpool.

WANTED, Two Lady Paraders; must be good and used to Fair Business, young and good appearance; dresses found; live in or out; photos. Also two Good Tumbling Knockabouts; no fancy salaries; money sure. State lowest terms and particulars. W. Biddall, Electric Exhibition, Castle Hotel, Brentford. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, First-class Phrenologist and Character Reader. Terms, shares. Big Business. Madame Shophia write. Caston's Premier Tableau Waxworks, Panopticon, Llanelly.

WANTED, a thorough good Comedian and Planksman, to travel with Auction Mart, Songs and Wheezes must be up-to-date. All would-be's save stamps. Apply, R. Williams, Auction Mart, Ystrad, Rhondda.

WANTED, a good all-round Auctioneer, for selling Swag, in best Shop in Portsmouth; 10 per cent. given; also good Handseller, to make himself generally useful; wages 30s. Apply, 214, Commercial-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, a Live Agent, used to Fair Business, for a Tip-top Living Picture Show; must know the country by road, and able to arrange for private business, and able to door if required. Also good useful people, Traction Driver and Electrician. Allen write. A good job for the right people. Address, Box 4,077, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Madam Amella, Hampshire Giantess, at Liberty Monday, Dec. 3, and onwards, First-class Fit-up, Paintings, and First-class Doorsman. Apply, 28, Warwick-street, Deptford, London.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Flo, Tattooed Lady, and Ydac's Cabinet Act, at Liberty Monday, onward. Wire, Cady, 66, Kirkgate, Leith, Scotland.

WANTED, Situation, by Auctioneer, understands business thoroughly, and knows good firms for getting stuff; highest references. Box 4,055, "The Era."

WANTED, Known,
Through unforeseen circumstances,
One Space to Let, frontage 12ft.,
suitable for Illusion, Waxworks, Marionettes,
Second Sight, Dog and Monkey Show,
Working Model, or any First-class Show.
Also a few 6ft. by 6ft. Spaces, on the Stall Ground, for Fancy Stalls; good position, ground floor.
Apply, T. E. Read,
"World's Fair,"
Royal Agricultural Hall, London.

H. E. MOSS'S 22ND ANNUAL CARNIVAL, WAVERLEY MARKET, EDINBURGH.

WANTED, Known, a few Stall Spaces to Let. Add., Manager, Carnival Office, Waverley Market.

WANTED, all Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, and Stallholders to Know that Rochdale Christmas Fair will commence on Dec. 14, till the 26th next, on the Cattle Market.

All applications to
Wm. Mitchell, Hindhill-street, Heywood.

WANTED, Known, Grand Carnival and World's Fair, Drill Hall, Dundee, opens Dec. 15 till Jan. 12 Still a few Spaces to Let for Dolly Stalls, Bioscope Booth, also One Set of Motor Cars (invite offers for the latter), space for Photographer and Good Side-show. F. H. Hobbs.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Side Show, Photographer, Glass Blower, Embroidery, Stalls, &c., at the Admission Free Indoor Carnival, to be held in the Corn Exchange, Arbroath, N.B., from Dec. 29 to Jan. 5. Apply Dr. Oliver, 48, High-street, Arbroath.

WANTED, to Let, Booths for Novelties, also Spaces for small shows. Apply, J. Beaumont, Market Yard, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Known, Room to Let, suitable for massage treatment, beauty doctor, &c. Chas. A. James, Waxwork Exhibition, Dublin. Palmistry excepted.

WANTED, Good Waxwork or Mechanical Exhibition, will hire or share; best position in Ireland. Apply, Professor Smart, 27, Patrick-street, Limerick.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, and 102A, Houndsditch, has Special Departments for 9ct. Rings, Secondhand Watches, Unredeemed Pledges, and Cheap Jewellery. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. All up-to-date Lines.

WANTED, to Sell, or to Let, Joytown, Automatic and Bioscope Saloon, 137, Barking-road, Canning Town, E.; Automatic Machines, Phonograph, Punch Ball, Guns, and Bioscope Side Show now open, taking good money; good reason for selling. B. Cohen, 63, Whitechapel-rd, London, E.

Important Notice.
WANTED, to Sell, as a Going Concern, that Masterpiece of all Portable Roundabouts,
Edmund Holland's
Steam Razzle-Dazzle.
Not an imitation.
A certain future for an enterprising party.
If sold with electric light, five loads;
or four loads without light. Price reasonable.
Principals only dealt with.
Communications, E. Holland,
Ivy Cottage, Belgrave-rd., New Moston, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, Set Four Abreast and Three Abreast Gallopers, Steam Hobby Horses, Organs, &c. Walker, Engineer, Tewkesbury.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, to Sell, Set of Juvenile Racing Motor Cars, five Cars, run on platform; everything complete. Apply, W. H. Doubtfire, Living Van, Pasture-road, Goole.

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Rehearsal at 12 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows:—

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LONDON DISTRICT,
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N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously

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Malcolm Scott, Tom Yorke, Mabel Kessler, Tatten Hall, Wilton Heriot and Co., Edwin Barwick, Bert Williams, Gus Barra, Jack Hylton, Pictures, Six Brothers Luck.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.
Lydia Yeamans, Charlie Williams, Walker and Lake, Helen Martin, Stelling, Les Rallis, Gus Harris, Fred Cullane Comedy Quartette, Martine and Son, Gillen, Pictures, Manchester Mites.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
Smart Set, Arthur Stacey, Babs Lloyd, Simosa San, Four Maisonas, The Mackweys, The Waldrons, Williams and Warden, Two Dixons, Frank Boyce, Pictures, Fred Moule and Co.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
The Novellos, C. Woodward, Allsop and Bekwith, Zetta Grey and Co., Alice Raymond and John Kurkamp, Deer Family, Tom Hughes, Pictures, Irma Lorraine, Jenny Hartley.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
Kentucky Four, Billie Burford, Harry Thurston, James De Voye, Ross and Grayson, Colombia Trio, Laurie Wylie, Beau-Ideal Troupe of Juveniles, Bishop and Hanlon, Pictures.

ALHAMBRA, PARIS.
Henrietta De Serris, Four Jumels, Amile Amiel, Baltus Troupe, New York Comedy Four, La Sallandri, Anna Thibaud, Radford and Valentine, Hilgart Arkas Troupe, Cornier, Pictures, Eugene Fougere.

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Grand Variety Company.

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FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, DEC. 3, 1906.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.
SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls,
Monday, at 12·0 sharp.

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Fred Southern and Co., Pallister's Bioscope, Ellis and Watts, Levine, Lily Le Breton, Sisters Ford.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
Arden and Abel, Grace Langley, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Edwards and Dacre, Louis Kerno, Alexander Victor Duo, Millie Denham, Dayton Family.

GRAND, SHEFFIELD.
Reilly and Taylor, Pallister's Bioscope, The Players, Lester May, Lancashire Mill Boys, Jansons, Frances Haskoll.

PALACE, BATH.
McClain's Sextette, Learto, Belrose and De Velin, Wallace Whitney, Beattie Foster, Three Rubys, Gullick and St. John, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Geoffreys and Benson.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Aquamarinoff Troupe, W. H. Downs, Eric Graham, Tom Lloyd, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Sammy Shields, Mignonette Kokin, Galetti's Monkeys.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
"Casey's Circus," Harry Walker, Ethel Loftus, Almos, W. J Churchill, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Chas. F. Best, Vandyke Troupe.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Donaldson Bros. and Ardel, Johnny Holland, Mayon and Marle, Woodward and Walton, Geo. Leonard, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Leotard Bros., Davis and Gledhill.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Bounding Dillons, Herbert La Martine, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Cissie Dryden, Hillman and Russell, Susie and Protti, Friscari, Maud Prenton.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Cot and Colibri, Tate and Tate, Harry Cotton, Les Belles Americaines, Harry Briggs, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Lytton and Bland, Bob Hutt.

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Matinée every Monday.
Vaudeville Sketch Co., Smith and Johnson, Little Salvino, Casey's Court, Bros. Zampah, George Hall, Flo Burris, Johnny Dwyer, Wal Phillips, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

THE BRITANNIA.
Matinée Monday.
Will Musgrave, Louie Hurman, Harry Melville, George Gray and Co. in "The Fighting Parson," Silbon's Circus, Sisters Melba, Phern and Phern, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Bros. Dean, Mammie Cannon, Lillie Lassah.

FORESTERS.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Floradora Girls, Jack and Evelyn, Helms and Cozens, Florrie Bray, Janet H. Reynolds, Robbie Roy, Letine, Sisters Lunelle, the Staccatos, George Kirk and Co.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Lily Black, Will Musgrave, Sid Bandon, Minnie Fenton, Czar Troupe of Dancers, Sisters Brooke, Mahatma, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Stan Aubrey Keir and Kempton, Tom Collins, Kate Carney and Co.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Chas. Sloman, Fred Maxwell and Co., Percy Hannon, Mark Merry, Polo Jerome, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Kitty Marion, Marie Santoi and Co., Beatie Kent, Wild Willie and West, Margt. Parker and Co., Rumbo Austin.

Notice.—All artists carrying Scenery must have it Fireproof, according to L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

All Bill Matter or Notification of Appearance must be sent in 14 days prior to opening. All Artists must attend Band Rehearsal, or their Contracts may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

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Rehearsal, at 2 o'clock, for
Tennyson and Wallace, Gertie Gitana, Lorne and Rene, Tom Leo, Calcotts, Pictures.
All bill matter must be sent to Glasgow 14 days ahead. Failing this, Artists will run the risk of having their contract cancelled. By order,
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SCENE II.—POVERTY AND REPENTANCE.—The child and old man although clinging together are not quite happy. The little girl in the garret is in tears, because of the old man's love for the bottle. The heartbroken sobs of his grandchild, just as he is once again about to indulge, touches the old man keenly, and with sudden re-awakened resolution he dashes the bottle to the ground and smashes it to atoms. Turning to the child he holds out his arms, and she flies to him with great gladness and love. He comforts her by his assurance to mend his ways, and putting on the boards for sandwich work he leaves the house.

SCENE III.—HER FATHER'S CARRIAGE.—Outside a London theatre in a very busy street our little heroine is walking about offering her goods for sale. While strolling about she suddenly spies her father's carriage draw up near the kerb. With sudden resolution she opens the door, and comfortably settles down on the cushions. The owner of the carriage soon makes his appearance, gives his instructions to the coachman, and jumps in. Driving down the street, the coachman is ordered to draw up, and a policeman is called. The officer is made acquainted with the facts, and he pulls the poor child from her warm corner. As the man leaves his carriage to give further details to the constable, the child rushes to him and discloses her identity. The parent, much surprised and pleased, clasps his child fondly, and promptly squares the officer. After explaining to her father the alteration in her grandfather, the man immediately says "we must go and find grandpapa." She takes her father to the garret, where he views with much remorse the sad conditions under which his dear ones have lived. The old man not being at home they go once more into the street to look for him; nearing a confectioner's they see grandpa enter, a place he has formerly seldom patronised. Hurrying forward, his dear grandchild places her arms around his neck, and father and son forgetting the past, shake hands.

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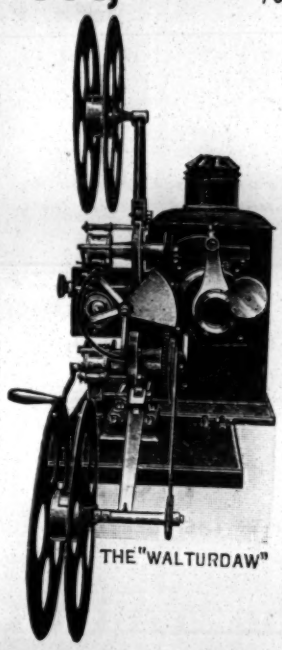
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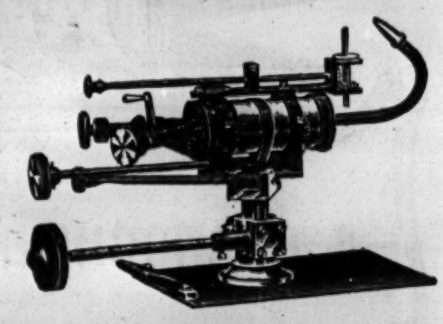

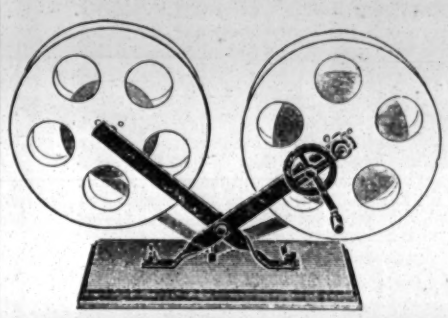

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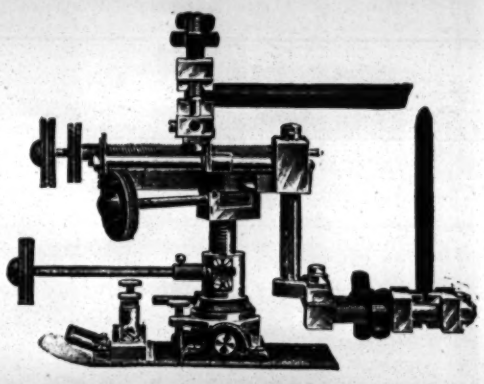

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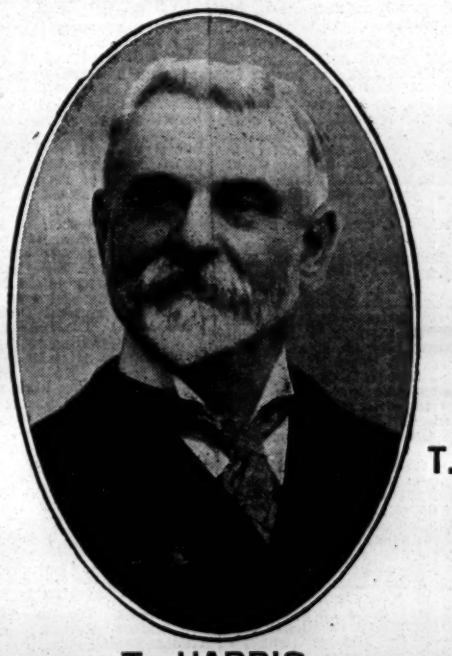

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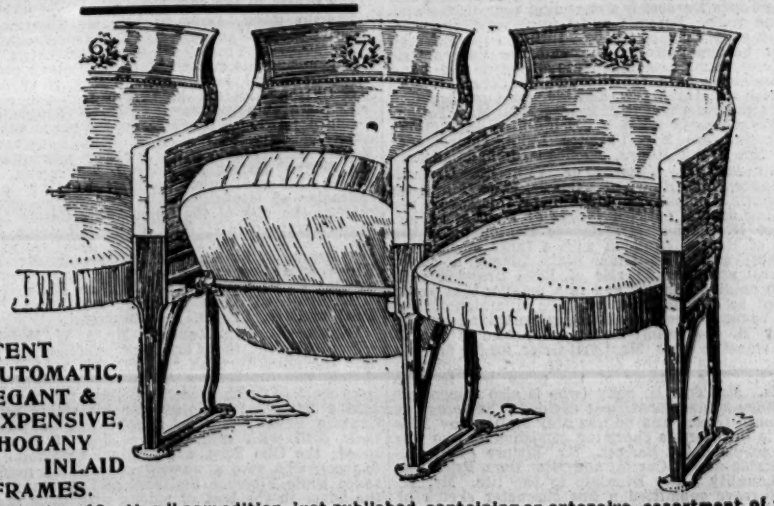

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NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

Nov. 5. *The Collaborators*, play, in one act, by Mrs. Kingsley Tarpey—Criterion.
„ 10. *The Electric Man*, farcical comedy, in three acts, by Charles Hannan (originally produced at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, April 4, 1904)—Royalty.
„ 10. *The Setting of the Sun*, play, in one act, by Charles Hannan (originally produced at the Court Theatre, Liverpool, Oct. 13, 1892)—Royalty.
„ 20. *The Doctor's Dilemma*, tragedy, in four acts and an epilogue, by George Bernard Shaw—Court.
„ 24. *The Widow Capet*, historical playlet, by Louis Cohen (copyright performance)—Coronet.
„ 26. *Guilty Gold*, drama, in five acts, by Dr. D. T. Callahan—Dalston Theatre.
„ 26. *Julie Bonbon*, play, in four acts by Miss Clara Lipman (originally produced in America), played by American company—Waldorf.
„ 27. *Wasps*, comedy, in three acts, by Muriel Carmel Goldsmid (Muriel Carmel)—Royalty.

REVIVAL.

Nov. 19. *Richard II.*, Shakespeare's historical tragedy, as arranged by Herbert Beerbohm Tree—His Majesty's.
„ 27. *Daughters of Shem*, play, in one act, by Muriel Carmel Goldsmid (Muriel Carmel) and Samuel Gordon (originally produced at the Royalty Theatre by the Pioneers on May 20, 1906)—Royalty.

PROVINCES.

Nov. 2. *The Spell*, a tragedy of truth, in two panels, by Rosamund Langbridge, with special music by Norman O'Neil—Theatre Royal, Manchester.
„ 2. *Adrienne Lecouvreur*, new version, in five acts, of Scribe and Legouvé's French play—Theatre Royal, Bradford.
„ 5. *The Other Heir*, comedy, in one act, by Ernest H. G. Cox—Her Majesty's Opera House, Blackpool.
„ 6. *The Crusader*, grand opera, for juveniles, in four acts, written and composed by George Tootell—Lytham Pier Theatre.
„ 12. *The Cornish Girl*, pastoral romantic opera, in two acts, founded on a historical Cornish story, written by Edward C. Arden, the music composed by Jullien H. Wilson and Clement Locknane—Pleasure Gardens Theatre, Folkestone.
„ 14. *The Crystal Gazer*, dramatic sketch, by Leopold Marteyn—Royal Albert Hall Theatre.
„ 14. *The Vicar of Wakefield*, romantic opera, founded on Oliver Goldsmith's novel, in three acts, lyrics by Laurence Housman, music by 'Liza Lehmann—Prince's Theatre, Manchester.
„ 15. *Her Son*, comedy, in four acts, by Horace Annesley Vachell—Theatre Royal, Glasgow.
„ 15. *The Beauty Shop*, musical comedy, in three scenes, by W. H. Kirby, music by George Gee, and lyrics by Douglas B. Watson—New Gaiety Theatre, Ayr.
„ 23. *The Lost Chord*, play by Sutton Vane and Arthur Carlton (copyright performance)—Theatre Royal, Worcester.
„ 26. *Woman's Wiles*, comedy, in one act, by William Young — Theatre Royal, Brighton.
„ 26. *The Nun and the Barbarian*, adaptation by Osmond Shillingford of the three-act Spanish play *La Loca de la Coas*—Theatre Royal, Margate.
„ 27. *Tommy*, play, in three acts, by Jerome K. Jerome—Theatre, Midland Hotel, Manchester.

PARIS.

Nov. 2. *Miquette et sa Mère*, comedy, three acts, by Robert de Flers and Gaston de Caillavet—Variétés.
„ 5. *Biribi*, play, three acts, by Georges Darien and Marcel Lucas—Antoine.
„ 5. *Chez les Zoaques*, comedy, three acts, by Sacha Guitry—Antoine.
„ 9. *Les Armaillis*, dramatic legend, two acts, by Henri Cain and D. Baud-Bovy, music by Gustave Doret—Opéra-Comique.
„ 9. *Le Bonhomme Jadis*, opera-comique, one act, poem by Franc-Nohain, music by Jaque-Dalcroze—Opéra-Comique.
„ 10. *La Vierge d'Avila* (*Sainte Thérèse*), play, five acts and nine tableaux, by Catulle Mendès—Sarah-Bernhardt.
„ 14. *Les Mouettes*, play, three acts, by Paul Adam—Comédie-Française.
„ 16. *Mademoiselle Josette, ma femme*, comedy, four acts, by Paul Gavault and Robert Charvay—Gymnase.
„ 24. *Le Major Ipéca*, farce, three acts, by Mouëzy-Eon and E. Joullot—Cluny.
„ 25. *Le Cœur de Sylvie*, comedy, three acts, in verse, by Gabriel Nigond—Bouffes-Parisiens.
„ 27. *Le Fils à Papa*, vaudeville, three acts, by Antony Mars and Maurice Desvallières—Palais-Royal.
„ 28. *La Ponette*, comedy, four acts, by Louis Artus and Paul Fuchs—Athénée.
„ 30. *Pan*, satirical drama, three acts, by Charles van Lerberghe—Théâtre de l'Œuvre.

BERLIN.

Nov. 1. *Zierpuppen*, musical comedy, in one act, by A. Goetzl—Komische Oper.
„ 1. *Onkel Dazumal*, one-act comic opera, by E. J. Dalcroze—Komische Oper.
„ 8. *Ritter Blaubart*, three-act fairy play, by H. Eulenberg—Lessing.
„ 9. *Merlin*, tragedy, in five acts, by G. Renner—Royal Schauspielhaus.
„ 9. *Husarenfieber*, comedy, in four acts, by MM. Kadelburg and Skowronnek—Lustspielhaus.
„ 16. *Die Hochzeitsjackel*, four-act comedy, by Max Dreyer—New Schauspielhaus.
„ 20. *Frühlings Erwachen*, three-act tragedy, by F. Wedekind—Deutsches.
„ 20. *Das Glashaus*, comedy, in three acts, by O. Blumenthal—Royal Schauspielhaus.
„ 24. *Die Feinde*, play, in three acts, by Maxim Gorki—Kleines.
„ 25. *Mutter Mews*, five-act play, by F. Stavenhagen—Deutsches.
„ 27. *Eine lustige Doppel-Ehe*, musical farce, in three acts, by MM. Kraatz and Lincke—Thalia.
„ 29. *Der Schmetterling*, operetta, in three acts, by C. Weinberger—Des Westens.
„ 29. *Gäuseliesl*, five-act fairy play, by Rosa Dodillet—Lustspielhaus.
„ 30. *Mathias Gollinger*, four-act comedy, by MM. Blumenthal and Bernstein—Schiller N.

WHEN the late Mr. Wilson Barrett was at the Princess's Theatre, playing *Hamlet*, he sent one day for Mr. J. Neil Maskelyne, and inquired whether he could produce a ghost. The "Monarch of Magic" suggested several things, among them being that a figure should gradually appear in a luminous mist, float across the stage and vanish, of course, in the same way. "We shall never be able to do that," he remarked. "We could never get an actor to take it on." Another idea of Mr. Maskelyne's was that a halo of light should be made to float across the stage, but the scheme was far too elaborate for Mr. Barrett's liking."

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Manager, Mr. L. Andrews.—Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company is here this week in the drama *When a Man Hates*. Mr. Percy E. Davison makes a fine manly Lawrence Hastings. Mr. Arthur Hinton is a great success as the half-witted Paul. Mr. W. Travis Green plays with power as Pietro Danelli. Mr. Eddie Garr as Peter Pimple is most amusing. Mr. Tom Leslie is good as Detective Smart; and the same may be said of Mr. Pleon Gains as Sir Rupert Treharne and Mr. E. Sampson as Jim Rogers. Miss Leila Zillwood displays some powerful acting as Olga Gwynne; Miss Dot Rosson as Letty is a captivating heroine; and Miss Jennie Clare is bright and vivacious as Dolly Dimple. All the minor characters are in capable hands.

ABERDEEN.—Palace Theatre.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Nothing could have pleased the audience better this week than the return visit of Astley's American Circus. Another notable performance is that of Ara, Zebra, and Vera, whose presentation of "Indian Pastimes" is as novel as it is amusing. The Steinway Quartette gives a delightful song scena, and Mr. Matt Wilkinson and company appear with success in a highly humorous sketch, *The Registry Office*. Miss Florrie Cooper sings very sweetly; Miss Fanny Robins is as graceful and vivacious as ever; and the Three Clarions contribute a delightful musical absurdity, *The Would-be Tenor*. Among the other successful artists are Mr. Billy Bint, an old favourite, and the Sivronis, whose burlesque is full of brightness and piquancy.

ABERTILLERY.—Theatre Metropole.—Lessees, Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth; General and Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Venton.—Mr. J. Arnold's company of variety artists is here this week, headed by Mr. Charlie Green, heavy-weight wrestler; the Two Olivers, dancers and patterers, are an extra good turn; Miss Eva Frere sings some popular songs in good style; Listen, comedian, and Miss Dallas, serio and dancer, are also excellent; Flemine, a one-legged acrobat, is, indeed, a marvel; Alec Alexandra, actor vocalist, deserves praise; Mr. W. T. Burgess and company play a neat little sketch, entitled *Found Faithful*.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—On Monday Mr. Tom A. Taylor's company opened here in *The Female Swindler*. Mr. Joseph Millane gave a smart rendering of John Coulson; Mr. John Belton must be complimented on his Abraham Mikestein; Mr. Henry Wright was good as Binks; the Scotchman and Lord Hitchitt Geoffrey Warden were played with effect by Mr. W. Cheetham; John Oliver was well acted by Mr. A. Kenyon Gray; Miss Grace E. Leslie embodied Lu Valroy admirably; Miss Edith Gray as Mrs. Poppen was all that could be desired; Mary Ann Mee lost nothing in the hands of Miss Mary Dawson; Miss Florrie Kelsey excelled as May Andrews.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Potter, Vandy, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parsons.—An excellent bill is provided here this week. It includes Vay's Juveniles, who are very smart; Rose Elliot, with good songs; Dusty Rhodes, patter artist; Charles Santon, double-voiced comedian; Leah Arden, who is well received; Mephisto, contortionist; the Du Gros Trio, amusing and clever; J. H. Wakefield, and the Bioscope, with interesting pictures.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Saunes; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. E. Williams.—*The Midnight Mail*, on a return visit, is forming a good bill of fare, and one that is both instructive and interesting. Mr. Fred Evison and Miss Mildred Carr are supported by a clever company, including Miss Ada Oakley, Miss Phyllis Dailley, Miss G. Chesterfield; Messrs. A. Whitehead, R. Grey, and A. Gilroy.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pool and Bosco; Manager, Mr. Irving Bosco.—This well-lighted and comfortable building opened here on Monday for the season. Included in the attractive bill are the Three Moxons, the Four Watsons, Messrs. R. Yelding, O'Brien, Ida Avilo, Karados, and Valdo.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn.—Miss Minnie Palmer and her company of artists organised by Mr. Wentworth Croke are here in the bright little musical comedy, *My Sweetheart*, which delighted audiences years ago. Miss Palmer is as full of fun and mischief as ever as Tina, and continues to sing, dance, and romp with abundant spirit. The support is excellent. Mr. Robert H. Howard is invaluable as Tony; Mr. Jno. T. MacCallum is easy and natural as the gambler, Bartlett; Mr Rupert Stutfield as the idiotic swell; and Mr. Fred W. Leonard as Joe Shotwell, the impecunious, but amusing, husband of the fashionable Mrs. Fleeter, are admirable. Miss Millie Silvester as Mrs. Fleeter is a very attractive but false-hearted woman of the world; and minor parts are well sustained by Mrs. H. E. Russell, Elsie Forster, Messrs. Chas. E. Hann, and Alfred Wray.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech. — This pleasure resort continues to be well attended, the quality of entertainment submitted meeting with approval. The swell camedian, Billie French, is well received both as comic singer and buck dancer; the Bros. Hampson are amusing patter comedians and dancers; Lily Watson amuses with her songs of the low comedy kind; Edwin Garth challenges attention in his own special line of business, made up of joke and song entitled "Matrimonial Bliss"; May Zant and her clever juveniles appear in an act called *Just Out of School*; Charles Ridgwell, character artist; and Madge Gray, Lancashire dialect comedienne, are big favourites. A sort of pantomimic farce, in three scenes, entitled *The Brewery*, is comically played by Bert Bernard's company. The Bioscope pictures conclude the entertainment.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Limited.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaughten.—The "Picture Entertainments" inaugurated here some weeks ago seem to be as popular as ever, and the illustrated songs ably rendered by the well-known vocalist, Mr. Baker E. Belphor, are highly appreciated.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. H. Laycock.—Gustave Farsola, the Indian fakir, heads the bill here this week, and thoroughly mystifies the audiences by his clever tricks; the Three Sisters Holman are highly appreciated as coon vocalists and dancers; the Two Hartfords (lady and gentleman) are responsible for a daring cycle act, which includes a trapeze performance on the bicycle; Mr. Mark Leslie, the dusky prince, is a favourite in his songs and dances; Miss Lalla Vincent is good as a soprano ballad vocalist; Wheeler and Wilson, nautical equilibrists, give a smart show; Mr. Fred Dunstone, comedian, finds much favour with his parody songs, and Mr. Clayton presents a goodly selection of pictures on the Attergraph.

AXE.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's No. 1 company, in *A Warning to Women*, was produced here on Monday night for a three nights' run. Mr. Mill, who plays cleverly the part of Dr. Marcus Dread, has selected a capable company. Miss Rosalind Tate enacts capably the part of Moira Kennion; Miss Emmie Barton is satisfactory as Sheila Kennion; Miss Helen Beverley is bright as Molly O'More; Mr. George Harvey makes an effective Shaun; and Mr. Norman B. Cannon as Fergus McNaughton; Mr. N. Carter Slaughter as Lord Eversleigh; and Mr. Henry Rutland as Squire Kennion, also lend efficient aid.

BACUP. — New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—Miss Winifred Maude and company, under the direction of Mr. Victor du Cane, are appearing here in the stirring drama, *The Sins of a City*. Miss Winifred Maude submits a sincere rendering of the rôle of Seaweed; Mr. William Vane is a capable Sandy Macdonald; and Mr. Leonard Harrison ably sustains the part of Donald MacIvor. Mr. William Bradford as the villain Ralph Blackwater performs his arduous part with considerable credit. The character of Isaac Levi is well taken by Mr. Victor du Cane; Mr. Norton Shields renders dual service in the rôles of Joe and Jasper Woodleigh; Miss Jessie Mason is successful in the rôle of Jenny, a Scotch fisherwoman; Miss Ethel Tinsley as Lesbia delights her audience by her clever assumption of the character. The humour of the drama is well sustained by Mr. Reginald Green as the railway porter; and Miss Jenny Hackett as Midge, a servant. On Thursday and the two following evenings, *The Stowaway* was presented by the same company, with Mr. Victor du Cane as Dicky Dials and Miss Winifred Maude as Althea Dale.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company, in *A Modern Adventuress*, is here. Mr. Sydney C. Cranston essays the part of Harry Delby with great success; and the Vivette Delby of Miss Marie Robson is a performance of much merit; Pietro Donelli has a good exponent in Mr. Charles Draycott; and the Violet Meredith of Miss Muriel Thompson is a distinguished performance. *The Octoroon* and *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* are also billed.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledege.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company, in *The Sailors of the King*, is here. Mr. Charles Harrington makes a capable Admiral Blake; and the brothers Dick Drake and Orrel Drake are admirably contrasted by Messrs. Frank Stephens and R. F. Stacey respectively; Miss Madge North is a pleasing Felicia Phrynne; Miss Lily Prescott a convincing Daisy Dent; and Miss Sylvia Stella a capital Rebecca Crosby.

Tivoli Theatre of Varieties. — Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—Simpson's novelty sketch, *Burglar's Surprise*, with the dog, Rover, is very well received; and Morny Cash, the Lancashire Lad, is successful; Frank Keegan and Co., do a screamingly funny absurdity, *Every-day Cyclists*; Spencer and Marks are amusing comedians; Phillipi Brothers in *Shunting* do a good turn; and Gus Merriman is clever.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—On Tuesday afternoon a "flying" matinée took place, under the direction of Mr. H. Bernhardt, the principal attraction being the appearance of Miss Camille Clifford, who was accorded a flattering reception from an enormous audience. The hit of the afternoon was made by Miss Margaret Cooper in her delightful "Songs at the Piano." Mr. Lionel Brough told funny stories in his own inimitable fashion; 'cello solos were performed by that eminent player Abbus; Miss Clara Alexander's studies of plantation life were loudly applauded. Songs were given by Miss Violet Elliott and Mr. Alan Turner. Miss Louie Risby, in addition to playing a couple of piano solos, accompanied the other artists admirably.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Added interest to this week's programme is aroused by the first appearance upon the vaudeville stage of that clever young local actress, Miss Lily Gullick, who, associated with Mr. Herbert St. John, has presented an up-to-date comedietta entitled *My Tiger Lily*, which has met with acceptance from full houses twice nightly. The thought-transference manifestations of "Mahatma" have been the means of creating curiosity and bewilderment; the Billy McClain Troupe, in their coon songs and dances, are huge favourites; the Three Rubys do marvels upon the trapeze, besides proving themselves acrobats of the first rank; Geoffreys and Benson, in their comedy sketch *Spoofed*, cause laughter; Belrose and De Velin sing duets in a melodious fashion; Leonto and his musical dog "Babs" are old friends; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux reveal interesting and amusing subjects. Beattie Foster, comedy artist, is also billed, but illness prevented her appearance.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the boards are occupied by Blanche and Diacoff's vaudeville company. Miss Eva Balcliffe proved herself to be a refined coon singer, and the Musical Majors cause plenty of amusement; George Daunton, comedian, and Flo Melville, serio, present a good entertainment; Blanche and Diacoff, in their cycle whizz, give a clever peformance; Joe Andry, a laughing comedian, causes plenty of fun, and the Sisters Beatrice are successful as duettists and dancers; Costel, the humorous conjurer, contributes a valuable item to the programme.

BELFAST.—Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. Harris. — Undoubtedly one of the chief events of the theatrical season here is the engagement of that clever actor, Mr. Martin Harvey, who, fresh from his triumphs in Dublin, opened here on Monday with the ever attractive play, *The Only Way*. Mr. Harvey was assisted by a first-class company, and on making his appearance was accorded a noteworthy reception. His impersonation of Sydney Carton was a decided triumph, completely enthralling the audience. In the beautiful scene with Lucy in the garden, and in the final scene, Mr. Harvey's acting was superb, and it was little wonder his performance created intense enthusiasm. A delightful impersonation of Mimi is furnished by that clever actress, Miss N. De Silva, who deservedly shared the honours of this brilliant performance. Another fine impersonation was that of Mr. Fred Wright, sen., who assumed the rôle of Dr. Manette with no little skill; while we have nothing but praise for Miss Coleridge for her charming impersonation of Lucy Manette. Mr. Leonard Craske was all that could be desired as Charles Darney, his acting being excellent; and it would be difficult to excel Mr. Charles Glenney's assumption of Ernest Defarge. Other rôles were sustained by Miss May Rorke, Miss Bessie Elder, and Messrs. A. E. Raynor, J. E. Frayzer, S. Mansfield, &c. *The Only Way* was repeated on Tuesday and Wednesday (Students' night); on Thursday *Hamlet* was performed; and to-night (Saturday) *A Cigarette-Maker's Romance* will be produced. It should be added that the enthusiasm on Monday was so pronounced that Mr. Harvey was compelled to make a speech of thanks at the close of the performance.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—The Three Olympiers head the bill, and present with much success their artistic entertainment, entitled "Beauty in Bronze." Mr. Frank Coyle is a capital comedian, with catchy chorus songs; and a good reception has been extended to Macdonald's Melody Makers, who present their phantom scena, *The Burglar's Dream*, a decidedly clever entertainment. The feats of illusion by Mr. Ormonde Penstone are quite amazing; and Miss Cora Duncan and Mr. Albert Brasque appear to advantage in their interesting dramatic and musical episode, entitled *A Dressing-Room Romance*. Miss Winnie Scott is a charming comedienne; and also appearing are Mr. Fred Collins, Scotch comedian; Stacey and Williams, comedians; and the Royal Pictures.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John S. Walker.—Marie Santoi and company head the bill, and have been successful in their latest musical novelty, *The Japanese Tea-Garden by Night*, the vocal items being capitally rendered. Mr. Harry Bent's mimicry has much to commend it; and Miss Jessie Burnett is a charming comedienne with a fine voice. Derenda and Green, juggling comedians, supply one of the best turns on the bill with their unique performance; and the Paxton Trio perform some amazing feats of head and hand balancing. As a ventriloquist Oakdene furnishes us with something new, and his smart performance gains the reception it deserves; Miss May Fallowfield is a comedy artist of much ability; and others appearing are Miss Carlotta Lunn, comedienne; and Mr. Frank Maura, Mexican fumnambulist.

New Alhambra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company produce here this week the sterling drama, entitled *Wings of Wealth*, by Mr. Albert H. Clarke. Mr. Horace Denton plays the part of George Brandon with a large measure of success; and Miss Nina Blake-Adams, a clever actress, assumes the rôle of Elsie Brandon with much credit to herself and in a manner that would indeed be difficult to excel. The villainies of Fergus Vavasour were realistically portrayed by Mr. Percy M. Stevenson; and much praise is due to that versatile actor, Mr. Cyril Grier, for his finished impersonation of the character part of Ephraim Isaacs. The humour of the piece was in safe hands. Mr. Tom H. Solly (who is also responsible for stage-management) was decidedly humorous as Alphonso Green, and he was ably assisted by Miss Mattie Crawford, a charming comedienne, who was a vivacious Betsy Badger. Mr. Elmore Frith was admirable as Dr. Currie; and Miss Dora Price was the haughty Lady Everdale to the life. Mr. H. Heselegrave submitted a fine character sketch of Ben Badger; and other rôles were portrayed by Mr. E. Smyth and Mr. F. Moselle. The A'hambra Bioscope exhibits a fine picture.

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. B. Machin.—By way of change from drama, Mr. Tom Pritchard's company of variety performers is now on the scene. Arthur Albert is the prominent vocalist; Harry Mantle proves a good descriptive singer; and the Orchids have a medley duet, and are good patterers. Madame Collard's miniature menagerie of animals, made up as lions, tigers, hyenas, &c., is a novelty, and tops the bill. Koups and Lina are smart on wind instruments; a triple-bar act comes from the Smalleys; and other vocalists and dancers include Sands and Shipley, Maude Laverne, G. W. Clifton, and Nellie Duval. There are also bioscope pictures.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pelt.—Mr. George Stephenson's company in the musical comedy, *Kitty Grey*, is on a successful first visit here. The title-rôle is admirably undertaken by Miss Hilda Glover, who gives an interesting rendering of the part; Mr. Leslie Steward is amusing as Lord Plantagenet; the King of Illyria is well represented by Mr. Lauri Lisle; Mr. Herbert Ranson is an excellent Sir John Binfield, and the Comte de Trenitz is well played by Mr. Gordon Leslie. Miss Dorothy Sephton is suited as Lady Binfield; Miss Nellie Laurance is an efficient Mrs. Bright; Miss Elsie Skillings is a good Sadie de Poulson, and Mr. V. Wakeman gives a capable rendering of Joseph.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Harry Lauder is the bright, particular star this week, and, as a matter of course, the house is filled to its utmost capacity twice nightly. A capital combination also includes Mr. George Formby, comedian; Miss Bijou Russell, dancer; Miss Elia Retford, comedienne; Verno and Voyce, singing comedians; Miss Lilian Lowe, vocalist; Mr. Dave O'Toole, comedian; Tray and Rich, black and white comedians, and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's beautiful production of *The Blue Moon* reached here on Monday, when its many charms were at once appreciated. Miss Florence Smithson was, for her idyllic personation of the title-rôle, recalled again and again by the delighted and crowded audience; Miss Lulu Valli acted with enjoyable vivacity as Millicent Leroy; Miss Daisy Revett was delightfully piquant and pointed as Evelyn Ormsby; Miss Mabel Lorrell did extremely well as Lady Augusta; Mr. Edward Lewis delighted his admirers here exceedingly with his droll portrayal of Moolraj; Mr. Bert Gilbert as Private Charles Taylor worked with a vim and energy that brought him much applause; Mr. Leslie Gaze acted well, and sang in tune as the Major; Mr. Thos. Holding was applauded as the Prince; and Messrs. J. Edward Fraser, Geo. Mudie, jun., J. W. Duval, Walter Lynham, Arthur Wyndham, and Horace Manger were prominent members of the cast.

Princes of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—Mr. James Welch and company are appearing to crowded houses here in the new farcical comedy, *When Knights Were Bold*, which shows the popular comedian in one of his most pleasant veins. As Sir Guy de Vere Mr. Welch gives the fullest pleasure, and increases his fame incalculably. Miss Audrey Ford lends her charming abilities as Rowena; that excellent stage-craftsman, Mr. Edward Sass, scores as Sir Brian; Mr. Arthur Grenville depicts the moneylender, Isaacson, with much skill; Mr. Arthur Chesney presents a capital figure of the Dean; and Mr. H. J. Ford as Widdicombe, Miss Emma Gwynne as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave, Miss Estelle Winwood as Millicent Eggington, Miss Daisy Cordell as Miss Isaacson, and several others contribute largely to the picture. The programme has included *The Lady Burglar*, in which Mr. Henry J. Ford and Miss Estelle Winwood appear.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—*Miss Lancashire, Limited*, was, on its appearance here last Monday, bereft of two of its principal performers, nevertheless, the piece was well received on this its initial visit. Miss Florence Baines was incapacitated through sudden indisposition from filling her famous rôle of Mary Ellen, which, under the circumstances, was taken in a surprisingly clever and successful way by Miss F. de Vere; the part of Isidore Moses was, in the additional absence of Mr. Burt Burton, taken up by Mr. Sam Lister with much success; and Messrs. Payne Fletcher, Patrick Evans, Will Casey, David Donaldson, and Walter Hicks, plus the Misses Annie Mitchell and Pattie Groves, did very well in this exceedingly bright and musical farce.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—*The Midnight Wedding* furnishes the attraction here, with Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company. Miss Annie Saker wins high praise for her skilful delineation of the Princess Astrea; Mr. Alfred Paumier is a convincing exponent of the part of Paul Valmar; Mr. Fredk. W. Freeman appears successfully as the Crown Prince Leopold; Mr. Ernest Imeson acts cleverly as Lieut. Eugene von Strelsburg; Mr. Clinton Baddeley makes a striking character of Captain Rudolph von Scarsbruck; Miss Florence Hunt contributes ably as Rozel; Miss Prudence Laurence is successful as Marie; Mr. W. S. Hardy is most suitable as Father Gerrard; and admirable comic effect is obtained by Messrs. Jas. E. Page, Edward Fletcher, and Algie Spalding, as the "comrades," cleverly assisted by Miss Ada Champion as Kathie.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Mr. Fred Granville submits the now well-known drama, *For Better or Worse*, this being its first visit here. The progress of the play is attended with every sign of appreciation, the leading characters of Captain Frank Hilliard, Major Gerald Crawford, and Lieut. Hector Dalrymple, are portrayed with fine military distinction by Messrs. Scott Leighton, George Edwin Clive, and William Sage; Mr. Carthage Caldcleuch acts with rare dramatic power as Ned Earnshaw; Miss Ruth Nightingale makes a charming and interesting character of Olive Heathcote; the Misses Chrissie Dunbar and Jenny Sage shine as the actresses; and Mr. Edmond T. Sayers as Horatio P. Ranter, actor; and Mr. Fred Garrett, as Benjamin Little, and others, display ability.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—General-Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Mr. Charles Harrington's popular version of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is drawing full houses here. Mr. J. Carr presents an admirable study of Uncle Tom; and his persecutor, Legree, is rendered sufficiently repulsive by Mr. J. Henry Rogers. Mr. Stanley Howard does well as St. Clair; Mr. Leslie Beaufort evokes hearty sympathy with his manly style as George Harris; Mr. James Jackson makes an admirable Haley; Mr. W. Eversleigh evolves much humour from the rôle of Marks; Mr. Tom Miles makes a hit as Quimbo; Miss Hettie Johnson acts in a sympathetic and refined manner as Eliza Harris; Miss Carrie Ellis gives a pleasing portrayal of Emmeline; Miss Jennie Malcolm shows circumspection as Aunt Ophelia; Miss Annie Watson suggests the drollery and cunning of Topsy with much success; Mrs. Carr is very popular as Aunt Chloe; Little Minnie is idolised for her winning picture of Eva; and many others in the cast show admirable qualities.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson and his company are fulfilling a successful engagement here in the drama *Held Apart*. Mr. Clifton Alderson holds the audience riveted with his graphic portrayal of James Douglas; Mr. Leonard Lawrence prepossesses the house with his effective acting as the Laird, John Douglas; Mr. Robert B. Drysdale gives a clever assumption of the Scotch dialect as Andrew McPherson; Mr. A. W. Norman leaves nothing wanting in the character of Captain Ford; Miss Ethyle Murray realises the rôle of the Countess de Castro to the most minute detail; Miss Ruby Loncraine gains much sympathy for the heroine, Sybil Grey; and Mr. Ernest J. Batley as Hugh Trevor, Mr. Thos. Kirkwood as Sergeant Ritchie, Mr. Thos. Weymms as David, Miss Emily Levettez as Lady Grant, Miss Winifred Love as Lily, and Miss Paget Ford as Mrs. Briggs, are successful.

Empire.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The Boissetts, those excellent pantomimists, provide the chief turn on the bill this week. Their sketch, *The Bricklayers*, is one productive of mirth from start to finish. George Gilbey, the comedian, gets a flattering reception for his clever patter; Captain Bevan's Gordon Highlanders go through their drill with military precision at lightning speed; the Obo Bros. are original comedians and dancers, who give a warmly appreciated performance; while Florence Smithers and company keep the house in the best of spirits with their sketch, *Hard Lines*. Albert Christian has a good voice, and Eugen Joly is an excellent cornet soloist. L. W. Harris, in his latest success, "Ehaline," and Kate Cohen, vocalist, complete the bill.

Gaiety.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushill.—Bella and Bijou are responsible for an up-to-date entertainment. Their latest song, descriptive of the woes of a suffragette, keeps the house in one continual roar of laughter. Another attraction is Seener and Fridkins's Troupe of Imperial Russian singers and dancers; while Frank and Violet Tayte have a screamingly funny sketch in *Miss Summerson's Baby*. The Bodina Trio are smart mandolinists, and Leo Tell is a clever imitator of various musical instruments. Other acceptable turns are provided by Roze and Calvert, Meier and Mora, Will Dalton, and Harry Hayton.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Irma Lorraine, described as "London's latest idol," in a series of beautiful picture-tableaux of works of the great masters, gives a most diverting turn. Her poses are most charmingly realistic, and form a series of most effective living pictures. Zeta Grey and company have an original musical comedy sketch, entitled *The Lancashire Lass*, much above the average, and one that is likely to be successful; while the Novellos, in their spectacular equilibristic act, *Europe in India*, in which well-trained ponies and elephants are introduced are very well received. The Deer Family, North American Indians, present a weird and original act, entitled *Indians of the Past*; Tom Hughes has a real sense of humour and is well received; Alice Raymond, the talented lady cornetist and bugler, and John Kur Kamp, conductor, make a very welcome return visit. Jennie Hartley is a charming soubrette and dancer; Allsopp and Bekwith are good comedians.

Bordesley Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—A sketch, which should not be missed by all lovers of the drama, is being presented here this week by Mr. J. G. Grahame. It is entitled *The Yellow Fany*, and has quite delighted the audiences. Another sketch, in somewhat lighter vein, is presented by Madge Morley and company, under the title of *After the Races*. The programme also includes Rita and Roma, excellent vaudeville artists; Frank Sylvo, comedy juggler; Hamid Alexander, in a musical scena; Ernest Ball, and Burley and Burley.

Public Hall, Erdington. — The Nevado Concert Party have fulfilled a most successful engagement here this week. Mr. Bert Errol, the clever lady impersonator, has amazed and charmed his listeners with his wonderful quality and range of voice; Mr. Ernest T. Jones has shown wonderful skill and technique as a Welsh zither banjo performer; Mr. R. Leonard Brown, the eminent tenor, was received with enthusiasm for his well-rendered songs; Miss Dolly Summers, a smart lady humorist, beguiled the audience with her bright interludes; Master Norman Leonard did well at the piano; Mr. C. A. Jackson won much applause as a single-stringed violin exponent; Mr. W. E. Newman was listened to with obvious pleasure in his entertaining humorous selections; and Mr. Leslie Bartlett proved a brilliant executant at the piano.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—Eden Theatre, Ltd.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—A visit is being paid this week by Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company in *The Love that Women Desire*. Mr. Fred Lloyd gives a noble impersonation of Philip Carnaby; Mr. J. O. Stewart is a powerful Squire Abingdon; Richard Abingdon, his son, is in the capable hands of Mr. Robt. M. Heanley; a good portrayal of Frank Hardy is given by Mr. Leonard Montgomery; Mr. Gilson Brooke does exceedingly well in the rôle of Dr. Brandreth; and Mr. Hugh Wallace is excellently placed as Rev. Arnold Cathorne. Miss Lalla Stanhope acts with sympathetic grace as Sybil Thornburn; Madge Abingdon is adequately sustained by Miss Cicely Desmond; Mr. J. W. Wilkinson is amusing as P.C. Sowerby; and Mr. John Hignett and Miss Nita Imeson create an immense amount of fun in the characters of Dennis O'Rourke and Pattie Swift.

Town Hall.—Mr. Joshua Dyson's Gipsy Choir are paying their first visit here this week, and the entertainments each evening are attracting and in every way pleasing large audiences. The visit opened on Sunday night with a sacred concert, the spacious hall being packed to its utmost capacity. During the week the entertainment consists of a splendid musical programme by the choir; whilst in addition the audience is nightly conducted by diorama round the great cities and pleasure resorts of the world.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—Although *The Sign of the Cross* has been presented in Bolton on many previous occasions, the play was received on Monday with unmistakable approval. This was chiefly due to the excellent manner in which it was played by Mr. William Greet's No. 1 company. Mr. Frank E. Petley gives a fine and manly conception of Marcus Superbus, and Miss Marie Leonhard makes a most acceptable appearance as Mercia. Miss Effie Dane scores a considerable success as Stephanus. Mr. Frank Woods makes a creditable Glabrio, and Mr. C. Yorke gives a fine picture of Nero, the Emperor of Rome. Others who deserve particular notice are Mr. Charles Aldred, as Tigellinus; Mr. J. Weatherell, as Licinius; Miss Mary Newcombe, as Poppæa; Miss Gertrude Price, as Berenice; Miss Cissie Carlton, as Dacia; and Miss Jessica Thorne, as Aucaria. The singing of Miss Beatrice Felsted and the dancing of Miss Gladye Gordon have been much admired. The play was admirably staged.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The "star" turn here is the Brothers O'Brien, in a smart horizontal-bar act. Other interesting turns are Jock Whiteford, Scotch comedian; Lil Hartley, descriptive vocalist; the Two St. Johns in a refined musical act, &c.; Frank Hartley, juvenile juggling wonder; Charles Faning, comedian (assisted by Lotta and Charles); E. R. Dainez's famous animals; Amy Anderson, coster (the Banana Queen); the Sisters Poole, society entertainers; Ærial and Astarte, in a gymnastic pot-pourri act; Sid Doody and Edie Wright, Australian comiques; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

Temperance Hall.—Hamilton's Excursions, "From Far and Near," are drawing large audiences. The entertainment is highly interesting, while the "variety" turns are well applauded.

BOOTLE. — Muncaster Theatre. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—Crowded houses have been attracted this week to witness the Bootle Dramatic company in a new musical play in two acts, entitled *The Pet of the Embassy*, from the pen of Mr. Sidney F. Bailey, a local author, and music composed by Mr. Albert E. Wilson, the conductor of the Muncaster orchestra. The play, which contains some most melodious and delightful music, is presented in a manner which reflects credit on the members of the orchestra, the principals, and chorus alike. Mr. Herbert Franklyn is a capital Eric Brown, both his singing and acting being admirable; Miss Pickavance scores as Hilda Graham; Mr. Arthur Kendal gives an exceedingly amusing representation of the dude, Percy Brassington; while Miss May Clifford is a vivacious Dorothy Stanley. Mr. A. J. Harrington is well placed and seen to advantage as Willie Bung, keeping the house in roars of laughter, and Miss L. M. Clarke portrays the character of Mrs. Pamela Bung in a praiseworthy manner. The mounting of the play and dresses are on an elaborate scale. On Monday evening the Mayor and Mayoress of Bootle, also the aldermen and councillors of the borough, were present to witness the performance.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Mouillot and W. De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—The chief attraction here this week is Addie Dorina, in a quick-changing act, entitled *How it Was Done*. The Pasquali Brothers are wonderful acrobats, and give a sensational turn; Guy Ryder, described as the sweetest whistler in the world, gets a good reception; Nina Elms, chic comedienne, submits a pleasing turn; Florence Deighton, vocalist, wins much admiration; Natalia and Diana, aerial gymnasts, are very clever; Charles J. Johnson, the Black Diamond, is good; and the Hippodrome Pictures maintain their usual standard.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Son; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Rowland Stewart.—*His House in Order*, which opened on Monday, is proving quite the most popular play seen here for some time past. It is admirably presented by Mr. George Alexander's company. Chief interest is centred on Mr. Frank Fenton and Miss Auriol Lee, who give strong delineations of the central characters. Among others who greatly distinguish themselves in a carefully-chosen and well-balanced cast are Mr. Cyril Harcourt, Mr. Adam Alexander, Mr. George Silver, Mrs. Kemmis, Miss Audry Campbell, Miss Doris Champion, and Mlle. Juliette Milo.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The theatre is in the possession of the Bradford Amateur Operatic Society this week, and under the direction of Mr. Edwin Bryan performances of *Merrie England* are being given for the benefit of the local charities. Mr. J. Douglas Smith is the musical director.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company commenced a return visit on last Monday with the strong drama, *A Beautiful Fiend*. Miss V. St. Lawrence retains the character of Wanda Lubinoff, and her performance is full of excellence and power; and Ivan Paulovitch, the Major of Russian Police, is still in the excellent hands of Mr. Beaudyn; Mr. Albert Wray is the exponent of the part of the patriotic Sergius Strogoff, and his performance is admirable; Nadine Karatoff is a capable effort by Miss Irene Munro; Count Fedor Karatoff is well played by Mr. Tom Robertson; and in the rôle of Pattie Woodlands Miss Annie Clunn is good.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—The marvellous illusionist, Carl Hertz, is on a return visit here, and assisted by Emeline D'Alton and company he performs some extraordinary feats, "The Bridal Chamber" being perhaps the most puzzling and sensational; Alf Gibson, too, is here again, quaint and immobile as ever; Harry Carsdale gives capital imitations of animals; and in dainty style Minnie Cunningham submits Irish songs; neat step-dancing by Daisy O'Malley finds favour; the Mezzettis on the triple bar combine fun with their clever work; a smart and clever performance by Ernesto, juggler, wins applause; the Rio Brothers are a clever quartette of muscular young gymnasts, whose feats elicit hearty applause; Boswell's Stage Circus affords great amusement; and there are some fine films shown by the American Bioscope.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Fr

placed as Sir Charles Marlow; and Mr. Iden Payne was amusing as Tony Lumpkin. The remaining characters had competent exponents in Messrs. Sidney Burton, B. A. Pittar, Basil Dean, Edward Harrison, Henry Pritchard, Ivan Leslie, Joseph Keogh, C. Chalmers, and Miss Theresa Gregory. Other plays billed are *The School for Scandal*, *Miles Carew—Highwayman*, and *The Rivals*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—*Sentenced for Life* is the attraction here, the drama being capitally played by Mr. Bulmer's company, and it is well staged, the mechanical change from the deck of the ship H.M. Hannibal to the open sea and raft being well arranged and realistic. Mr. Edward E. Louis acts in manly and convincing style as Roy Stillwell; Mr. Ernest Vaughan is consistent and powerful as Paul Derrick; Mr. Morris Maud acts well as the Rev. Martin Orris; Miss Madge Douglas is sufficiently sympathetic as Adele Gray; Miss May Neilson acts carefully as Kate Rennel; the "Two Komical Konvicts" are capitally taken by Mr. Arthur Keane and Mr. Reginald Oldroyd; and Mr. J. F. Firth is amusing as Percy McGentle.

PALACE THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. V. Welchman.—Mme. Mellor's operatic company is here with a new sketch, *The Magic Eye*. It is founded upon an Egyptian episode, and is performed by a full cast of twenty performers, appropriately dressed, and with music befitting the scenes depicted. The libretto and lyrics are by Edward Waltzere, and the music by Emilio Pizzi. The sketch, which went very well, is produced under the direction of the author. Leslie Brothers have a capital act, entitled *Music Mad*; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden amuse with their farce, *Two to One*; May Moore Duprez is a smart Dutch impersonator and dancer; Will Cornish does a good musical bell act; Goggin and Davis introduce an acceptable comedy acrobatic act; Fee Lung is a decidedly clever Chinese illusionist; the Herald Comedy Four sing harmoniously; Charles Vincent, comedian, obtains applause; and the performance concludes with interesting animated pictures.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Lelia Roze heads the programme with her scena "A Dressing-room Dream." Charmingly dressed in various costumes, she presents several attractive songs, and does a pretty dance, obtaining well deserved applause for her efforts. Hanvarr and Lee score with their speciality, *The Golfer and the Maid*; Luigo's Serenaders present with success their operatic scena, *Naples by Night*; Ben Albert, comedian, is appreciated; Moon and Morris are smart comedians and dancers; Clara Victor is a pleasing comedienne-vocalist; Dick Kendal, comedian, does a good turn; Clark's Nippers score with their speciality of boxing and dancing; and Gladys Williams is an attractive comedienne. The performance concludes with some new animated pictures.

BROMLEY.—LYRIC THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Purcell; Assistant-Manager, Mr. David Watson. A most successful visit is being paid this week by Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. Leicester Jackson's company in *Her One Great Sin*. As Grace Warhurst, Miss Blanche St. Albans has a part that suits her admirably. An excellent representation of the hero is given by Mr. John Cecil, who soon obtains the sympathy of the audience. Mr. Leicester Jackson is sufficiently despicable as the spendthrift squire, Arnold Thornhill. A pretty and winning little Gracie, the child of Reuben, is presented by Miss Maudie Lambert. A considerable amount of humour is infused into the character of Jerry Humble and Nancy Winpenny by Mr. Fred Hodson and Miss Nellie Lambert, and a fine study of the London flower-seller, Charlie, is given by Miss Phyllis Damian.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*Alaska; or Lynch Law in North America*, drew a good house on Monday, when Mr. Hilliard Vox sustained the manly character of Skookim Jim; Mr. Albert Rogers was a funny Pompey; Alaska was well delineated by Miss G. Hastings Walton; a charming Jessie Dalton was presented by Miss E. Turner Elliott; Miss Leslie Wynne was an amusing Widow Casey; an excellent study of a half-breed was given by Mr. G. W. Millington; and Ned Larson was cleverly played by Mr. H. Naylor Grimson.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—An excellent entertainment is here this week in the shape of the New Victoria Bioscope company. A particularly fine series of Scottish lakes and waterfalls is shown. Happy Attwood is a funny comedian; Ugo is a smart conjurer; the Sisters De Lacy are good duettists; and Miss Dolly Elsworthy and company present *Nell Gwynne*.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Frank and Jen Latona in *Music and Comedy* score a distinct success here; Mackinnon's Scottish Meisters, in a vocal extravaganza, are accorded a flattering reception; Miss May Glenn, comedy vocalist, is well received; Robb Gilmore is a laughable comedian; and Kit Keen, a coloured comedian, is very good. The Three Panamas give a clever performance of tumbling and dancing; Lily Hayes is an acceptable vocalist; and the pictures by the New Empire Theatroscope are interesting.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE, NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Walter.—Variety is the order of things here this week. A special turn is given by Madame Sims Reeves, the possessor of a good voice, who sings with success some of her late husband's songs. The Revell Troupe, in their absurdity, *Mischief*, convulse the audience with laughter; Miss Edie Anderson is good in dance and song; Grant and Allan, novelty comedians, gain hearty applause; the new comedian, Allan Hanbury, is funny; and Great Scott scores in his juggling act on the balancing ladder; Welda and Wynne, in their comedy juggling and dancing act, also do well, and the Raymond Bio-tableaux are up to the usual high standard.

BURY (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Junius Booth and company are playing *Monte Cristo* here this week. Mr. Booth's Edmond Dantès is a fine effort; Mr. Augustin Bowerman gives a good rendering of Danglars; Abbé Faria is capitally played by Mr. Walter Martin; Mr. C. W. Crowe is earnest as Fernand; Miss Clare Elstob, charming as Mercedes, and Miss Emma Robberds acts well as La Carconte.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—A varied programme is provided here this week. Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford are successful in a sketch, entitled *Getting Even*, and Russell Wallett, in a clever drawing-room entertainment; Kioto, a wonderful Japanese balancer; Barney Vox, ventriloquist; Frank A. Wood, tenor vocalist; Three Missouris, burlesque acrobats; Wisper, a comedy juggler, and Beattie Bloom, comedienne, are all good turns.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—A good show is put on here by Haydee's Mannikins; Marie Jones, assisted by Ernest Munro, gives a good quick-change duologue; and Levano, a speciality acrobat; Harry Taft, whistling comedians; Sisters Russell, comedy duettists; the Elgars, vocal entertainers; Little Tichbourne, singer and dancer; the Corman Youngsters, who sing and dance very cleverly, and Allan Hardman, a blind pianist, are other attractions.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—The popular comedy, *The Freedom of Susanne*, brings the Theatre Royal season to a close. Miss Mabel Love's captivating portrayal of Suzanne won the charming actress a host of friends on this her first appearance in the city. Mr. Percy Hutchison's delineation of Charles Trevor aroused much admiration; Mr. F. G. Thurstans was an amusing Fitzroy Harding; Sir Horace Hatton was ably impersonated by Mr. Patrick Quill; Miss Annie Stalman as Lady Charlotte had the dignified manner so necessary to the character; Miss Florence Harwood made a conspicuous success of Fanny Minching; and Miss Violet Ley as Lady Isabel was particularly sweet and graceful. The curtain-raiser was a smart little piece, entitled *Mary's Secret*.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James.—Miss Rose Faith and her No. 1 company are here this week with *No Cross, No Crown*. Miss Faith appears as Clare, and gives a most effective portrayal of this trying part. Mr. W. Carriden achieves great success as Sir Francis; Mr. Fred Gresham displays much ability as Dr. Ashby; and Mr. Herbert De Ville makes the most of the opportunities afforded him as Austin Blake. Miss Gwen Stewart deserves praise for her capital delineation of Mistress Gray; while little Ada Clawson as Doris proves a careful exponent of her part; Miss Rita Rosslyn as Priscilla, and Mr. C. George as Rawson Haines help very considerably to secure the success of the piece.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—After a considerable absence we have a visit from Dr. Walford Bodie, "the electric wizard," who demonstrates the wonders of his electrical experiments; an entertaining turn of singing, dancing, and ventriloquism is given by Sidney James's popular strolling players; Albertus and Millar are a bright and breezy duo, with novel business; Harry Coates, the singing navvy, is a tenor vocalist, and earns much applause; A. G. Spry is a quaint comedian, who creates much laughter; and Herr Fritz, with his amazing performance, is well received; the Wotpert trio of springboard acrobats; Harry Lawson, an amusing comedian, and pretty Lily Tiso, a neat singer and tricky dancer, with the Bioscope with excellent pictures, complete the performance.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Trustees of R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Stanley.—Mr. F. B. Woulfe and company, in a répertoire of plays, opened on Monday with *Lady Godiva*. In the title-rôle Miss Ethel Griffies appeared to great advantage, and Mr. F. B. Woulfe gave a finished and powerful rendering of Tom of Coventry. Mr. R. Seath Innes was well placed as Leofric, and Mr. W. Macready made the most of Algar. Miss Katherine Brook played Lady Aldyth artistically, and Miss Edith Lorraine was a pleasing and pretty Elfrida, and in her scenes with Robin Shacklewood (Mr. Bob Anderson) displayed a fund of quaint humour.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—The musical comedy burlesque, *The Belle of Barcelona*, occupies top position here this week. Mr. Frank Zara, as the idiot, keeps the audience well amused with his funny business; Miss May McKenzie makes a charming Cerita. Other turns include Francis and Alfred, a pair of clever and quaint jugglers; Johnson and Bert, smart cross-talkers and tumblers; Takio, one of the best of mimics on the road; the Lillian Brothers, speciality gymnasts, and Leslie Race, vocal comedian. Some capital pictures by the Pepiscope complete.

CASTLEFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—Mr. Samuel James's company is appearing here with *As Good as Gold*. Mr. H. H. Barrington submits a creditable impersonation of Mark Williams; Lieut. Jack Stanton finds an admirable representative in Mr. William Heilbronn; as Nora Williams, Miss May Hastings is womanly and sympathetic; Mr. Richard Ferris impersonates the arch schemer, Sir Richard Wharncliffe, in a style befitting the character; as Kate D'Arville, Miss Kate Froude appears with success; Miss Irene Tracey is clever as the Kipper; Mr. F. Thorpe-Tracey contributes a fine character study of Timothy Nias; Miss Edith Carr as Madge Merry, and Messrs. Norman Hall and J. Leon as Horatio Spanker and Jacob Simpson do much to amuse the house; and Mr. Ern Carlton, the acting-manager, gives a capital impersonation of Capt. D'Arcy James.

CHELTENHAM. — OPERA HOUSE. — General Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. E. R. Abbott's company is here this week in *Sapho* and *Trilby* consecutively. On Monday night Miss Ada Abbott did fairly well in the trying part of Sapho; Mr. E. R. Abbott played with considerable power as Gaussin; Mr. Douglas C. Phelps introduced a welcome vein of comedy as Uncle Ceasine; and the Hettema of Mr. W. H. Davis-Brown, and the Old Legrand of Mr. Weedon Ross, were amusing. Miss Marjorie Tennant was pleasing as Madame Hettema; the hysterical little Joseph was effectively played by Miss Hetty Jones. In the first act Mr. Edmund Keene introduces a clever quick-change musical interlude.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Hardie and Von Leer's (South) company, in *Two Little Vagabonds*, is paying a welcome return visit. Mr. Arthur E. Melborne does well as George Thornton; Mr. Edward Maclean is a success as Captain Darville; Mr. Lionel Ellis as Bill Mullins is exceptionally good, being ably seconded by Miss Violet Vivian as Biddy; Dido Bunce is safe in the hands of Mr. Frank Gordon; and the Cough Drop is humorously presented by Mr. Gerald Valentine; Mr. Geoffrey Dering is well placed as Joe Gargoyle; Miss Valerie Crespin as Marion Thornton evokes sympathy; Miss Lillian Stuart is well in the picture as Barbara Scarth; and Dick and Wally find able representatives in Misses Edie Martin and Gladys Vernon.

MUSIC HALL.—Agents, Messrs. Phillipson and Golder.—On Thursday of last week two performances of three of the Chester Mystery Plays were given by the English Drama Society under the direction of Mr. Nugent Monck, the incidental music being arranged by Dr. Bridge, of Chester. As no programmes were issued we are unable to give a detailed notice of the performances. This week we have a first visit from Mr. Walter Jeffs' New Century pictures, the finest that have yet been exhibited in Chester. Ballads are sung by Miss Dora Kingsley.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hemingway.—Mr. Arthur Carlton's company is here this week, presenting the play, *In Sight of St. Paul's*. Mr. Ernest R. Allen ably depicts Tom Chichester; Mr. W. H. Domoney capitally undertakes the part of Harry Chichester; as John Gridston, Mr George D. Daiper is excellent; while Mr. Herbert Sydney is seen to advantage as Blidstein. Mr. Herbert Colley most humorously embodies Jim Palfrey; Cynthia Dell is in the exceptionally strong hands of Miss Lallah Davies, a finished performance being the result. Miss Cissie Bellamy is attractive as Aileen Milbar; and Miss I. Hackness vivaciously undertakes Rose.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Company; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—For the first three nights this week, Mr. Charles Macdona's company occupied the boards here with *Are You a Mason?* Mr. Ernest Cossart made an excellent George Fisher; Mr. E. H. Paterson provided an admirable representation of Amos Bloodgood; Mr. Howard L. Tracey successfully delineated Frank Perry; and the Hamilton Travers of Mr. Frederic Jacques was much admired; Miss Adelaide Grace gave good effect to the part of Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood; Miss Gwen. Clifford very ably delineated Lottie; and Miss Ploensgains was well cast as Franchon Armitage. A variety company, including Mr. Charles Coborn, was billed for Thursday.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. Hugh Dempsey and his variety combination are here for six nights, and Mr. Dempsey himself proves a versatile artist of considerable ability, more especially in his admirable top-boot dances.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Ben de Frece.—The Jackley Trio head the bill here, and give an expert exhibition of tumbling combined with droll tricks; Fred Poplar, with his bacchanalian songs, is highly diverting; the Macdonald Trio, an eccentric party of musicians, present a capital scena with most originally constructed instruments, causing immense mirth; J. C. Crawley is a vocal and instrumental mimic of considerable ability, and Kitty Wager captivates everyone with her charming personality and well-rendered songs. Alf Davies proves a descriptive vocalist of power and the "Adventure of Mephisto's Son," portrayed on the screen completes a much-appreciated programme.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is paying a welcome return visit here this week with the *Drama of Life*. Mr. Edward M. Hamilton is an admirable Harry Buch; whilst as Sylvia Buch, Miss Kate Hallam acquits herself with commendable ability; Mr. John J. Hocker as Walter Buch is a most consummate villain, and as Sir Dobson Wilde, Mr. Harwood Roberts is very funny, being well supported by Miss Florence French as Lady Jane Wild. Jack Lawton is well portrayed by Mr. H. M. Payne, and as Dane Crane, Mr. Sidney Fiennes is highly commendable. Mr. George Child give a good account of himself as Richard Brenton, and as Count de Foi, Mr. Edward Van Beine is good. Miss Nelly Birchenough is deserving of the highest praise in the part of Betty Blank, and Miss Marie Pardy is also deserving of special mention in the rôle of Master Robert Buch.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mrs. Bandmann Palmer's company commenced a week's engagement here on Monday in *From Washerwoman to Duchess*. It was the play's first production in Cork, and it was well received. Mrs. Bandmann Palmer as Catherine scored a distinct success, and Mr. T. Skein as Fouche was most satisfactory. *Hamlet*, *East Lynne*, *Nell Gwynn*, and *The Merchant of Venice* are also in the bill.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The programme here is up to its usual standard. The Five Saxonias give a pleasing musical act; Barry Gilmore is a capital eccentric comedian; the Rolands are clever equilibrists and hand balancers; the Venola Bros. succeed as comedy gymnasts, and the Bros. Asnley are capital comedy boxing artists. The entertainment finishes up with Amurat, musical athlete, and Hetel and Kalida, in a spectacular act of mystery.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr Wm. Bennett.—Miss Maud Hildyard is on a farewell visit to Coventry—previous to her Australian tour—with *The Great Awakening*. Miss Hildyard gives a thrilling, sensational rendering of the chief part, Lola Selby; Miss Doris Digby is quite successful as Molly Merton; Mr. Willie Scott and Miss Isa Bellington are amusing as Mr. and Mrs. Brass respectively; Mr. A. C. Hardie gives a capital impersonation of James Selby; Mr. Bernard is seen to advantage in the dual parts of Sir Henry Merton and his son; Mr. C. E. Linney proves a capable Guy Rogan; and Mr. Herbert Evelyn as the gallant Captain Lambert; and Mr. Tracey Barrow as the funny waiter, Antoine, add to the attractiveness of the representation.

THE HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—Well-filled houses on Monday witnessed an attractive programme. Mr. Harry Champion is well received; Miss Nellie Wallace captures the house by her quaintness; and the same remark applies to Miss Millie Payne, who has successfully appeared several times at Coventry. Mons. Billing and his troupe present capital feats of strength; Montaldo gives a novel turn in the way of trained birds; Graham and Zerlina depict cleverly an episode of Parisian life, entitled *A Daughter of Pleasure*; Katie Marsh is successful as a vocalist and dancer; and the animated pictures conclude.

THE EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—An exceptional programme is provided at this house. Chief praise must be given to the Two Stones, in a marvellous feat, "The Globe of Life"; the Æolians (six in number) have a capital display of singing and dancing; the Celtic Comedy Trio are well received; Los Granadas are knockabouts of an exceptional kind; Mount and Corelli give a successful turn; Will Vokes is an expert eccentric dancer; Adeline Yohle a pleasing vocalist; and J. W. Hall a droll comedian. Cinématograph pictures conclude.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. F. Brooke Warren's company is giving us a return visit with *Mysteries of the Thames*. Mr. F. Brooke Warren himself takes the "heavy" part of Captain James Denbigh in masterly style; Mr. Andrew Money gives a finished interpretation of Richard Brander; Mr. Sydney Vereker wins constant applause as Bill Bosco; and Mr. Dan Hardie causes plenty of fun as Peter Miggles. Miss Kate Ramus shows us some powerful acting as Kate Brandon, and Miss Violet Leal as her child Little Doris deserves special mention. Miss Stephanie Baring has a double part as Helen Price and Grace Rochdale, her twin sister, and right well does she acquit herself. Mr. Gilbert Hall makes a good lawyer, Jack Hammond, and Mr. George Arthur is well chosen for Ben Lorrimer. Mr. Tim Herne is in his element as Wary Mike, and Miss Effie W. Crawford is to the fore as Bertie Fitzgerald.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company has presented *Her Love Against the World* for the first time here. Mr. Walter Howard gave a powerful and effective portrayal of the Earl or Strathmere, and Miss Rossie St. John acted with cleverness as Nello. Miss Ellen Snow was an admirable Princess of Idalia, and Miss Victoria Douglas showed capability as the Countess of Rasselyn. Mr. Mayor Cooke made a successful appearance as Prince Ulric of Ravensburg, and as Prince Othenar, Mr. Raymond Wood gave every satisfaction. Mr. Gerald Venning was suitably placed as Prince Maurice of Saxonia, and Mr. J. Fulton Miller as Sergeant Kaspar did well. Mr. Henry B. Lewis and Mr. Richard Webb were responsible for the humorous side as Heinrick Pimpernickel and Fitz Pimpernickel, and were ably assisted in their efforts by Miss Lizzie Lennon as Katinka, and Miss Harrington Baily as Gretchen.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—J. M. Barrie's *Alice Sit-by-the-Fire* is giving delight to Grand visitors. Mrs. Russ Whytal charms all with her pleasing and artistic rendering of Mrs. Grey; Miss Beatrice Bramah deserves all praise for her portrayal of Amy Grey; Miss Lucy Verrier is an entrancing Leonora Dunbar; Miss Ada Marius makes the most of the rôle of Nurse; Miss Ninon Dudley is neat as Fanny; Miss Lilian Locke gives a capital sketch of Richardson; Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu rightly gauges the character of Stephen Rollo; Mr. A. W. Baskcomb is very good as Cosmo Grey; and Mr. J. J. Bartlett gives a performance as Colonel Grey which does him credit. The first piece is *The Royal Flower*, in which Mrs. Russ Whytal achieves a palpable success as Le Marquis; Miss Ninon Dudley is a pretty Virginie; Mr. J. J. Bartlett is excellent as Vidal; and Mr. A. W. Baskcomb is well placed as Cadet Vincent.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Herrick.—Messrs. Granville and Thorne's company, in *Napoleon the Great*, is the attraction here this week. Mr Hugh Montgomery submits an excellent representation of Napoleon; Mr. Henry Earlesmere ably depicts Colonel Lavarennes; Mr. Phil Harper as Colonel Jules Meuron is a success; Mr. Bartlett Garth is exceptionally good as Paul Laczinska; Mr. Frank M. Thorne as Pierre Pomponnet proves himself a capable actor; Mr. Albert Sinclair as Sergeant Choupin is well placed; and Mr. G. Acton Dix as Monsieur Fouche is very good. Miss Marie Warner as Marie Walewska displays talent; Miss Marie Harcourt renders a fine impersonation of Marcell Coupin; Miss Maud Russell is a convincing Leonie Marbœuf; and Miss Florence Thorne as Mère Dumont makes the most of her opportunities.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—The entertainment here is varied and amusing. Yukio Tani, Japanese wrestler, is causing a sensation; Rosa Loader is a droll musical mimic; Alix Luxos sings his song, "Pictures in the fire," with dramatic effect; Cline and Clark are expert speciality dancers; Signor and Madame Borelli are applauded for humorous and musical tit-bits; Edie King is a clever comedienne and dancer; Gilbert Girard is a marvellous animal mimic; Clown Barker and Miss Rozsika receive a great reception in their refined animal show; the bioscope picture, "A Child's Revenge," is well liked; and a remarkably smart and interesting sketch, *The Chauffeur*, is well enacted by Mr. Frank Danby and company.

DARLINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Miss Claudia Lasell and company, in the new musical comedy *The Sweet Girl*, is receiving a big reception this week, Miss Lasell's singing and acting in the title-rôle quite taking the house. Mr. Leslie Morrah as Dick Kenyon is exceedingly good; Mr. Fred Eastman causes much amusement in the part of Count Lubenberg; and a great feature of the comedy is the graceful dancing of Miss Alice Lethbridge, coupled with Mr. Algernon Newark as Anthony Strauss. Mr. W. H. Page makes a good Major Domo, Mr. Geo. De Lara is clever in light comedy, Mr. Douglas Phillips in the part of Florian Llerlich is in fine voice; and Miss Muriel Harding is charming as Countess Lizzie. The chorus is strong and well balanced.

DARWEN. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Messrs. E. A'Dell and F. Chabot's company, in *The Romany's Revenge*, is commanding good house here this week. The part of the Romany is admirably portrayed by Miss Ethel Ashleigh, and that of John Hope in a most efficient manner by Mr. Evelyn A'Dell. In the dual rôle of Lillian Hope and Elspie (a gipsy) Miss Kathleen Eckart is seen to advantage. Mr. John Soden, in the heavy part of David Renard, is very realistic; whilst the contributions of Mr. F. Rose and Miss Ada Stelling as Bobbie Bloom and Pollie Pluck respectively provide the comedy of the piece in a clever manner.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—Baron H. Harriss's company is here this week with *The Prince of Pilsen*. Mr. Harry Kilburn as Hans Wagner is in every way successful; Miss Sophie Harriss scores heavily in the part of the New York widow, and it would be difficult to find an actress better suited to the part. An outstanding feature is the manly acting and the capital singing of Mr. Frank Crimp as the real Prince. Miss Connie Leon as the French maid finds ready favour; Nellie Wagner is charmingly presented by Miss Peggie Franklin, and a capital Jimmie is found in Miss Molly Wynne. Miss A. D. Loriere figures agreeably as the Gibson Girl. A clever sketch of a dude is given by Mr. Bernard Russell, and Mr. Ernest Gifford is funny as Francois.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—A good programme is submitted at the above place of amusement this week, the chief attraction being provided by the Four Charles in a clever acrobatic juggling speciality. The Grigson Trio cause much amusement in their capital comicality; the Dummy and Yorkshire Tom is a wonderful exponent of mimicry; Veraardo introduces a novel ventriloquial turn, and the Crown Trio are well received. Other entertaining turns are provided by Millie Howell, comedienne; Almon, "The Upside-down Marvel," and the Bioscope with interesting pictures.

DEWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—An old saying, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," applies appropriately to the stage. *Proof* is being submitted here by Mr and Mrs. Wm. Maclaren's company. Mr. George Kennedy is to be complimented on his powerful pourtrayal of Pierre Lorance; Miss Beatrice Shirley shows resourcefulness and artistic merit as Madeleine and Adrienne; Mr. Wilford Bailey is humorous as Chamboran, and Mr. W. J. Butler is realistic as the treacherous Lazare. Mr. Carl Beechy presents the Duke d'Aubeterre genially.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. George Weldon.—Onda and Leon are responsible for a performance on the horizontal bars into which much amusing comedy is infused; vaulting is the specialised work of the Bros. Lavelle, who excel therein; Harry Drew's songs are well rendered; of much interest and attractiveness are the Ashley team (one lady and two gentlemen); the Three Sisters Killner exert themselves to some purpose as singers and acrobatic dancers; the acrobatic exploits of the Seltina troupe do not lack originality; Miss Cecilia Maud is an acceptable descriptive vocalist; and Sword and Robb, in a comedy act, are mirth-making. The Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*The Night of the Party* proves a most mirth-provoking production. Lady Hampshire is daintily assumed by Miss Evelyn Howard; and an equally charming impersonation of Mrs. Young is furnished by Miss Lena Graham. Gipsy Vandelier receives an added interest in the hands of Miss Stanley Ronalds; Miss Maud Linden is very engaging as Pauline; Mr. Aidan Lovett as Sir Charles Hampshire is a typical country gentleman; Mr. Frank Denton's interpretation of Mr. Frank Frayne is vigorous and amusing withal; and Mr. Sebastian Smith enacts Mr. Crosbie with great skill. Mr. Ernest Rivarz is quaint as Alderman Hargen.

DOVER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, The Dover Theatres, Ltd.; Chairman of Directors, Mr. B. Carter; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred C. Dew.—An excellent company is presenting *Lights Out*, with Mr. Leigh Lovel at the head of the cast. Mr. Lovel as Lieut. Von Lauffen submits a most praiseworthy impersonation; a notable piece of acting is contributed by Mr. Kenneth Brampton, whose portrayal of Lieut. Von Howen is both earnest and convincing; Mr. Wilton Reed succeeds in bringing into prominence the lovable traits of Sergeant Volkhardt; and an impressive and entirely excellent rendering of Major Paschke is given by Mr. F. Clive Ross, Mr. Arthur Stone proving himself most capable in the rôle of Captain Von Bannewitz. The unhappy position of Corporal Helbig is duly emphasised by the clever acting of Mr. Richard Fielding; Mr. Lambert Plummer's touch of light comedy introduced into the rôle of Captain Lehdenburgh is admirably effective; Mr. Francis J. Tithell sustains the long part of Corporal Queiss with much ability; and Mr. Frederick Clifton is a most satisfactory Michael. Miss Octavia Kenmore's naturally pathetic voice and graceful deportment assist materially her portrayal of Klara.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Vaudeville Syndicate Co.; Secretary, Mr. Chas. R. Standfield; Manager, Mr. B. H. Harland.—The sketch, *In the Tempter's Coil*, is contributed by the Lloyd-Phillips' company; the Sisters Selwin, vocalists and dancers, and Percival and Morley, in a comedy duologue, are eminently successful; George Grogie and Jennie Chalmers also contribute two highly satisfactory turns; and Cris Baker is a most amusing comedian.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Directress, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—The Carl Rosa Opera company entered on its second week on Monday, when Bizet's charming opera *Carmen* was played before a crowded house. Miss Doris Woodall made her first appearance here in the rôle of Carmen, and gave a very successful performance, her acting being artistic and powerful, while her vocalism was greatly admired. Mr. Julius Walther did splendidly in the part of José, acting well, and being in excellent voice. The Escamillo of Mr. Charles Victor was particularly good, and his rendering of the Toreador song was most acceptable, and Miss Elizabeth Burgess made a pleasing and effective Micaela. Mr. F. Clendon as Dancairo and Mr. Arthur Hyde as Remendado did very well, as did Miss Ina Hill and Miss Dorothy Mayfield in the respective parts of Frasquita and Mercedes. The choruses were admirably rendered, and Mr. Walter Van Noorden conducted most creditably. On Tuesday *Don Giovanni* was played. Miss Grace Nicoll gave a brilliant and artistic rendition of Donna Anna; Miss Elizabeth Burgess was admirable as Donna Elvira; and Miss Ina Hill as Zerlina was most successful. Mr. Charles Victor made a capital and impressive Don Giovanni. Mr. Arthur Winckworth as Leporello, Mr. Fred Clendon as Masetto, and Mr. Edward Davies as Ottavio were all good. The choruses and band under Mr. Eugene Goossens were admirable. For the remainder of the week *Fidelio*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Tannhäuser*, *Faust*, and, for to-night, *Maritana* are announced.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—A large and appreciative audience was present here on Monday night to witness *Her Son*, as played by Miss Winifred Emery and company. Their Excellencies the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen and Viceregal party were present, and met with a cordial reception when they entered. Miss Winifred Emery presents an artistic and clever study of Dorothy Fairfax, displaying power and versatility in her various moods. Mr. Bille Norwood is impressive, and does excellent work as Dick Gascoyne, his dignified style quite suiting the part, and Miss Minna Blakiston acts carefully as Chrystal Wride. Sir Augustus Helmingham has an able exponent in Mr. Harry Ashford, and Miss Eileen Munro is capital in the rôle of Lady Helmingham. The part of Min is played by Master Bobbie Andrews in the second act, and afterwards by Mr. M. A. Wetherell, is most praiseworthy, and Miss Keith Lytton is a careful study as Susan Judkins. Mr. H. Cannon George is particularly good as Parfiete, and as Lady Curragh and Kitty Tabard the Misses May Chevalier and Harriet Trench are admirable. The play is preceded by some humorous recitations given in his own inimitable style by Mr. Brandon Thomas. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings *Olivia* was played by the same company.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; Acting-Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson.—Mrs. Hubert O'Grady's company is appearing here this week in the Irish comedy-drama *The Fenian*, and doing excellent business. Mr. Arthur Gribbin gives a fine portrayal of Jack Lynch; Mr. Fred Aldworth is well placed as Lieutenant Tracy; and Miss Ada Hender cleverly acts the part of Helen Lynch. Mr. Sam S. Wilford gives a humorous impersonation of Barney, and the Misses Lizzie Brereton and Cissy Haighton, as Miss Williams and Lady St. John, are both good in their respective parts. Mr. J. Barker capably fills the rôle of Father Kelley, and as Nana Miss Violet Wood is satisfactory. The part of Colonel Tracy is well sustained by Mr. A. Weekley, and Mr. Harry Harrild is capital as Harry Maxwell. *Fast Life* is also billed.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The programme here this week is of an agreeably diversified character. Heading the bill we have Hal Godfrey and company in their sketch *A Very Bad Boy*, which keeps the house convulsed with laughter. As a novelty in the mystery line the exhibition of Arif Hemet is entitled to be regarded as a special feature of the entertainment. Miss Sybil Montague, a vocalist of considerable talent, sings some popular songs with much acceptance. The Selbinis, in a smart and clever acrobatic cycling act, score a distinct success, as does also George Westland, quaint Scotch comedian. Syd May enhances his reputation as a mimic, and the musical turn of Ned Graydon obtains appreciation. Frank Couch, comedian, is favourably received; and Max Merlin, the human crocodile, elicits applause. The Empire pictures are up to date.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—There is a capital company engaged here this week. The famous native choir from Jamaica are distinctly successful in their interesting entertainment. Another excellent turn is provided by Jennie Johns, a sparkling soubrette, whose catchy songs delight the audience, and the old favourite, Charles Bignell, is as popular as ever. The Brothers Wartenberg, double foot experts, contribute some smart feats, and Charles Mildare, whistling comedian, receives well-merited applause. Hart and Victor's sketch, *The Golfer and the Caddie*, is highly amusing, and Professor Hulbert is far above the average as a ventriloquist. Fred Horsfall, humorist and mimic, is highly appreciated, and Mons. de Lil, illusionist, and the Bioscope complete the bill.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-

with a hearty reception. The Saletos, head-balancers; Geo. Walker, baritone; Miss Connie Pulsford, Miss Hulford, Mr. Edward Grey, and a capital bioscope entertainment completed a successful programme.

EASTBOURNE. — Pier Pavilion. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes. — Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company are reappearing here in *The Manxman*. Mr. A. B. Cross, in a strong performance as Pete, again grips and holds the audience. Miss Minnie Watersford, too, is a sympathetic Kate Cregeen; Miss Dorothy Duncan an animated Nancy, and Miss Mona Spearing a satisfactory Miss Christian. Mr. Richard Hutton does admirable work as Cæsar Cregeen; Mr. Sydney C. Kearns is effective as Philip; and the sporting trio, Ross, Monty, and Mawley, are capably represented by Mr. Dudley Stuart, Mr. Edward Cartell, and Mr. W. Lynton.

The Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—The Jubilee Minstrels give a capital and complete miniature nigger entertainment; the Paolias, a wonderfully-developed gentleman and a pretty lady, give a taking turn; the Dandy Darkies appear in the well-known sketch *Black Justice;* Miss Maud Wilton is a clever mimic, Miss Mary Glenn a pleasing Scotch vocalist, Hardie Palm an effective comedian, and an excellent film is shown on the Bioscope.

ECCLES.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Manager, Mr. Ernest Hales; Secretary, Mr. P. Ryan Smith.—The Moody-Manners opera company on Monday opened here with *Carmen*. The title-rôle was filled by Miss Rosina Beynon, who was accorded an enthusiastic reception; Mr. Charles Carter as Don José took his part cleverly; as Escamillo, Mr. Frederic Erle did full justice to the part, his rendering of "The Toreador" being admirable; Miss Lucie Lever, in the part of Michaela, sang charmingly; Miss M. Wilcocks and Miss M. Wood as Frasquita and Mercedes respectively, filled their allotted parts creditably. The orchestra and chorus responded ably to the skilful conductorship of Mr. Harrison Frewin. The week's bill includes *Tannhäuser, The Bohemian Girl, Faust, Cavalleria Rusticana,* and *I Pagliacci, Lohengrin,* and *Martana.*

EDINBURGH. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—This theatre was occupied on Monday evening by an amateur combination, which played *The School for Scandal* in aid of the funds of a local charity. The house was closed during the remainder of the week for rehearsals of the pantomime.

Royal Lyceum Theatre. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—Mr. William Mollison and company are paying a return visit to Edinburgh this week with the adaptation of Ian Maclaren's touching and humorous series of stories, *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush.* Mr. Mollison's impersonation of the narrow-minded Highland farmer, whose love ultimately conquers his prejudices, is of sterling merit, and the actor has never presented the character with more striking dramatic force. Mr. John Clyde as the warm-hearted doctor gives a performance abounding in felicitous touches; and Mr. Alec F. Thompson supplies an admirably humorous sketch of Wee Posty. Mr. Eric Mayne must be congratulated upon his excellent acting as the minister; Mr. Kendall Chalmers is a pawky Tammas Mitchell; and the support rendered by the remaining members of the company, including that capable actress Miss Josephine Woodward as Margaret Howe, Miss Evelyn McNay as Flora Campbell, and Mr. Archie W. Chappell as Lord Hay, contributes in no small measure to the success of the play.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—A quartette of jugglers, the Four Indian Fakirs, are at the head of this week's bill, and their marvellous dexterity in the performance of various conjuring feats, including the famous basket trick, excite great interest and wonder. Two Hebrew comedians, Jordan and Harvey, succeed in imparting something new to their characteristic turn; and Shawlene, comedian and siffleur, renders an operatic overture with delightful effect. The songs and dances of Pat Carey, Irish comedian, are racy of the soil; Mr. Ambrose Thorne is a pleasing light comedian; La Danseuse, in a dancing scena, greatly charms the audience; Boyd and Gilfain appear with much success in a sprightly vaudeville entertainment; Bonnie Goodwin and her piccaninnies are amusing in their cake-walks and dances; Zamfretta and Napio are clever eccentrics with their musical knife-grinding; Miss Frances Letty sings well, and executes a novel dance on electric tram rails; and several series of descriptive pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

Cooke's Royal Circus. — Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—Miss Iona Ginnett and the Humels, with their clever and interesting equestrian acts, and Messrs. Hinton and Wooton, the bicycle football players, are still leading features on an excellent circus programme, which also includes remarkable acrobatic feats by Miss Victoria Dagmar, good singing and dancing by the Two Elliotts, and some diverting antics by Mr. Permane's troupe of trained bears. In addition Mr. Cooke presents another very attractive entertainment this week, entitled *Ally Sloper's Big Water Carnival on the Thames.* This is an act in two scenes, introducing the whole human strength of the company, supplemented by ducks, geese, and swans. The arena at one time shows a pleasing rustic spectacle, which is with much ingenuity quickly changed into a miniature lake, with an island in the centre and a cascade pouring down between plants and shrubs with very picturesque and realistic effect. Small boats cover the surface of the water, and there is plenty of furious fun, carried on with great vigour by Mr. Leicester Alfred Cooke, Neddy Vokes, Mr. James Humel, Miss Florrie Humel, Du Calion, Mr. Charles Linder, and many other spirited performers. The carnival was received on the opening night with great cordiality, and Mr. Cooke bowed his acknowledgment amid enthusiastic cheers. A good exhibition of Bioscope pictures kept the audience amused during the intervals needed for the various transformations.

EXETER. — Theatre Royal. — Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. B. A. Meyer's company is here this week in the well-known play, *East Lynne,* under the direction of Miss Dorothy Grimston. Miss Grimston herself takes the part of Lady Isabel, and her portrayal is lifelike and deservedly earns the sympathies and plaudits of the audience; Mr. Wilfred Beckwith's Archibald Carlyle is distinctly good; while Miss Blanche Stanley as Miss Carlyle is very amusing. Mr. Eric Maxon ably sustains the part of Captain Francis Levison, and Miss Ena Ferry is a capital Barbara Hare.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Miss Lois Esmond's company, under the direction of Mr. Edward Neville, presented the sensational drama, *The Anarchist Terror,* on Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Fred Cherry took the part of Silas Washington Goldstraw, and his portrayal of the retired pork king of Boston was a very clever one, his acting being first-class. Mr. Edward Neville showed his versatility in five different characters, under all of which he was yet what the title of the drama proclaimed him to be. Mr. Chas. Ninian made a heroic Lieutenant Armstrong; Mr. Herbert Carrington's Mickey Doolan was a smart bit of work, and his Irish "brogue" was always fetching; Miss Nita Langford proved herself an accomplished actress as Marita, an Italian Jewess; while Miss Rosie Neville, in the character of Columbia Goldstraw, was piquant, and Miss Esmond was sprightly as Kitty Malone. As Ishmael, the gipsy chief, Mr. H. Evan Gibbon acted forcibly. On Wednesday evening *The Sorrows of Satan* was produced by the same company, the theatre being given over on Thursday evening to the Falkirk and District Operatic Society for a three nights' engagement with *Erminie.*

FARNWORTH.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, T. Morton Powell.—Mr. John Gerant's company is this week presenting the military drama, *At Duty's Call.* Mr. Gerant appears successfully as Harold Allison a part he has played nearly 2,000 times. Mr. Ernest St. John as General Gordon gives a capital impersonation, and Mr. Harry Scott very creditably undertakes the part of Captain George Allison. Mr. Walter P. Carr and Mr. Harry Ugar as Jack Spencer and Terry O'Halloran respectively, are responsible for a great deal of amusement. Miss Lily Esammonde as Dora Drummond has a part that suits her admirably, and she does not fail to make every point tell. Miss Beatrice Western as Salema is all that can be desired, and Miss Eva Bell as Mary is to be complimented on her humorous assumption of the character.

FLEETWOOD.—Queen's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry J. Snelson.—Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's company this week is presenting *A Gambler's Daughter* here. Mr. Robert Ayrton as Desmond O'Dare gives a capital portrayal of an honest, good-natured Irishman; Mr. Richard Pitt is good as John Grant; and Mr. Victor Millard makes an interesting Jack Grant. Ralph Gillman is ably represented by Mr. Arthur T. Lennard; and Mr. William T. Riley is seen to advantage as the Weasel (Captain Stanhope). Mr. Lincoln Calthorpe is well suited with the part of Stephen Brand; Mr. George Vinning does well as Tom Brand; Mr. Alfred Sanders makes a good Solomon Solomons; Miss Linda Riley an amusing Auntie Zeb; and Miss Lottie Sanders an admirable Careta. Miss Lizzie Gordon is well adapted to the part of Carman Sancho; and Miss Adria Hill as Mildred Grant, the gambler's wife, and afterwards as Miriam Grant, the gambler's daughter, is both realistic and pathetic.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Miss Madge McIntosh and Mr. Lumsden Hare's company, in *Mollentrave on Women,* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Herbert Grimwood gives a striking delineation of Mr. Mollentrave; Mr. Athol Stewart is a clever Sir Joseph Balsted; Mr. Harry Kendal acts with ability as Everard Sevenboys; Mr. Stockall Ward is good as Lord Contareen; Miss May Pardoe enacts the part of Lady Claude Derenham in an able manner; Miss Eva Hamblin as Margaret Messilent is well placed; Miss Belle Donaldson and Miss Ada King are satisfactory as Miss Treable and Mrs. Martelli; and Miss Jessie Fraser is an effective Martin.

GATESHEAD.—Metropole Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting - Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—Mr. and Mrs. John Walters' company is appearing with considerable success here this week in the pantomime *The Babes in the Wood.* Miss Gerty McQueen is a dashing Robin Hood, and a charming Maid Marion is Miss Fanny Adamson. Dainty little Kitty Chester is popular as Bertie; and Baby Blyth is successful as Cissie. Miss Kitty Liske is a sweet Dolly Dimple; Mr. Ernest Thirlway is entertaining as the Baron; but chief honours in the comedy line go to Mr. Ally Benson, who is extremely funny as Dame Flossie. Messrs. Traynor and Connor as the bold, bad men cause many laughs, and Joe Brogan's representation of Soft Tommy finds great favour. Specialties are introduced by the Four Emeralds, acrobatic dancers, and the Sisters McQueen, operatic vocalists.

King's Theatre.—Licensee, Mr. Edward Johnson; General-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Very creditable to the management is the programme submitted here this week. Ada Colley can nominate Gateshead as one of her strongholds. Her auditors are loth to part with her, even after she has treated them to four numbers. Leo Dryden gives us of his best in "Bachelor Boys! Farewell" and "The Prodigal Son." The ever-welcome J. W. Hall is greeted with a storm of applause, and his quaint antics and funny patter keep the audience in a continual state of merriment; Jack Charman, with the song "May I come home once more?" scores; and the Woelhafs submit a comedy act which is well received. Vasey and Ramsey have a capital comedy and dancing turn, and Emilie Warren, brilliantly costumed, renders a ballad with good effect. Bertha Norwood, described as a "refined soubrette," and pictures by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope complete an excellent programme.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—*A Woman's Past,* excellently interpreted by Messrs. Hamilton Harden and C. V. Sandford's company, is the attraction at this house. Mr. Henry Hargreaves cuts a handsome figure as David Heath, and his acting is of a high-class order; Mr. Sandford adequately fills the comedy rôle of Frank Dellanoy; and Uriah Craven receives capable treatment at the hands of Mr. G. Moreton-Williams; Mr. Warden is capital as Clement Harper. The central figure in the drama is Miss Maisie Hanbury, whose depiction of Bessie is worthy of the highest praise; Miss Violet Ennis Lawson cleverly impersonates Dorothy Heath; and Miss Eva Bertram gets the most out of the part of Clara Darrell.

GLASGOW.—Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Audiences filled the house in every part on Monday, and during the week, to welcome back D'Oyly Carte's company in Gilbert-Sullivan opera, commencing with the favourite *Mikado.* Mr. Fred Billington excelled himself in his humorous delineation of the unequalled pluralist, Pooh-Bah; while Mr. Charles R. Walenn was equally mirth-provoking as Ko-Ko; the three little maids were charmingly rendered by Miss Hope Hastings as Yum-Yum, Miss Lulu Evans as Pitti-Sing, and Miss Mabel Burnegge as Peep-Bo. Mr. Albert Kavanagh acted the Mikado with a highly comical mock dignity; Mr. Pacie Ripple as Nanki-Poo used his fine voice effectively both in solos and concerted pieces; the part of Katisha was ably acted and sung by Miss Theresa Rassam; the noble lord, Pish-Tush, was well handled by Mr. Leicester Tunks; and the deep bass of Mr. Fred Drawater as Go To was used with telling effect all through the opera. *The Yeomen of the Guard* was played on Tuesday and Friday, *The Gondoliers* on Wednesday evening, while *Iolanthe* was the attraction for Thursday.

King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Mr. David Bispham and company are here this week with Liza Lehmann's new operatic version of *The Vicar of Wakefield,* and it is not surprising that this picturesque production was followed with such great interest and appreciation on Monday, for it is a long time since such a refined and harmonious light opera has been seen in Glasgow. Mr. Bispham's acting in the title-rôle is well up to the best traditions of the character, while his singing of both old and new lyrics is most expressive; for the part of Olivia a highly accomplished actress and vocalist is found in Miss Violette Londa; Miss Edith Clegg is the Sophia, and gives an excellent account of herself, both vocally and histrionically; Mr. Walter Hyde is a tenor of more than average ability, and makes a fine romantic figure of Squire Thornhill; as Mr. Burchell, Mr. Richard Temple has little singing to do, but gives the necessary weight and dignity to the part; Mrs. Theodore Wright is particularly well suited as Mrs. Primrose; the rôle of Moses is adequately filled by Mr. Arthur Eldred; Mr. Powis Pinder gives a humorous touch to the part of Farmer Williams; as the crafty Mr. Jenkinson, Mr. C. Oram Lauder is good: the Vicar's children are cleverly represented by Master Gordon Travis and Miss Elfin Arthur, the former being a singer of considerable promise; the parts of Lady Blarney (Madame Amy Martin), Miss Skeggs (Miss Valerie de Lacy), and a Gipsy (Miss Bella Wallis) are well filled, and in keeping with the general excellence of the production, Mr. Hamish MacCunn is the musical conductor.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—*£1,000 Reward* is this week being presented by Messrs. Frank J. Pitt and Charles Halling's company. Charles Rogers, jun., is well suited to the part of Jack Springthorpe; Mr. Frank J. Pitt is a satisfactory Fred Engleford; and Mr. Charles Halling as Vincent Ramsworth gives a praiseworthy performance. Good work is also done by Mr. Frank Dallas as Inspector Gilbert; Miss Lyn Darlington wins sympathy as Meg; Miss Crissie Francess sustains the part of Kitty Springthorpe; and Miss Daisy Halling ably accounts for Madame Samson; Mrs. Sidney Halling makes an efficient Mrs. McCarthy.

Lyceum.—Proprietor Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Large and enthusiastic audiences welcomed *La Poupée* this week, as presented by Mr. Herbert Ralland's company. Miss Mysie Devine makes a charming Alesia, and sings her various numbers with much taste. As the doll-maker, Hilarius, Mr. Harry Brayne ably sustains the traditions of the part in the humorous line; Mr. Arthur Cozens acts well and sings pleasingly as Lancelot; Mr. Fuller Allen, who manages the company, is a dignified Baron Chanterelle; and the fine voice of Mr. Walter Balfour does ample justice to the songs of Father Maxime. Mr. Arthur Dennis as Loremois and Mr. E. Mooney as Balthazar ably portray two types of character. Miss Edith Hunter is a pleasant Madame Hilarius, Miss Doris Dickens an attractive Henri, and Misses Alice Roche, Hettie Cornwallis, Nina Zambray, Aima Heath, Dora Dickens, and Nita Cree are well placed in the other female parts. An able chorus, including a clever male-voice quartette, give fine effect in the various concerted numbers, and the augmented orchestra is well managed by Mr. H. H. Shaw.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Mussett.—A novel turn heads the bill here—that of Monsieur Gadbin, who allows an Argyll motor-car, with passengers, to run over his hands, feet, and back. Frank Bernard and company in an amusing telephone sketch, *Hello!* are well received; Marie Duma, the well-known operatic prima donna, sings two ballads in pleasing style; Carl, the comedian *à la* Little Tich, is a quaintly-amusing character, and having now recovered his valuable bulldog (which was missing at the week-end) the climax of his turn goes well. The Three Merills are smart and daring cyclists; Horace Jones, the new Welsh comedian, gives a football recitation; the Clarkes contribute a high-class selection on the banjo; the Two Cromwells are clever little girls in juggling feats; and the Sisters Lavender sing and dance well. The latest films are also shown on the Bioscope.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—A capital bill of fare is provided here this week, the chief attraction being the engagement of Paul Conchas, the famous Continental juggler, who gives a daring and marvellous display. Fred Ginnett and company provide the amusing equestrian act, entitled *Rejected Remounts;* while the efforts of Little Zola, eccentric comedian, meet with deserved appreciation. Arabella Allen gives clever impersonations of the best-known characters in the works of Charles Dickens; and Sterry and Morgan are seen to much advantage in *The Newhaven Fishwife* sketch. Other acceptable turns are contributed by Harry Leybourne, mimic; the Kitapika Troupe, in Japanese mélangé; Little May Orchard, comedienne; W. S. Ellwanger and company, sketch artists; and series of new pictures by the Hippodrome Bioscope.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The enterprise of the management here in securing Miss Ada Reeve has been amply rewarded, and crowded houses have twice nightly evinced the utmost enthusiasm for the dainty comedienne, who comes well provided with catchy songs. Rastus and Banks are a clever coloured couple, the acrobatic feats of the gentleman being marvellous; Muir and Bartlett's company in *The Collar Stud* provides some enjoyable complications; Little Dando's eccentricities are much appreciated; and that clever comedian Jack Pleasants keeps the audience in roars of laughter. Barton and Franklin give a smart musical turn; Queenie May is a young singer with a pleasing style; Dolly Golden dances neatly; and some clever songs are contributed by Gena Mason.

Coliseum. — Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Mr. Fred Karno's company repeats the performance of *Moses and Son,* which proved a great success at this theatre last week. Mr. Fred Kitchen being now busy rehearsing in the Grand pantomime, gives place to Mr. Albert Bruno in the chief part, and he proves a first-rate successor. Cora Corina, a charming comedienne, sings and dances tastefully; the Glenroy quintette gain liberal applause for their well-executed national dances; Clarice Netta displays a fine soprano voice in "The Dear Homeland"; and Percival is humorous and clever in a pianoforte recital. Parker and Parr sing duets with taste; Mr. Walker conducts a fine overture selection; and the Bioscope pictures this week are not by any means the least pleasing item of the programme.

Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—A programme of all-round excellence is submitted here this week. Horace Wheatley is the principal attraction, and had a capital reception on the opening night; the Martelloni Troupe of lady acrobats also made a good appearance, their performance being greeted with rounds of applause. Other notable members of the company include Ted Saunders, mimic; Stanley and Vandyke, comedy artists; the Gilbeys, instrumentalists; Kathleen Gray, comedienne; W. C. Webber, basso; Billy Hobbs, comedian and dancer; and Harris and Worth, comedians.

Harmonic Concerts.—Musical Secretary, Mr. Wm. Biggam.—Bendon's Animatograph, with an interesting series of pictures, creates much enthusiasm; Tom Bassett proves an amusing comedian in his Shakespearean burlesques; Nellie Hughes does well in song and dance; Sam Thomson and Harry Dalton score as Scotch comedians; the efforts of the Mackinnon Family are loudly applauded; Harzadon and Cole appear in their sketch, *A Lucky Mistake;* Carl Volta exhibits wonderful sleight-of-hand achievements; Bishof and Vale, comedians; and Harry Jennings, song and dance artist, also contribute to a good programme.

GLOSSOP. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. Dickie' Clare's company, in *Lucky 'Liza,* is here this week. The piece is most cordially received. Mr. Clare as Silas Slim and the Judge handles those characters in a clever and humorous manner; Mr. T. W. Benson (Peter Pettitoe) and Mr. A. W. Thompson (Barny Blatherwick) give capital studies; Mr. Leonard Maitland as Paul Pettitoe brings down the house with his drolleries; and Mr. H. A. Griffiths is very good as William Biffins. Miss Madge Browne sustains the title-rôle in a clever manner; Miss Vesta Brownie is an excellent Virginia Blatherwick; Miss Bella Russell an effective Marie Pettitoe; and the Esmond Trio of lady vocalists and acrobatic dancers are one of the features of the performance.

GLOUCESTER.—Palace.—Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—The programme is headed this week by the Atlas Troupe, society athletes, who provide an interesting show, in which Miss Vulcana shines prominently; Airoy is a smart juggler and hoop roller; Violi is a clever lady instrumentalist, whose selections are of the popular order; Percy Vere and Edith Royal are a good pair of patterers, vocalists, and dancers who score well; Karr and Kooney are old friends with new business; and Miss Alma Curzon has some effective songs, excellently sung. Carl Rosine does some neat conjuring; Wirson, in a daring head and hand-balancing act, meets with approval; as does Yetta, in the cake-walk on the wire; Carl Lynn proves a capital animal mimic; and Lozelle is a sensational gymnast. The bioscope adds to its popularity each week.

GOOLE.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John B. Tomlinson.—Mr. J. H. Clyndes' company is here on a second visit, with the romantic play, *A Royal Revenge.* Mr. J. H. Clyndes gives an exceedingly fine performance as Esteran Alveraz. Mr. Fred G. Ingleby is excellent as the heroic Manuel Mondega. The part of Nicholas Vargas has an able exponent in Mr. John Foxhill. Mr. Henry Edlin causes amusement by his boisterous performance of Michael Sancha; he is ably supported by Miss Annie Stewart as Paquita. Mr. Percy Horton gives a dignified portrayal of the King of Spain. Miss Aimee Grattan-Clyndes is to be highly commended for her admirable representation of Cora Caselda. Miss Ethel Whitely is seen to advantage as Mother Maria Teresa. Mr. Arthur F. Dudley is a capital Azan, and Mr. Leslie Parker is well placed as Friar Dominie.

GRAVESEND. — Grand Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. David Hart.—On Friday, the 30th ult., the general manager, Mr. David Hart, held his annual benefit, which was an enormous success. This week good turns and good houses have been the order. Larola, the funny man, has been doing great things; Ada Parker, coon songstress and dancer, has been successful; A. E. Clifford has proved himself a versatile vocalist; Orpheus is a clever instrumentalist and a master of melody; L. B. Athol, comedian, and Rose Cabani, comedienne, have both received their share of applause, whilst Princess Pauline, comedienne, an old favourite here, is more popular than ever.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Royal Aquarium.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—The sensational play, *No Man's Land,* performed by Miss Ida Millais' company, is the attraction here for the week. Mr. Henry Herne as Harry Oaklands gives a vigorous and manly rendition of the rôle; and Miss Ida Millais is natural and sympathetic as Mary Bathurst. Mr. Frank Denis is excellent as the evil genius, Silas Moore; Mat Marsden is capitally represented by Mr. A. G. Lyton; Mr. H. Pyne Warburton cleverly depicts the two brothers, Gilbert and Norman Bathurst; Dr. Buxton is admirably acted by Mr. Mallalieu; Mrs. Poodle is capably played by Mrs. Mallalieu; and Thompson and Bessie Poodle are amusingly presented by Mr. Alfred Byron and Miss Nancy Mitchell.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert.—Austin Rudd, eccentric comedian, wins much applause for his well-rendered songs; Stack and Milton give a clever show on the horizontal bars; and Fioretti and Elly win loud applause in their speciality act. Other artists appearing are John Yelding, equestrian; Mlle. de Roche, operatic singer; A. T. Boswell, negro comedian; Stanley's Urchins, in song and dance; and the Boy Doodles and Dan Gregory, clowns.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright. —*The Still Alarm* is being played here this week by Messrs. Mathew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company. Mr. Mathew H. Glenville delineates with masterly skill the character of Jack Manley, and Mr. Fred Osmond is highly amusing as Dr. Wilber. Villainy is capitally personified by Mr. George Arthur as John Bird, and the part of Willie Manley is in the capable hands of Mr. Tom Beasley. Mr. Lewis Gordon acts well as Franklyn Fordham, and Mr. J. Sutton Pateman as Joe Jones deserves mention. Miss Maud Warburton is all that could be desired as Elinor Fordham; Miss Hetty Zillwood is also successful as Carrie Wilber, and Miss Mabel Veriton is a capable Mrs. Manley. Songs are introduced with success by Miss Hetty Zillwood, and the Lyric Comedy Four are also applauded.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Heading the bill here is a grand cinematograph reproduction of the great Moir-Palmer Fight. Messrs. James Willard and company present an amusing dramatic sketch, entitled *Did he Deserve It?* which is well received. Minnie Wren has a good reception for her selections; Bishop and Vale score with funny patter, and give a good tumbling display; Master Harry Baley, in illustrated song: Marvello, society entertainer, and Mozetto, juggler, are also in the bill, and their performances are appreciated.

Pavilion Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—The company here includes Tennyson and Wallis, comedians, who score with their singing and amusing patter; Lorne and Rene, in a Lancashire singing sketch, entitled *Capital and Labour,* cause hearty laughter; Gertie Gitana commands the heartiest applause for her excellent vocal method and charming appearance; Lottie De Abbey is much applauded for her singing; the Calcotts submit a clever musical dancing act; Tom Leo, the lazy comedian, is also good, and the Paviscope pictures complete the bill.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—Wilson Barrett's last play, *Lucky Durham,* has repeated its former success here. Mr. Edmund Kennedy still presents the central character, John Durham, with dignity and earnestness; in Miss Alice Esther Belmore an altogether charming Helen Vallerton is seen; whilst Miss Louisa Gourlay is a sympathetic exponent of Mrs. Durham. Mr. Arthur Leigh contributes quiet, but effective, humour as the Hon. Reginald; and others who may be mentioned are Mr. Robert Forsyth as Lord Mountfallon, Mr. A. E. Walker as Mr. Vallerton, Mr. Powell James as Arthur Walcombe, Mr. W. F. Clitherow as Ben Verstein, Miss Frances Wolviston as Lady Mountfallon, and Miss Florence Dulhunty as the Hon. Margaret.

Curry's Tivoli. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Charles Dare's troupe of minstrels give a capital entertainment here. The singing is exceptionally good, and there is abundance of variety in the turn; Otto and Olga, besides proving expert instrumentalists, introduce capital comedy and operatic burlesque; the Athlones, a couple of splendidly proportioned athletes, submit a series of classic poses and muscular manipulations; Les Uniques are prominent in a gymnastic act; and others appearing are Beatrice Willey, flower vocalist; the Sisters Terry, comediennes and dancers; Esta Stella, comedienne and eccentric dancer; Woodhouse and Wells, comedians; and Ted Waite, eccentric comedian.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—In consequence of their great sucess last week, the Savonas are retained for this week's programme, and they present a variety of musical novelties. As the Elliots, the troupe perform their smart cycle act. George Prince, a favourite eccentric comedian here, has added to his reputation; Zaro and Arno perform on the horizontal bars; Kahn and Kahn present new illusions; Ingram and Irving appear in a sketch, *The New Office Boy;* and others taking part are F. S. Hulme, comedian; and R. Dunning, ventriloquist.

The Hippodrome. — Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. T. Haydn Reano.—Animated pictures occupy the greater portion of the programme, new subjects being shown. In addition, Ivy Deane, comedienne and dancer; and the Gelders, illusionists, appear.

GUERNSEY.—St. Julian's Hall.—Lessee, Mr. C. Robt. Perkins.—Mr. Arthur Nelstone and company with "The Season's Novelties" appeared here on Thursday, the 29th ult. The Lieut.-Governor and a distinguished gathering were present. The entertainment was exceptionally bright, fresh, and attractive. Mr. Arthur Nelstone is irresistibly humorous, and his dramatic sketches are exceedingly clever. Able support is given by Miss Kate Walbran, who is not only possessed of histrionic ability, but is a brilliant reciter. Special praise is due to Mr. Ernest A. Thiel, a born mimic; he is also a clever singer and pianist. Miss Naidee Girelle's singing, acting, and dancing are most enjoyable.

HALIFAX.—Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Mr. Wm. Maclaren and powerful company are attracting good houses here this week with *Claudian.* The fine stage presence of Mr. Wm. Maclaren (who acts the title-rôle) makes him a great favourite; while Mr. Douglas Earle is much admired for his sterling representation of Agazil; the villainous rôle is assiduously interpreted by Mr. F. Owen Chambers as the impetuous Tetrarch; Mr. S. Brisco Farbridge is responsible for the Holy Clement, a part he plays with much success; Mr. Edmund Cragan is followed with much interest as the sculptor, as is the Symachus of Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree. A good deal of delightful low comedy is infused by Mr. C. T. Chaloner into the rôle of Belos; and as Eddesa Miss Maud Garth cannot be too highly commended; while Miss Lily C. Bandmann maintains her claims on Halifax players by her sweet portrayal of Almida.

Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The Marvellous Craggs had a rousing reception here on Monday, when they opened with *Billy, the New Steward of the Channel Queen,* a farce that abounds in byplay and startling pyramid trickery. Marlo, who ably deputised for May Glenn, is a juggler of more than average ability; Ernie Myers was in great form; Bliss and Bliss, comedians, met with a cordial reception; while Bert Byrne was all that could be desired; Estio and Luigy gave a novel football exhibition, assisted by a sagacious bulldog; Lily Lonsdale, a delightful ballad vocalist, also captivated the audience.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—A pleasing turn, brimful of bright comedy, is provided here by Donaldson Bros. and Ardel in *A Zoological Comedy.* The Leotard Bros. are as whimsical as ever, and score heavily; adequate excitement is contributed by the Davis and Gledhill trio of expert cyclists; local adepts have a rare chance to distinguish themselves, for there is an open competition. Johnny Hall and company, in their latest ultra-farcical absurdity, entitled *Our Betsy,* are well received; Geo. Leonard, comedian; Woodward and Walton, the rag-time experts, together with Mayon and Marle, in a vocal duologue, *Elizabeth and the Baby,* are assured of success.

HANLEY.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Messrs. Melford and Polini's company opened here on Monday in *The Silver King.* Mr. Fred Davis as Wilfred Denver is powerful; as Nellis Denver Miss Daisy Scudamore is most successful; Mr. Edward J. George is seen to advantage as Jaikes; and Mr. St. George Lowther as the Spider is effective; Mr. Arthur Wright as Combe is well placed.

Grand.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—Harry Ford leads the bill this week, and scores a distinct success; the Abdullah Troupe of Arabs provide a wonderful acrobatic performance; the Di Pace Bros. are seen in a smart musical act, playing really good music; Spry and Monti, in their scena *The Dandy Guardsman,* are well received; Fred Mulvey and Minnie Miriam contribute an interesting comedy act; Little Ganty is successful; Anna Kenwick provides a pleasing turn; and Madge May is a comedienne of merit. The pictures are new and quite up to date.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of this week we had the third visit here of the ever-popular comedy, *The Marriage of Kitty,* this time presented by Mr. Howard Cochran's company, and an excellent one it was. Mr. Cochran played Sir Reginald Belsize very well, and had an excellent partner in the person of Miss Margaret Damer as Kitty Silverton; Mr. Cecil Wilford made a very good John Travers, the family solicitor; Miss Betty Castle was a fine Mme. de Semiano, and won many laughs by her clever performance; Miss Helen Kay Robertson gave a clever study of the French maid, Rosalie. The piece was well staged. For the rest of the week, Miss Adria Hill's and Robert Ayrton's company, in *A Gambler's Daughter,* was announced.

HARTLEPOOL. — Empress. — Proprietors, Messrs. Everton and Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The principal attraction her this week is Zertho and his dogs, a show that is full of humour; the Raglus Duo, eccentric lawn tennis ball manipulators, are amusing and smart; as vocalists, instrumentalists, and patterers the Wed burns created a favourable impression. Other turns are the Three Sisters Lee, vocalists and acrobats; Will Bell, an expert dancer; Dan Robans, a pleasing light opera vocalist; the Bros. Carpos, in a clever acrobatic act; Dr. Ernst and company, in a musical scena; Alec Kendal, a capital comedy patterer; and the Bioscope.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—A week's visit was opened on Monday by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company in the American drama, *At Cripple Creek,* and a well-filled house gave its first production here a very cordial approval. The company travel excellent scenery, and the piece is well staged. Mr. Stanley Bedwell filled the rôle of Joe Mayfield efficiently; Miss Agnes Verity gave a clever portrayal of "Dynamite" Ann; Belle Gordon is pleasingly played by Miss Lily Beagle; Maggie Mason has a lively representative in Miss Daisy Carlton, and is successful in a duet and dance with Reggie Harwood—a part played by Mr. Will Hook with much ability. Little Rosie Hopkins as Little Tatto proves an especially clever little lady, and drew a determined encore for her song of the "Apple Orchard." Mr. Arthur D. Layland displayed much agility as Wahketah, and his sensational rescue of Tatto received due recognition from his audience. The ruffians of the Creek had able exponents in Mr. Chas. H. Lester as Martin Mason, Mr. J. G. Maine as Manuel Alvarez, and Mr. Sydney Benson as the Nigger Ben enlivened the play with his seasonable humour, songs, and dance, which obtained much applause. The remaining characters had suitable exponents.

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welcomed his reappearance. The man in blue finds an excellent counterpart in Mr. Arthur Reynolds. Miss Mary Hay is a capable and capital Aurora, whilst Miss Hebe Bliss is a delightful Lady Bickenhall. Mr. Chas. McLagan is responsible for much of the fun that prevails when Cookie Scrubbs is on the stage. The music runs with a merry swing, and the chorus, thoroughly efficient, render adequate aid.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*A Woman's Pluck* is just the play to please a popular audience. To Miss Grace Lester is given the task, which she fills with much skill and prowess. As Roger Pippin Mr. Dicky Bird makes a hit; Miss Helen Elman is a pronounced success as Lady Dare Devil; and Mr. Fred Norburn is equally at home in the dual rôles of Jim Daremount and Mark Scouler.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Terry and Lambert successfully top the bill; the Ten Dixie Girls furnish a bright and entertaining terpsichorean and vocal act; J. W. Ellison is popular in some excellent songs; Pete and Minnie contribute an amusing turn, *The Scotchman's Visit to London*; the juggling feats of Salsuma are exceedingly smart; Maude Clifton is a nice vocalist; Tom Dunmore also contributes.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Zelda, an expert musical turn, tops the bill. The Prinellas appear with much success in *A Country Flirtation*; Vera Mayne's songs meet with success; T. C. Callaghan is an old Empire favourite. Other artists include The Shamrocks, a clever trio, in songs and dances; Fred Dice, Amy Allnutt, and Jean Rae.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Appearing here are Hackenschmidt (who was unable to appear after Monday on account of illness), De Wynne Bros., Macarte Sisters, Conway and Leland, Dion Wade, Fred Keeton, Two Cymros, Clark and Glenny, and Leyton and Spurling.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures have just entered upon the ninth week.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Crowded houses have nightly appreciated Mr. Fred Melville's drama during the past week. Mr. Henry Lonsdale gives a manly and vigorous performance as George Madison, and a charming and sympathetic Lucy is found in Miss Nellie Bonser. Mr. Louis Hector depicts with considerable skill the callous nature of Charles Devereux; and the unscrupulous adventuress, Lady Lucretia Lancaster, has a clever impersonator in Miss Octavia Noel. Mr. Beresford Whitecombe makes a dignified Sir George Lancaster, and Miss Barbara Cott is excellent as the Mother Superior. The comedy element is in the capable hands of Mr. Fred de Vere as Timothy Tuttett and Miss Jenny Fitzherbert as Patty Lovejoy.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Messrs. Phelps and Tilbury's company is here with *His Dishonoured Wife*. Mr. Chas. H. Phelps's reading of Frank Lindon is a good one; the Florence Lindon of Miss Belle Tilbury is also praiseworthy; Mabel Lindon is charmingly taken by Miss Mabel Hall; Miss Amy Dalby is quite at home as Alice Harvey; and Mr. Laurence Brien displays ability as Neil Locksley. Mr. Harry Tilbury is successful as Mickey Doolan, being ably assisted in the comedy line by Miss Millie Doris as Araminta.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Knightall.—Leon and Leoni, in a clever musical act; Willard's Merry Mannikins; the Danvils, in good illustrated songs; Emay Leycester, an acceptable serio and dancer; Geo. Russell, comedian; and May Tudor, descriptive vocalist, make up the programme here this week.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—*The Youngest of Three* is being played here. Mr. Maltby, the author, in his original part of George Wendover, plays with intense feeling. Mr. Wyn Weaver is a youthful and impetuous Gerald Wendover; Mr. W. Reginald Favell does justice to the rôle of Philip Radford; the comic element is well emphasised by Mr. T. Candler as Prynne, the innkeeper; and Miss Janet Hudson gives a finished portraiture of Annie, Miss Mara Maltby rendering good assistance as the sister Florence.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The programme here for the current week is of a varied and attractive character. The Two Whiteys, Continental acrobats, are warmly welcomed; J. A. Wilson, assisted by his clever performing dog, "Private Towzer," elicits repeated applause for his singing and clever business. Other items include Phillips and Merritt, in an amusing comedy act; Picitt and Lisette, in a magical pantomime extravaganza; Collins and Rice, speciality artists; Joe Humphreys, vocalist; Florence Schuberth, an accomplished singer; and Barnard's Mannikins.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jerold E. Reed.—The attraction here this week is Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company with *Bound to Win*. Mr. Kimberley gives a manly rendering of Harry Lyndon; Mr. Charles Vivian plays Philip Ayre with power; Mr. E. Bikker is quite at home in the rôle of Squire Forbes; Mr. Allen Charles is an excellent Horatio Buffit; Mr. Charles Coventry smart Joe Blake; Miss Eva Elwes makes the most of the part of Gladys Orme; Miss Violet Langley is a charming Marian Forbes; and Miss Trixie Toole a good Winnie.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessees, J. Bannister Howard, Ltd.; Business-Manager, Herr B. Parizer.—Played with the freshness of a new production, Mr. Brandon Thomas's excellent company has been here again this week presenting *Charley's Aunt* in capital style. In the ever-favourite part of Lord Fancourt Babberley, Mr. Stanley Cooke is irrepressible, and maintains the fun of the piece throughout. Mr. Hastings Lynn makes a spirited and energetic Jack Chesney, and Mr. Richard B. Mason does justice to his part of Charley Wykeham. Mr. Walter Beaumont is responsible for an inimitable performance of Stephen Spettigue, and Mr. Sydney Compton as Brassett presents a college scout to the life. Mr. C. B. Keston undertakes successfully the part of Sir Francis Chesney. Miss Lena Macnaughton is quite at home as Donna Lucia D'Alvodorez; Miss Lyllian Lait and Miss Kitty Carew maintain with charm the parts of Kitty and Amy respectively; and Ella is daintily and gracefully acted by Miss Eva Boyne.

LANCASTER.—ATHENÆUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hook.—Mr. F. R. Benson's North company opened on Monday in *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. Henry Herbert gave a fine reading of the part of Shylock; as Portia, Miss Dorothy Green was tenderness itself in the love scenes with Bassanio, and full of dignity and keen force in the trial scene; Bassanio had a suitable exponent in Mr. Charles Francis, and the Prince of Morocco gave Mr. Reginald Davis an excellent chance of displaying his elocutionary powers; Mr. Dagnall was dignified as the Duke of Venice; Mr. Gerald Ames displayed sympathy in the rôle of Antonio; Mr. Henry Morrell was well-placed as Lorenzo, and Jessica was nicely interpreted by Miss Louise Graeme. Messrs. E. Spencer Leach, Philip Merrivale, and Mark Draper as Gratino, Salanio, and Salarino respectively, all did well, and Miss Mary Webb was quite suited to the rôle of Nerissa. *As You Like It*, *Macbeth*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *School for Scandal*, *Henry V.*, and *Hamlet* are also in the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Martin.—A varied and interesting programme is arranged for the patrons here. Mr. Chas. Prelle is deservedly the star turn, and his canine circus is a marvellous performance; Henri Cazman in a scena, "La Café Chantant," is a smart conjurer and quick change artist, and the Westwood's comedy cyclists perform some clever feats. Florence Yaymen is a capital burlesque coon singer; the Brooklands are expert dancers; Miss Florence Elliott is a pleasing soprano, and the King's College Boys sing nicely. The Hippograph, with new pictures, completes the bill.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. and C. Fell; Manager, Mr. John Fell.—Another attractive programme is arranged here, at the head of which are the Danbys, comedians and dancers; Chant and Chant, comedy vocalists, are well received, and the same remark applies to Alfonzo, the tranka wonder; the Sisters Valli supply a pleasing musical turn; Sterling and Cashen; Alf. Bishop, comedian; Rena and Rex, comedy artists, and Lady Fauntleroy, in a clever ventriloquial act; not forgetting the Edison-Swan pictures, all win hearty applause.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—Mr. Ian Maclaren and his Shakespearean répertoire company are paying a welcome return visit to Leamington this week. On Monday the company gave an admirable interpretation of *Romeo and Juliet*. Mr. Maclaren gave a highly interesting and extremely artistic study of youth and passion in the character of Romeo. Miss W. Beresford submitted a very meritorious impersonation of Juliet, which was greatly admired. Other performances worthy of note were the Mercutio of Mr. Alfred Grey, the Friar John of Mr. P. Vavasseur, the Peter of Mr. Philip Gordon, the Benvolio of Mr. R. H. Stevenson, and the old Capulet of Mr. F. Stafford Dawson. Other pieces given during the week are *The Merchant of Venice*, *As You Like It*, *Othello*, *Julius Cæsar*, and *Hamlet*.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—*The White Chrysanthemum* had on Monday a cordial reception from a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Frank Curzon's company includes those popular favourites, Mr. Horace Mills and Mr. W. H. Rawlins, and their encounters in the respective parts of Lieut. Chippy Belmont and Admiral Armitage are invariably provocative of great merriment. The dashing sailor-lover, Lieut. Reggie Armitage, is presented in attractive style by Mr. F. Pope-Stamper. Mr. O. E. Lennon is very successful as the comic little Chinaman, Sin Chong; and Mr. Harry Paulton, jun., depicts the irrepressible Private Perks with characteristic humour. Miss Ruth Lincoln charms all with her delightful renderings of ballads; that accomplished danseuse, Miss Katie Vesey, acts with grace the rôle of an American heiress; and Miss Daisy Le Hay is a fascinating Betty Kenyon.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—The Royal habitués recognise an old favourite in *The Span of Life*. Mr. R. S. Treiawney plays the part of Richard Blunt in manly and convincing fashion; the villainous Dunstan Leech is a portrayal of skill and power by Mr. Sanderson Moffatt; Mr. James Jarrow shines as Joshua Gurnet; a charming portrait of Kate Heathcote is presented by Miss Ella Wilmer; Miss Phyllis Hamilton is well placed as Mrs. Jelf; and Mr. Walter Dale and Miss Kitty Russell revel in their light comedy parts. In the sensational incident of the Human Bridge, the acrobatic powers of the Stebbing Bros. are seen to advantage.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—The distinguished actor-musician Van Biene brings his famous piece *The Broken Melody* once again, which, though nearing its 5000th performance, is still drawing full houses. Mr. Van Biene's Paul Borinski is a study of rare dramatic fervour; the part of Mabel is played with sympathy and tenderness by Miss Lena Burnleigh; the rôle of General Ivanoff has a capable exponent in Mr. Henry Ludlow; Mr. Charles A. Morgan merits praise for a clever delineation of Dickson; and good support is also given by Mr. Faulkner Cox, Mr. Lawrence Grove, and Miss Rosemary Rees. The one-act comedy *The First Night*, was announced as an additional attraction for Friday evening.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Whit Cunliffe leads the Empire bill this week, and with catchy new songs, rendered in faultless style, is very popular. A famous entertainer of the old school, Ashcroft, known as "the solid man," makes a reappearance, winning the appreciative plaudits of crowded houses; the clever young lady juggler Selma Braatz, has a big reception; a diverting comedy sketch by O'Malley and Brown is a popular item; the praises of cricket are sung in clever style by Fred Holland; Baker and Balfe, an accomplished pair of xylophonists, earn loud plaudits; Mason and Bart are seen in a diverting comedy speciality; the Hayes Brothers score a success; and a Continental speciality by the Kurios goes well. That charming character-vocalist, Ethel Ra-Leslie, is also in the bill and doing well.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barraford; Managers Mr. Claude Shayler and Mr. Chas. Weldon.—In an interesting and varied programme, Lydia Yeamans is a prominent feature, with a very pleasing vocal and character turn; John Tiller's troupe of juvenile dancers (the Manchester Mites) contribute a clever performance; Gus Harris makes a favourable impression as actor-vocalist; Fred Cullane's comedy quartette provide an acceptable turn; Stelling presents a remarkably intelligent dog; a novel and amusing turn is that of Les Rallis—"the artist and his monkey"; and capital entertainment is also subscribed by Gillin, novelty ventriloquist; Walker and Lake, an eccentric comedy pair; Helen Martin, an accomplished vocalist; and Charlie Williams, the clever negro comedian.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Fred W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sam Jones.—That popular lady, Marie Kendall, is the star attraction at the Varieties, singing a number of new songs with success; a diverting comedy sketch by Conway and Garland is a much-applauded item; operatic selections by the Three Royal Temples are much enjoyed; the comedians Charley Dixon and Steve McCarthy, are smart and effective; Robbins and Collier present an excellent musical speciality; a novel act by the Saletos is interesting; and Nelly Farrell sings ballads in delightful style.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business-Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—A full house here on Monday evening accorded a hearty welcome to Messrs. A. and S. Gatti and Charles Frohman's company in *The Belle of Mayfair*. The dressing and staging call for high commendation, as do also the excellent company and chorus that take part in a really good show. Miss Alice Russon plays and sings delightfully as Julia Caldicott, and Miss Joan Keddie as Princess Karl is a success. Miss Filley Cunningham as Corrie Fay, Miss Barbara Huntley as Lady Chaldicott, Miss Rosa Sneli as the Countess of Mount Highgate, Miss Dorothy Hanbury as Lady Gussop, and Miss Blanche Massey as Lady Rocksley are each to be complimented on performances of all-round merit. Mr. Charles McNaughton gives a clever and humorous portrayal as Sir John Caldicott, and Mr. Percy Yorke as the Earl of Highgate lends excellent assistance. Mr. Wensley Russell as Hugh Meredith makes a hit with his dancing; Mr. Vernon Davidson is good as Raymond Finchley, and Mr. Robert Whyte, jun., does well as the Comte de Perrier. Mr. Trueman Towers as the Bishop of Brighton gives an excellent portrayal. The orchestra has been specially augmented, and adds to the success achieved.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—Miss Frances Delaval and company in the new and original drama, *Her Lost Self*, provide an excellent attraction here. The principal part of Philippini Marcel is played by Miss Frances Delaval in a powerful and successful manner, and both Mr. Herbert Cecil as Wilfred Daventry and Mr. G. Osmond Tearle as Norman Esmond are good. Mr. Leslie York is capital as Paule Kimberley, as also is Mr. Fred Lillywhite as Victor Elsworth. Both Mr. Jimmy Stewart as Tom Flyaway and Miss Hettie Stewart as Bridget Mahone are well placed in the comedy parts. Miss Clara O'Sullivan in the dual rôles of Lucile and Dorothy is good, and Mr. L. W. Halfpenny as Abraham Cohen, and Miss Edmund Lyons as Rachel Cohen are to be complimented. Special praise must be accorded to Miss Tiny Carrie Johnson, a very small comedienne, for her songs and dances.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—The great attraction here this week is John Tiller's company in the musical farcical burletta, *High Jinks; or, Fun on the Sands*, which is presented in a most elaborate manner, and proves thoroughly enjoyable. The company work hard, and to Mr. Bob Selvidge and Miss Bessie Cohen special praise must be accorded. The ventriloquial turn of Clemart is entertaining, and Paulinetti and Piquo give, with success a unique gymnastic conception; H. O. Wills is a low comedian of ability, and Lillian Warren, as usual, does well as a pictorial songstress. Maud Ross, comedienne, and Will Mitcham, musical comedian, maintain their popularity. The American Bioscope is showing the usual excellent and entertaining pictures.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—Fred Southern and company, the popular sketch artists, entered on their third week here on Monday, and scored their usual gratifying success with their sensational sketch, *Falsely Convicted*, and the merry trifle, *The Private Hotel*. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope makes a big hit with up-to-date pictures. Ellis and Watts are amusing comedians and smart dancers. The other artists entertaining are the Sisters Ford, duettists and dancers; Lillie Le Breton, trapeze artist; and the Levines, speciality artists.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. G. Stanyon.—Mr. Will Catlin's Royal Pierrots bring their season of a month's duration to a close to-day.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company is paying a return visit with a new version of *The Indian Mutiny*. Mr. George Steel presents an admirable assumption of Lieut. Manley; Mr. Chas. Boult gives a capital portrayal of Ra Goonga; Mr. Cyril Harrison is a strong, effective Captain Manley; Mr. Villiers Stanley does full justice to the part of Nebu Singh; Miss F. Melrose Millet cleverly interprets the part of Ghuznah, the Brahmin priestess; Mr. Cecil Morand is highly successful as Teddy O'Brien; Mr. John Davidson is all that can be desired; Miss Agnes Kingston is a charming Kate Ingleby; Miss Lily Grey strongly portrays the part of Mrs. Major Ingleby.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee, Mr. Ph. Bennett; Business-Manager, Mr. J. Larder.—After undergoing many vicissitudes this hall was re-opened on Monday night, with the title of Palace, as a theatre of varieties. The new management has made a good bid for popularity, a capital programme being submitted on the opening night, headed by Mike Cray, eccentric juggler. Miss Marie Elsie, comedienne, is accorded a hearty reception; the Lancashire Mill Lads are warmly applauded for their fine singing; Miss Cara Magda is a clever gymnast; Miss Marie De Voy, character vocalist, sings in excellent style. Other turns are Mr. Frank Whiteley, comedian; Adelina, impersonator; and The Camerons, in a comedy sketch, *The Ploughboy and Lady Guide*.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—*The Worst Woman in London*, which ranks among the greatest of Mr. Walter Melville's many successful melodramas, is well played here this week by Mr. Tom Taylor's company. In the rôle of Frances Vere, Miss Florence Dalton misses none of the opportunities for powerful acting provided by a trying part. Mr. George Gaisford, eminently satisfactory as Jack Fenton, is ably seconded by Miss Elizabeth Watkins as Ruth Milford; and strong support is also rendered by Mr. C. R. Stone, Mr. Leonard Booker, and Mr. P. Barry Lewers, who appear respectively as James Milford, Philip Armstrong, and Vincent Lyle. The other performers, in a cast which includes some thirty characters, give a good account of themselves. Some novel and ingenious stage effects are well contrived and cleverly worked out, and the drama receives a good all-round interpretation.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank King.—A very effectively-staged melodrama is *The Prodigal Parson*, which is well done by Messrs. Garrod and Northway's company. Mr. W. V. Garrod is a strong Tom Godley; Mr. Alfred Northway effectively presents the scheming Enoch, and Mr. W. Hayward is good as Ben Jaggins. Miss Vera Fordyce as the wife, and Miss Gladys Conover as the child, win high favour; and the comedy could not be in better hands than those of Mr. Herbert Newton and Miss Lydia Hart. Mr. W. Vincent makes a prominent figure of the murdered Ned Kettlepin. Miss Dot Russell is seen to advantage as a dancer, executing an effective *pas seul* in the Bier Garten scene.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—*Three of a Kind* is intensely amusing local audiences, who have not seen Ethel Arden, George Abel, and their clever combination prior to this week. The Dayton Family are wonderfully smart in a ground tumbling act; Edwards and Dacre pleasingly present a duologue; Grace Langley scores with song and dance; and Millie Denham is also well received. The Alex. Victor Trio of juvenile vocalists present a commendable turn; and Louis Kerno is a comedian of merit. The show concludes with some effective pictures from Raymond's Bioscope.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—*The Dairymaids*, under the direction of Mr. Robert Courteneidge, has been received with much favour here. The interesting and tuneful farce is in the hands of a capable combination of artists, who do it every justice; Miss Violet Lloyd and Miss Rhoda Gordon are a couple of lively dairymaids, taking high honours for their work; Miss Edith Blanche does well as Lady Brudenell; Mr. E. Statham Staples proves an amusing Sam; continuous laughter follows the work of Mr. Harry Dent as Mivens; a capital Dr. O'Bryne comes from Mr. Forbes Dawson; and worthy support is lent by Mr. George Desmond and Miss Rose Musgrove. The staging is particularly pretty, and the dresses picturesque.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—The visit of the Moody-Manners opera company this week has been welcomed by packed audiences. For the first time here the Parisian edition of *Tannhäuser* was given on Monday evening, Mr. Joseph O'Mara, who was in capital voice, undertaking the title-part; Mr. Lewys James acted and sang excellently as Wolfram; Mme. Fanny Moody enjoyed a fine reception for her Elizabeth, which she played with power and charm; Miss Toni Seiter scored a pronounced success as Venus; a dignified and telling Hermann was submitted by Mr. Charles Magrath, and other ably rendered rôles were Biteroff (Mr Halfin), Reinmar (Mr. Brindle), Heinrich (Mr. Tatternell), Walther (Mr. Johnstone), and a young shepherd (Miss Rigby). Nicolai's *Merry Wives of Windsor* was given on Tuesday, with Mr. Manners as Sir John and Mme. de Lussan as Mistress Page; and for the rest of the week *Romeo and Juliet*, *Faust*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *I Pagliacci*, and *The Bohemian Girl* were announced. The conductors of the week were Herr Richard Eckhold and Signor Sapio.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Mr. Augustine Knight's company is here this week with Mr. Hill-Mitchelson's stirring drama, *The Assassin*, which has done good business. Mr. Knight repeats his capital assumption of the rôle of Prince Demetri; Miss Ella Vane plays Countess Wanda with dramatic effect; as Ipanoff, Mr. Edward E. Ashby is manly and forceful, earning hearty applause; Miss Hettie Senior makes a worthy Connie Jonathan; Miss Ada Douglas handles carefully the rôle of Nadine; much laughter is provoked by Mr. Cecil H. Raymond as Baron Alphonse; the character of Captain O'Neil is ably presented by Mr. Edwin Jenner, and the comedy is helped by Mr. Tom Taylor (Peter) and Miss Marie E. Robertson (Katrina).

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—A really delightful and entertaining item is *Casey's Court*, a sketch which deservedly tops the very interesting programme billed here this week. John E. Coyle is intensely laughable, his patter particularly so; the Bollinger's turn is original and deeply interests everyone; Esdale Brothers are good; Boden and Bell are loudly applauded for their clever items; and other artists billed include Blanche Marion, a pleasing comedienne, and the Gladenbecks, clever acrobats.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*I Defy the World*, played by Mr. Julian Malvern's company, under the direction of Mr. Charles M. Julian, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Percy Ballard does excellent as Leon Darville; Mr. Charles Wilton shows much ability of the character of Count Beaulieu; Mr. Alfred Denning is an imposing General Delaporte; Mr. Charles Conway stands out prominently as Laroche; Miss Rosie Dane plays sweetly as Fanchette; Mis Violet Cranfurd distinguishes herself in the rôle of Blanche Darville, and the comedy is in the good hands of Mr. Charles M. Julian and Miss Maud Lilian. The scenery is very appropriate.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—*The 10.30 Down Express*, presented by Mr. Horace Stanley's company, has been received with much satisfaction here. Mr. George Beverley is excellent in the heroic part of Jack O'Malley; Mr. Tom Roydon does every justice to Seth Coombes; Mr. Charles Burdon proves a sufficiently odious James Inderwick; Miss Elsie Capell gives a capital impersonation of Bessie Leigh; Mr. Arthur E. Francis, with his silent acting, as Baggs, the bailiff, causes a deal of merriment; Miss Evelyn M. Walton as Letitia Leigh is quaint and funny; Mr. Alaric Burton plays Cuthbert Leigh, and the greater part of the comedy is contributed by Mr. Horace Stanley as Sam Wagstaffe and Miss Kate Kilpack as Peggy Potts.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—At the top of the bill here this week are the Smart Set, including Miss Hilda Light and Miss Georgie Martin, who provide a really excellent vocal entertainment, which is richly enjoyed. Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholl's company cause endless laughter with their comic tragedy, *The Battle of the Belles*; some smart juggling and balancing is performed by Simosa San; an able little artist is Babs Lloyd, whose coon songs earn for her much applause; remarkable work is done on the wire by the Mackweys; *The Silly Burglar*, a comedy act presented by the Waldrons, keeps the audience in a merry mood; as an eccentric dancer and comedian, Arthur Stacey gives much satisfaction; the Two Dixons appear with distinction as bâton swingers, dancers, and banjoists; Frank Boyce has some good songs; the Four Maisanos are a particularly fine turn, their eccentric playing on musical instruments proving very enjoyable; and constant laughter follows the antics of the Irish comedians, Williams and Warden, who bring a new act, *Mr. Dooley*. Some excellent pictures are shown by the Barrascope.

NEW PARTHENON.—Success continues to follow the British Imperial life-motion pictures shown here by Mr. Anthony Brown.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*A London Actress*, from the pen of Miss Emma Litchfield, is the strong attraction here this week. The Royal stock dramatic company is headed by Mr. Percy Boucher, who is exceedingly droll as Moses Mendoza; Mr. Sydney Grant plays with effect as the villainous Clive Crawford; Mr. Harry Tresham is seen to advantage as Ned Kingston; Mr. Cecil Ravenswood is well placed as Captain Mannering; Mr. Robert Wilton adds much to the comedy with his Pat Maloney; Miss Beryl Ravenswood is a powerful Hilda Langley; Miss Florence Palmer makes a sweet Phyllis Crawford; Miss Sara Blumenthal proves a jocular Biddy Maloney; and also in the cast are Miss Florence Cameron (Rosie Blythe) and Miss Ada Kelly (Mrs. Skinner).

PADDINGTON PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The Royal stock company are presenting here this week Arthur Shirley's powerful drama, *Passion's Power*. Mr. Albert Sember handles with care and satisfaction the rôle of Prince Kandos; Mr. Walter Foster is an excellent General Zuran; Mr. H. G. Brandon is particularly amusing as Felix; Mr. Vincent A. Biscoe does well with Rudolph Laski; and Mr. Frank S. Strickland makes a sufficiently villainous Michael Laski. Of the ladies, Miss Lina Nazeby is creditable in the part of Countess Delauney, and Miss Lilian Burns plays Zorah with discretion.

PARK PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Top of the bill here this week are Flockton Foster's company, with the funny comedy sketch, *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*; the Bros. Hannaway, comedians, vocalists, and dancers, are as smart as ever; some commendable equilibristic work is performed by the Ballot Bros.; George Rae has some funny Scotch songs, and dances well; Myles and May cause a deal of laughter with their act, *The Merry Huntsman*; Cyclo, as a trick cyclist, is particularly clever; and Harry Levane contributes several humorous songs.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Foremost here this week are Ernest Montefiore and company with a neat musical and dramatic scena, *The Little Colonel*; Captain Devereux and his troupe of dogs provide a well-arranged canine sketch, *The Streets of Liverpool*; Carr and Rose (Fred and Ada) render several humorous songs; smart dancing and patter comes from the Brothers Harrison; the Gallery Boy is popular for his songs, and others in the list are Barney Kane, Scotch comedian; and the Campeons, comedy duettists and dancers.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Gus Elen pays a welcome return visit, and causes much laughter with *The Wrong-'un's Bedroom*; the wonderful juggling of Rapoli is watched with interest; Daisy James, to whom a cordial welcome is given, includes in her list of songs, "The Gibson Girl"; Tom and Marie Motramo are exceptionally lively comedy artistes; some pretty singing comes from Les Voces; Beattie and Blanche are a couple of smart comediennes and dancers; a bright comedy scena of singing, dancing, and talk is provided by Maxwell and Francis; the swimming of the Finney Sisters is a novel turn; and Walter King, the doleful comedian, arouses a deal of laughter.

HAYMARKET.—Licensee, Mr. J. S. Childs.—Top of the bill here this week is the sketch *Shaun; or, The Dawn of Day*, presented by Harry Calden; Martin Melia, champion clog-dancer, has had a most flattering reception; Augouste and Lillian, "the lady and the clown," are an amusing turn; and Dulcie Milner sings several good songs in taking style. The Bioscope shows some fine pictures.

OLYMPIA, LTD.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—The fourth and last week of *The Flood*, which has proved eminently successful, is announced; Oswald Williams, the wizard, supported by Miss Winifred La Berle and company, is here, astonishing everybody; Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas present their cleverly-drawn characters from Dickens; the Two Butterflies are smart juvenile gymnasts; the Courtiers provide a very neat vaudeville entertainment; the Henri Taylor trio of expert equilibrists are loudly applauded, and others in the programme are Fred Daniels, comedian; Walter Curtis, comedian, and Ray Maskell, comedienne and dancer.

ROSCOMMON.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Heading the bill here this week is Dandy George, a clever gymnast; Allia, comedian, and Cassati, Tyrolean songstress, give an acceptable turn in singing, comedy, and dancing; Miss Dulcie sings and dances tastefully; Harry Bancroft has some taking songs; and others who appear are Arthur Woodville, comedian and dancer, and Copeland and Son, champion double dancers.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Mr. Fred J. Kirke's company is here once more with *Our Sailor Lad*, *In Old Madrid*, and *The Naval Detective*. Mr. Kirke is not at present in the cast, his parts being taken with much success by Mr. Lawrence Tessier. In the first-named play Mr. Tessier plays Jack Maitland well, Mr. Charles Burns being very good as the Admiral. As Detective Searchley and Alphonse de Britton Mr. Walter T. Hybert works exceedingly hard and successfully; Messrs. Mark Practice and Frank Beaulieu as Slippery Bill and William Fenton respectively are very good. Miss Louie Fountaine is charming as Nell Lindsey; Miss Edith Claris as Jim the Waif is, as usual, excellent; Miss Lily Seymour makes a capital Mrs. Loveman; and the clever sisters Amy and Nancy Shaw do some expert dancing. Miss Annie Burnette as Rita Velois is much to be commended.

NEW EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. W. A. Totten.—The company here this week includes Prof. Goundon, mystic, assisted by Mlle. Dallin; Miss Lilly Devon, serio and dancer; Ashley Beale and Anita Bell, in a funny duologue; Ella Kirk and Will Randell, in *Actors in the Park*; Harry Bentley, the popular comedian; Nellie Camp and Vincent Millis, Eileen Conroy, and the Gartell Trio.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—*A Nobleman of Nature*, presented by Miss Hettie Jeffries and company, is the attraction this week. Miss Jeffries as Vera gives a clever rendering, and earns well-deserved applause; Olga, in the capable hands of Miss Evelyn Terry, is well portrayed; Mr. Whitmore Ledger as Prince Ivan gives an excellent interpretation, and Mr. Geoffry Broughton is good as Barry Forsyth. Mr. Clifford Spencer is humorous as Bill Drinkwater. Other parts are well sustained by Mr. Tom Handly as Philip Hampton, and Miss Agnese D. Aragon as Mrs. Bouncer.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—This week we have the first visit locally of Messrs. Shinton and Greenwood's company in the drama *The Price of Her Soul*. The action of the play takes place in Russia, and the various situations are well worked up by an able company. Mr. John B. Shinton presents a manly and well-thought-out study of Lord Rolf Mandeville; and Mr. Annesley Hely is exceedingly well cast as Skoboloff. Miss Ada M. Ryder enacts the part of the Countess in an earnest and convincing manner. The humorous element is well sustained by Mr. Will Percy (Pat Murphy), Miss Ethel Rainforth (Polly Perkins), and Miss Grace Garside (Lady Fraser).

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—*Two Little Drummer Boys* is being played here this week by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's No. 1 company. Mr. Frank Fuller faithfully portrays General Kingsley; and Mr. Fred Emery is good as Captain Frank Carsdale; Mr. Archie Helsby makes a capital Captain Geo. Darrell; and in the part of the Rev. John Rivers Mr. Harry Greenburn gives a very fine performance. Miss Edie Macklin wins hearty plaudits by her artistic rendering of Molly Meadows; Miss Mildred Eversleigh, as the general's daughter Alma Kingsley, wins favour by her dignified impersonation; and Miss Kathleen Magee successfully portrays the difficult rôle of Drunken Meg. The play is well staged, and appreciated by fair houses.

MACCLESFIELD.—THE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Good houses have marked Macclesfield playgoers' appreciation of Mr. Percy Norman's excellent production of *A Woman Worth Winning*. To Miss Maud Buchanan, who undertakes the name-part, every praise is due for the manner in which she acts, ing. Mr. G. Standing as Amos Pauloff is admirable; and Mr. A. B. Mackay as Fergus Lorinski gives a fine portrayal; whilst Mr. P. Norman in the part of General Borinski gives a realistic impersonation. Good work is done by Mr. E. H. Eldon as Bertie Scribbles and Mr. E. C. Edwards as Peter Popples; and the parts of Corporal Peteroff and Ivan Bardoff are well played by Mr. W. Davies and Mr. A. Alexander. Miss Ida Mackay is sprightly as Katerine.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr Edmondstone Shirra.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson and company opened here on Monday in a well

equilibrists; Horan White, an entertaining ventriloquist at the piano; Stanley and Greenop, in a banjo speciality act; Victor Travers, a popular comedian; Trippello, a fine player of the saxophone; and Nina Gordon, mimic and society entertainer. The bioscope depicts "Cabby's Dream."

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—A fine programme here this week is headed by the famous Kremos, a troupe of daring Risleyists, who do wonderful things; a big reception is accorded also to Ludwig Amann, whose character impersonations are of a most entertaining quality; Edward Lauri and May Beatty add an amusing musical protean mélange, *In Her Boudoir*; and other smart turns are by the Delomes, phantom clog-dancers; Adler and Sutton's Pierrots, a clever combination; Stanley and Greenop, banjoists; Amy Russell, vocalist; Matthews, Cowper, and company, in a comedy sketch, *When the Clock went Wrong*; the Tomboys, on the bioscope; and two pleasing items by the choir.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Captain Devlin's Zouaves are here this week in a first-class exposition of lightning drill and wall-scaling, and meet with a good reception; the Six Brothers Luck are also to the front in their highly amusing absurdity, *Blazes*, and create no end of laughter; Hetty King, an exceptionally good male impersonator, sings three capital songs in taking style, and is enthusiastically received; Martin Conway, of "Walk round, Martin" fame, is a first-rate comedian, with plenty of good business; Maidie Scott is a nice singer; and Daisy Martell, comedienne, dances neatly. Other smart turns are those of Colby and May, in a clever ventriloquial and dancing act; Ted Cowan, Frank Lynne, and Will Johnson, comedians, all good in their own particular way. The bioscope pictures are excellent.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Charming Annie Purcell, a favourite comedienne, is the bright particular star here this week, and delights with several well-sung songs, including "By the Zuyder-Zee," and is greatly appreciated; Mabel Osborn and Gordon Brookes score a big success in *The Motorist and the Maid*; Ruby Bijou dances daintily; Mlle. Helene D'Aubigny, soprano vocalist, receives a flattering reception; and the Maples, comedy speciality artists and dancers, are capital. Others who offer enjoyable items are Bert Harrow, a very droll comedian; Ada Martine, comedienne; Marco, boy magician and illusionist; Young Vento, descriptive character vocalist; and Flo Velma, comedienne. Raymond's Vivagraph pictures complete.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Milton Ray's company of comedians are at the head of a good programme here this week, in a first-rate musical farcical comedy, entitled *The Cruise of the Calabar*, full of catchy music, pretty dresses, good singing, and effective scenery. Principal parts, all well sustained, are in the hands of Messrs. Arthur Milton, Fred Russell, Joe English, and the Misses Minnie Mulvey, Hetty Lind, and Lillie Ward. Tony Ivison entertains in a quaint manner at the piano; Agnes McKellar is a good singer; Linton, the Mexican wonder, is clever on the tight-rope; the Wiltons are smart coon dancers; and good turns are also contributed by Ford and Hanson, in musical act; Will Walton, comedian; and Ranji and Valeria, illusionists.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Highly successful here this week are Wyndham and Waters, as *The Professor and His Pupil*, in a comic act, well received; Bean and Bell are up-to-date entertainers; and Janette Hall, lady baritone vocalist, is a first-rate singer. Master Joe Conway is a smart comedian; Will Letters, comedian, does well; and France and Francis are clever acrobatic comedians. Good turns are also given by Davis and Davis, patterers; Ray Royal, contralto vocalist; Tod Lovan, comedian; and the Sisters Bartholomew, duettists and dancers. The bioscope is very amusing.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Percy Honri, after a most successful week at the Queen's Park Hippodrome, is at the top of the bill here this week, and presents his effective sketch, *Concordia*, in his usual brilliant manner; another excellent turn is William Jackson's musical extravaganza, entitled *London to Tokio*, introducing excellent vocal items, Japanese and other dances, and comedy business by the Eight Lancashire Lads, assisted by Alma and Rose, and Percy Linton. Well received also are Cribb and Cribb, in an original comedy scena; Maston, a smart mimic; and Bert Dawson, a particularly funny comedian. Enjoyable items are contributed by Sylvia Martin, lady horse trainer; Maud Vera, descriptive vocalist; and Ada Fawn, the popular comedienne. The bioscope film is excellent.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield Theatre Company; General-Manager, Capt. Cecil Clayton.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's company in *When London Sleeps*, occupied the boards here the first three nights of this week. Mr. C. P. Wentworth gave a capable portrayal of the part of Capt. Rodney Hayes. Miss Mabel Scudamore has proved a powerful actress in the part of Queenie Carruthers. Mr. Sam Arthur was good as David Engleheart. As Lelia, Miss Josephine Melbourne was successful. Miss Maude Yorke was admirable as Hilda Carode, and Mrs. Edgar Colona gave a fine rendering of the part of Signorina Jonesio. Bob Jones (Mr. F. E. Thomas), Sammie Blythe (Mr. D'Arcy Kelway), Hon. Bertie Broomhead (Mr. Frank Howard) were all capably sustained, as was also the part of Carrie Jones by Miss Bessie Frank.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Director, Mr. Tom Jennings.—Rezelle, the daring gymnast, has given a thrilling turn here; Carl Howard, the mad conjuror, is amusing; Lily Foy is appreciated; Hans and Lux give a good turn; and the Bioscope displays up-to-date pictures.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Exclusive Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Business-Manager, Mr. A. Austin-Leigh.—The stock company has staged this week the old play, *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, and although seen times innumerable in Margate, it has been received with marked favour by fairly well-filled houses. Mr. A. Austin-Leigh has made up well and played excellently as Robert Brierley; whilst Mr. G. W. Elton has been a success as Melter Moss, the Jew fence. The part of Hawkshaw the detective has been effectively sustained by Mr. Frank Stone; and Mr. Boyd Pearson has successfully depicted the rascality of James Dalton. Miss Helena Millais has made a bright and engaging Sam Willoughby; and Miss Emmie O'Reilly has been conspicuously successful as Mrs. Willoughby. Miss Katherine Harrington, in the rôle of May Edwards, has played well; and the remaining characters have been efficiently sustained.

MERTHYR TYDFIL. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Lewis Gilbert.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company is here this week, with *Her Nameless Child*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn plays Anthony Ford with considerable ability; and Miss Pattie Hastings is conspicuous as Phyllis Ford. Other principals in the drama are Mr. T. K. Gwyn Richardson as Archie Ford, Mr. Ellerslie Pyne as Lord Henry Woodville, Mr. John A. Levey as Mongrole, Mr. Alwyn Sawyer as Tone Rivers, Miss Grace Harlington as Bessie Brooks, Miss Beatrice Dover as Sarah, Miss Madge Trevelyan as Crayout, and Miss Grace Jones as Lady Sibil.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—The variety programme submitted here this week, includes Tamamoto, Japanese acrobat; Keane Harker, eccentric comedian; Moto, on the slack wire; Winnie Wentworth, comedienne; Shavo, comedy juggler; Marlino, the man-frog; and the biograph pictures are as usual interesting and very amusing

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. F. Wybert Clive's company is this week presenting *The Conscript*. Mr. E. Bellenden Clarke gives a manly rendering of Karl Truevitch; Paul Hardiski has a capable exponent in Mr. Chas. E. Johnson; Mr. Walter Steele scores a success as Ivan Manloff; Mr. Sydney is most acceptable in the rôle of Maxim Freda; and Mr. Wm. Head makes the most of the part of Doggervitch. Miss Lilian Ross plays with sympathy and earnestness the character of Nadia Truevitch; Mrs. Chas. Wood is well placed as Dame Katinka; Mr. Beckell Gould displays a sense of humour as Tretch Troloff; and he is cleverly supported by Miss Connie Meadows, both contributing songs and dances.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—*The Life of a Showman* is staged here this week. The central figure is Brien Leader, and it would be difficult to find a more qualified interpreter than Mr. George Testo-Sante, co-author of the work with Mr. Charles Darrell. In the second act the Bros. Testo cause much laughter with their songs and patter, as does also Comical Walker. Mr. Evan Roland is fully adequate in the part of Sir Noel Hartland; and a clever representative of Laurie Gray is found in Mr. J. G. Sante. Miss E. Bamford as Lena Hartland gives a particularly sympathetic interpretation; and Miss Amy McNeill as Agatha Winter proves herself to be a very capable actress. The scenic effects are altogether very pleasing.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—Mr. Harold V. Neilson and his company produced *The Perfect Lover* here on Monday. Mr. Harold Neilson as Joseph Trembiett reveals brilliant powers as an actor. As leading lady, Mr. Neilson has with him Miss Beatrice Forbes-Robertson, whose natural ability as an emotional actress gifted with artistic restraint is given full scope in the character of Lillian Trembiett. Miss Renne de Lestrade gives a capital interpretation of the rôle of May: and Mr. W. Lemmon Warde submits an admirable study of the unscrupulous company promoter. Mr. Lewis Willoughby is exceedingly good as Lord Cardew; and Miss Dorothy Milne is a decided success as Martha Trembiett. Mr. John Dotliy does full justice to the part of John Collis; and Miss Elizabeth Watson leaves nothing to be desired as Hon. Susan Lisson. The other members of the cast all perform their parts in a creditable manner, and the scenery and costumes are exceedingly pretty.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Briil; Manager, Mr. Charles Rembges. — The management of this place are to be congratulated upon the excellence of the programme provided here this week. One of the principal successes is the turn given by Cordite and Buffalo, Mexican lasso and rope spinners. The illuminated spectacle in "Electra's Bower," by Alma Abdullah and La Superbe, is well received; as harmonious vocalists and dancers the Silvertone Quartette prove a decided hit; Mr. Oscar Luck's company in the dramatic episode *Kismet* are very interesting; and the Alskarno troupe of acrobats are warmly applauded. Maud Marlow, dancer, pleases; and Will Lytton, comedian, does well; J. H. Crew, comedian also adds to the programme; and the film "A Wedding on Bicycles," causes much laughter.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf Graham.—The principal turn in an enjoyable programme this week is *The Enchanted Iona*, which is presented with much success by Chas. Fraser and company; Bob Hamilton, a Scotch comedian, finds great favour with the audiences; and the humours of Tom Parker create a good deal of merriment. Emmie Ames, with her original mechanical toy wonder, is well received; and Bernaro provides a clever juggling turn. Walter Emmerson, comedian, does well; and Dorothy Clarke does some good singing. Other items are ably supplied by Prebend and the Palascope.

NEATH. — CASTLE THEATRE.—Mr. Will Haggar opened here on Monday to a large house with a stirring drama, entitled *Our Guardian Angel*. Mr. Haggar makes his mark as Jack Daryll, his rendering of the part being perfect. Miss Jenny Lindon as Zedia is a charming actress; Mr. Jas. Haggar and Mr. Arthur Stanley respectively are responsible for the comedy element, and keep the house in uproarious laughter; Mr. J. W. Desmond is a capital exponent of the villainous Captain Massy; Miss Kate Sylvester scores a success as Sarah Green; and the remaining parts are in the capable hands of Messrs. Geo. Stanley, H. Templeton E. Meadows, J. Chapman, Miss Giddings, and Miss L. Templeton.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. F. W. Sutcliffe.—Capital fare is provided this week by Mr. A. H. Canby's original company with *The Prince Chap*. The hero of the play, William Peyton, is admirably impersonated by Mr. R. H. Roberts, who acts with great power. Mr. Victor Widdicumbe submits an enjoyable study as Marcus Runion. The part of Claudia is in three different hands, the first two representatives being remarkably clever children, Miss Olga Hope and Geraldine Wilson, who act with much natural feeling; whilst in the concluding stage Miss Lorna Lawrence gives a sweet, lovable rendering of the character. Miss Marie Wright makes a happy maid of all work, Phœbe Puckers; and the part of Alice Travers is well sustained by Miss Ethel Hollingworth. Mr. A. E. Greenaway, Mr. Wilfred Draycott, Mr. Leonard Robson, Mr. Albert Powers, Mr. Ivan Berlyn, and Miss Kathleen Kelly are all excellent in their respective rôles. The play is preceded by a clever little comedy, *The Girl from Biarritz*, in which Mr. Leonard Robson, Mr. A. E. Greenaway, and Miss Lorna Lawrence take part.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing - Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting - Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham. — For the wind-up (except for a matinée performance on Thursday of next week, of *David Garrick*, by Sir Charles Wyndham, Miss Mary Moore, and company) of a brilliant and successful dramatic season at the Theatre Royal, Mr. Frank Curzon presents *The Girl Behind the Counter*, just as it was played for a long season at Wyndham's Theatre, London. The powerful company includes Mr. Hayden Coffin and Miss Isabel Jay, two renowned artists, making their first appearance in Newcastle, and to welcome them there assembled on Monday evening one of the largest audiences of the season. Mr. Coffin throughout acted with naturalness, and delighted the house, and his fine interpretation of his several songs resulted in many enthusiastic recalls. Miss Jay also gave a performance that will not soon be forgotten, her fresh, sweet voice being especially heard to advantage in the song describing the man she would love, and in the flower duet with Mr. Coffin. Not upon these two artists, however, does the success of the piece entirely depend, for the company all round is excellent. The ready witticisms and quaint humour of Mr. J. F. McArdle as the General caused a constant ripple of laughter; and from the Dude of Mr. G. Davy Burnaby to the Office Boy of Mr. L. Victor, the Waiter of Mr. George Barrett, and the Monsieur Duval of Mr. F. Allandale, nothing but praise can be accorded. Miss M. North is a charming Millie Mostyn; as Ninette Miss Helen Rose sings and dances most acceptably; and Miss Kathleen Courtney proves a great favourite as Susie; while the part of Lady Willoughby is ably taken by Miss Violet Crossley.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clarke.—On Monday evening Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds' company presented Wilson Barrett's play *The Golden Ladder* to a crowded audience. Mr. Vivian Edmonds plays a strong heavy lead in the part of Michael Severn in admirable style; Mr. W. Clayton makes a typical Rev. Frank Thornhill; Mr. Joseph Rowland shows fine acting as Samuel Peckaby; whilst Mr. Graham Winsford as M. Peranza lends adequate support. Miss Mary Austin's rendering of Lilian Grant is sympathetic and altogether excellent; Miss Mimi Edwards as Mrs. Peckaby is well sustained; whilst the child's part of Lily by Miss May Eddis deserves special praise.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bacon and Bolam; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—*Dare-Devil Dorothy* is being presented this week by Mr. Henry Swinerd's company to good houses. Mr. H. C. Barry is the life and soul of the piece; he scores all the time he is on. He is capably supported by Miss Nellie Harcourt, who enters into her business with infectious gaiety. Miss Dorothy Desmond in the name-part pleases both by her acting and singing. Other members of the company include Mr. Walter Boyce, Mr. Walter Ashley, Mr. Hy. C. Ward, Mr. Arthur Hartley, Mr. Deane Cliffe, Miss Mabel Blake, Miss Lillie Blake, and Miss Marie Vere.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Andrews.—Mr. Fred Karno's company, with *The Gaol Birds*, is paying another visit here. The Arthur Lloyd Trio, in a sketch where twin sisters cause much diversion by reason of their similitude, create great amusement. George Newburn, the well-known mimic, is awarded a flattering reception for his well-studied imitations of well-known artists: the Grisse Bros. have a comedy act, *Fun on the Tiles*; Haidee Lee and Wallace Kingston another, entitled *Practical Joking*, both of which go merrily. Other turns include Charles Pastor, comedian; Hall and Earle, acrobats; Frank Harwood, actor-vocalist; and the Bioscope.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The Kentucky Four are top of the bill this week, and are in great favour with their coon and plantation songs. The Colombia Comedy Trio are just such another combination, only theirs is a serio-comedy mélange and full of amusement. Ross and Crayson are clever comedy artists, and score heavily; Laurie Wylie gives a good show with his mimicking mannikin; the Beau Ideal Troupe of Juveniles are eight smart youngsters, who give songs ,duets, and dances all above the average; Harry Thurston is a clever impersonator of notabilities of the stage; the Schiavouks' acrobatic turn is neat and clever; Walter Bishop and Fred Hanlon are a couple of knockabouts, who perform merrily; Miss Billie Burford, comedienne; the Musical Silvos, and the Barroscope pictures complete a good programme.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Norman V. Norman's company is playing *Robin Hood* here this week. The Forest scenes are exceedingly pretty, and the instrumental music lends a charm to the performance that is delightful. Mr. Norman V. Norman acts with grace and vigour the part of Robin Hood; Miss Beatrice Wilson as Maid Marian is simple and natural; and as Richard Cœur de Lion Mr. Dennis Cleugh shows much earnestness. Mr. Brember Wills as Simon Hardmyst does well, and as Sir Wm. Trusty is effective; Mr. Saml. Wilkinson, jun., is clever in the part of the Sheriff of Nottingham; and Mr. Francis Hope's Friar Tuck is amusing low comedy, as is also Miss Sybil Ruskin's Clorinda. Miss Dorothy West-Symes makes a good Isabella; Mr. Kenneth Bruce plays the Earl of Huntingdon and Little John satisfactorily; *Nell Gwynn* is billed for Wednesday, and on Friday *Lady Ursula* will be played.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—La Milo is proving so attractive here as to fill both houses nightly; Cruickshank executes some clever caricatures of statesmen; Ted and May Hopkins receive a warm welcome; and the Stein-Evetto Troupe do some marvellous feats in balancing. Barton and Ashley keep the house in roars with their comedy; Cliff Rylands has a novel way of saying funny things; and Arthur Reece is applauded for his tuneful ballad; while Amy Sullivan, a pleasing artist, and the Bioscope complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Seddon. Mr. Walter Melville's combination is here this week with *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Mr. Chas. Franmore is very successful as the old farmer, John Meadows; Miss Beaumont Collins realises the character of Barbara Wade with dramatic force; Mr. Wilson Gunning plays well as Jack Gunning; Mr. Gerald Jordan as Cuthbert Lumley, and Mr. Fred Withers as Luke Ramsden are a couple of consummate scoundrels; Mr. Frank Brunell as good as Dr. Weston; Miss Nannie Meade is a capable Nellie Meadows; and Miss Jessica Black does well as Constance Cornell. Mr. Fred Ingram as Toby Turvey and Miss Lena Delphine as Tilly Vane supply the comic relief.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—The drawing-room entertainment of J. P. Ling is good, and meets with hearty appreciation; the Five Abadaroffs provide a good acrobatic show; Lambert and Hands are capital duettists; Hall and Wilson exploit a miniature cycling racing track, and prizes are offered for the successful competitors; C. Vincent presents some new pictures; Pearce and Ward succeed as speciality artists; Pollie Denton is a very pleasing comedienne, her singing and dancing being loudly applauded. and Counsell and Mills appear with success in a musical burlesque, *On the Stage*.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—The boards here this week are occupied by Mr. Esca Garrick's company, which opened on Monday evening with *Drink*. As Coupeau Mr. Charles Carte presented a satisfactory portrayal of the character. Miss Doris Brookes was seen to advantage as Gervaise, the remaining parts being sustained by Messrs. Richard Thorne, Edgar Hayes, Max Madden, Bert Osborne, Ernest Leigh; Misses Alice Ballard, Rose Conroy, Winnie Francis, &c.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould).—Miss Daisy De Roy, the popular comedienne, is with us again this week, and is having a cordial reception. Mrs. Thompson Wood's juvenile stars in *The Gipsy's Holiday*, score a distinct success. Mr. Walter Leverto, the dancing marvel (who appears in place of Mr. Barney Stuart, indisposed), is clever; and Kyoto, the Japanese entertainer; Miss May Geraldine, comedienne; Miss Bessie Travis, ventriloquist, and the Bio-photoscope all meet with favour.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Herbert Hollister's excellent company is here this week in *The Lights o' London*. Mr. C. F. Collings as Harold Armytage plays with much earnestness; Mr. Raymond Thomas is good as the villain, Clifford Armytage; Mr. Herbert Hollister as Seth Preene deserves every praise; Miss Jennie Burgoyne is excellent as Bess; whilst Mr. Herbert Lewis, Miss Violet Temple, and Miss Renée Douglas as the Three Jarvises do well in their respective parts.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—An amusing programme is given this week. John L. Shine and his excellent company, in their comedy sketch *Hogmany; or, a Tale of New Year's Eve*, are very good. The Hanlon troupe of acrobats, in their aerial performance, are clever; George French is a successful comedian; Helen Charles is very entertaining; whilst Bennett and Martell create much fun in their nautical sketch *The Lost Mariner*. Bernard and Martell are good comedians; and the Carina Sisters are pleasing in their musical mélange. The Sisters Brenton are charming comediennes and dancers; and the Hippodrome Biograph is an attraction.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robt. Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt* was presented here for the first time on Monday by a capital company. Mr. Reginald Dance's work in the title-rôle is distinguished at all points; Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton gives a vigorous portrayal of Colonel Rayner; Mr. Edward Coutts makes the most of his small part as Lord Woolham; Mr. Geo. A. Seager, as Bartholomew Cardick; and Mr Russell Barry, as Goddlestone, handle their parts skilfully; Miss Gladys Mason, who is especially happy in showing the frivolous side of Lady Clarice, throughout gives a conscientious reading; Miss Mary Weigall looks imposing as the Marchioness; and Miss May Brooke aptly assumes the acerbity of Lady Clementina Desborough; Miss Eve Titheradge supplies an admirable impersonation of the lively Aggie Coles, and smart representations are also given by Misses Agnes Gunn, Dorothy Haigh, Helen Tytler, and Muriel Mason. The play is preceded by *The Drums of Oude*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—*The Silver King* is drawing large audiences, and the capable company of Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford is having a warm welcome. Miss Victoria Addison gives dramatic intensity and pathos to the part of Nellie Denver; Mr. Herbert Ford, as Wilfred Denver, shows an excellent grasp of the character; the Jaikes of Mr. Tom Paulton is a sound embodiment; Mr. Charles Baird excites keen repugnance as the villainous Skinner; and Mr. Henry Osman cleverly supports him as the wily Elijah Combe. Mr. Claude Vernon acts with care in the part of Corket, and Mr. Arthur J. Rooke is good as Baxter. Miss Viola Holland aptly assumes the part of Olive Skinner, and Miss Amy Wood makes a good impression as Tabitha Durden. Cissy and Ned are nicely played by Miss Jessie Apted and Master Eric Dene respectively.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—Principal place this week is occupied by Lil Hawthorne, whose smart costumes and vivacious style call forth abundant manifestations of approval; John Le Hay and company provide an excellent mirth-provoking sketch, entitled *Blind Beggar*; hoop-rolling and club-juggling by Hale and Francis receive well-merited recognition; and a clever performance is given by Corbyn's dogs. The humorous items of E. J. Sheldon cause plenty of laughter, and the songs of Hesketh Meade gain added interest from a series of animated pictures; the Rerfern Sisters dance attractively, as also does Maudie Ford; the Althoffs submit a comical sketch of musical surprises, and the American Bioscope completes the programme.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Harry Starr and his company are paying a return visit here. Mr. Starr, who is well known to local theatre-goers, retains his popularity in the triple rôles of Frank Granville, Costermonger Joe, and Miss Giggley-Flighter in his new musical drama, *The Unseen Power*. Mr. Edwin Firth appears with success as Antonio Romano; Mr. F. Graham is an amusing Horatio Cracklesby; Miss Ella Crossley is good as Lucretia Granville; Miss Madge Blundell (Anita Romano) and Miss Kate Norris as Chris Granville are both deserving of praise.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—A large and enthusiastic audience was present on Monday evening to witness Servais Le Roy's mystical play, *Lady Kinton's Necklace*. A strong and well-balanced company, in charge of Mr. W. Scott Phipp, does full justice to the play, which is full of mystery and magic; Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco perform some wonderful and interesting tricks, which delight the audience; and Miss Talma is fairly entitled to the title of "The Queen of Coins"; Mr. Stafford Smith appears as Lord Kinton, and he makes a success of the part; Mr. John S. Chamberlain is capital as Bothwell Daraville; and Mr. Frank Melrose is good as the villainous Professor Le Gros, being well supported by Mr. Henry Danson as Robert Fenton; Mr. Robert A. Innes plays very well as Rufus Merivale; Miss Queenie Fraser Brunner is sweet and sympathetic as Lucie Daraville, while Miss May Harley is excellent as Mary Grey, and, later, as Lotty Mayday; Miss Marie Ault causes a large amount of merriment as the eccentric Annie Jones, and able assistance is rendered by Willie Atom as Billy Brighton.

COLOSSEUM.—Manager, Mr. W. Eastwood.—Messrs. Garside and Knowles opened here with *The London Fireman* on Monday. Mr. J. Forbes Knowles gave a manly rendering of the part of Hal Curtis and Colonel Fleming; Mr. Oliver Birrel was excellent as the villainous Viscount Fleming, and Mr. Ed. L. Garside was also good as Ratty; Mr. Wm. Burgess scored a success in the part of Abel Fortnum, and Mr. Walter Wilbey was admirable as Joe Bluener; Mr. Harry C. Momber played Nixey Stinger in a humorous manner, being well supported by Miss Nelly Garside as Polly; Miss Nelly Shirley did well as Ida Curtis, while Miss Nellie Waddington was capital as Countess Fleming, and Miss Beatrice Sinclair played Grace Curtis in an able manner.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—A capital programme is submitted this week, at the top of which are the Achmed Ibrahim troupe of acrobats, who earn much applause; the Three Boccaccios, including Signor Francia, mandolinist, are excellent vocalists and instrumentalists; Barrett and Knowles are capital vocal comedians; Madam Roma's six Imra juggling girls give a smart turn with the clubs, and the Primrose Quartette harmonise very well; J. W. Rickaby, character comedian, is well received; and Barrington is an expert musician; Tennie and Laune have a capital vocal scena; and the Rajah's Casket is depicted on the Royal Dottoscope.

HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Nuttall.—Marie Blythe is appearing here in her latest creation, and is highly appreciated; Emma Don and her Comedy Team are capital; Halma performs some excellent juggling feats; Vandinoff is a smart painter; Percy Curry, comedian, causes much laughter; and the Brothers Brooks are good comedians; the Sisters Brand are unique comedians and dancers; and Les Steckels give a refined gymnastic display. An interesting series of pictures is being shown on the Dottoscope.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. C. Dorrill.—Mr. Edward Terry is this week paying his annual visit, opening on Monday with *Liberty Hall*. Mr. Terry was seen at his best as the lovable William Todman, and gave a most delightful performance. He was well supported by his capable company. Mr. Allan Pollock's quiet, incisive acting as Mr. Owen met with much favour; Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., was exceedingly good as Gerald Harringay; Mr. W. Dexter as the repulsive Mr. Briginshaw acted well; and as Mr. and Miss Hickson Mr. G. Howard and Miss Ella Dixon both scored; Miss Fyfe Alexander and Miss G. Tate were delightful as the Misses Chilworths, and quite took the fancy of the house; and Miss Eugenie Vernie duly emphasised the character of Crafer. *The Magistrate* and *Sweet Lavender* are also billed.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bentz.—*The Middleman* and *Saints and Sinners* are being played here by Miss Elaine Verner and Mr. Harding Thomas's company. In the former play, Mr. Harding Thomas, who displays much dramatic skill, gives a fine portrayal of Cyrus Blenkarn; Joseph Chandler is effectively embodied by Mr. Frank Lyndon; Mr. Percy Brown acquits himself well as Captain Julian Chandler; Mr. Edward de Vere is distinctly successful as Batty Todd; Jesse Pegge has a humorous representative in Mr. Edgar Kent; Mr. Max Jerome contributes a clever study of Sir Seaton Umfraville; Danaper is ably undertaken by Mr. Jenu Comley; Mr. Guy Dene makes a capital Mr. Vachell; Mr. Arthur Neilson is good as Epiphany Danks; great praise is due to Miss Elaine Verner for her natural and charming portrayal of Mary; Miss Ada Clark plays Nancy capitally; Miss Maud Beard makes an acceptable Mrs. Chandler; and Miss Ruby Romer is quite satisfactory as Maud Chandler.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Wilson.—Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas score with their clever original sketch, *Her Birthday*; Carlton, card conjurer, submits a novel and amusing entertainment; and others contributing to the programme are David Poole, ventriloquist; Blanche and Powell, society entertainers; Max Rubens and Mlle. Dora, in a musical change scenic production; Ray Forde, comedienne and dancer; Sisters Lotus, juvenile duettists; Charles Banks, comedian, with a well-trained dog; and the Hippodrome Bioscope with amusing pictures.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Delno Fritz.—This week, which is the last one under the present managership, the company engaged includes Mlle. Sylvesto, in an unique specialty act; Mike Murphy, comedian; Jack Brindale, comedian and dancer; the Two Cliffs, acrobats and hand balancers; Bella Enwick, serio and dancer; Fred Collins, Scotch comedian; and Brothers Lawrence, comedians and dancers.

PERTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Miss Lillian Bezant's company in the American domestic drama, *An Actor's Romance*, is here this week, and is proving a great success. The characters worthy of special note are Mr. E. Eardley Howard's Harold Davenport, Miss Florence Nelson's Florence Hastings, and Miss Marion Ryder's charming Phyllis Davenport.

PETERBOROUGH.—ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—This week we have Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in *Florodora*. It would be difficult to improve upon the Tweedlepunch of Mr. Gus Danby. Miss Daisy Lake as Dolores gives a clever and attractive performance. Mr. Colin Johnson is a capital Cyrus W. Gilfain. Mr. Howard V. Cropton an admirable Frank Abercoed, and Mr. H. Carnelley-Joye, a capable Captain Arthur Donegal. Miss Dorothy Dempster is a charming Angela Gilfain, and Lady Holyrood is well played by Miss Rosa Sullivan.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Mr. Charles March's vaudeville company is the attraction here this week. Mr. March's cleverness in his embodiments of nine distinct characters is highly appreciated; Dick Thomas, the Welsh comedian, is appreciated; the Colonials take well in their comedy scena, *The Tramp's Intrusion*; and the Bioscope winds up a very entertaining programme.

PORTH. — THE PALACE (LATE OPERA HOUSE).—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Good houses have been the rule here this week, and the programme is an exceedingly good one. The Cattaneos troupe of acrobats deserve praise for their marvellous performance; Sam Redfern scores heavily, and is undoubtedly a big favourite; Ronald, Bayne, and Evelyn Hope, in a historical duologue, *An Emperor's Divorce*, is being highly appreciated; Jean Seul, illusionist, is well received, his performance being watched with the keenest interest; Perci Galino, in a clever musical pot-pourri, is enjoyed; Ethel Yorke, the charming and refined comedienne, scores a success with her fine songs; Tom Garland, the Welsh national ventriloquist, delights the audiences; and some very pretty pictures are shown on the new electric bioscope.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—The comedy, *Public Opinion*, is the attraction here this week, played by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's capable company. Miss Hutchison, appearing as Lady Diana Caldershaw, sustained the part very cleverly, making her points with telling effect; Pansy Bligh was smartly personated by Miss Nancy Beresford; Miss Connie Dene as Phillis Dagenham, and Miss Violet Harley as Charlotte played their rôles with complete success; Mr. Percy Marshall, in the character of the lawyer, Horace Wibsey, had a part that fitted him exactly; the irascible Spencer Traughton, C.B., was exceedingly well depicted by Mr. Charles Harley; Mr. Fred Lewis as the Hon. Mr. Justice Mulley was admirable; Messrs. Douglas Hamilton, Douglas Greet, and Ashton Pearse, as Sir Babington Mulley, Viscount Poffrey, and Lord Percy Kilgour, were very good in their respective parts. The comedy is preceded each evening by the amusing piece, *The Strategem*.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company in the drama, *The Beast and the Beauty*, is occupying the boards here this week. Miss Alice Bowes as Violet, gives an excellent rendering of an exacting part; Mr. W. S. Hartford in the rôle of Jack Barrymore is most successful in a strong personation; the Earl of Loman is admirably well taken by Mr. William E. Passmore; Mr. Bernard Mervyn is well suited with the part of Henry Denver; Mr. Eric Campbell ably sustains the character of Ned Sampson, and Mr. Harry Talbot scores as the light-weight champion, Tom Chicken. Miss Daisy Gwynne, in the thankless rôle of Delilah Vane, is admirable, and Miss Mamie Rendle causes plenty of merriment in her impersonation of Mimi, the maid of all work.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—A strong company is billed here for the week, John Lawson and company, in their sensational Hebrew episode, being the

personation of Tat Spavvin, the railway porter; Mr. Percy Maitland gives a characteristic rendering of the villain, Luke Dezzard; Miss Carlotta Anson displays much ability as the wife of the innocent man, Dave Stannard, ably impersonated by Mr. Lewis Leslie; and Miss Madge Beresford acts vivaciously as the French Maid.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—On Tuesday, under the distinguished patronage of Colonel Sir Clement Royds, C.B., and Lady Royds, and officers of the D.O.L. own Yeomanry and 2nd V.B. Lancashire Fusiliers, a performance of Leo Trevor's comedy, *Brother Officers*, was presented to a crowded house. The artists one and all acquitted themselves with distinction, coming in for quite an ovation at the fall of the curtain. *The Idler* is billed for production on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The proceeds are in aid of the Cripples' Society and the Blind Society.

Circus and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Co.—The Five M.P.s (Musical Palmers) have always a cordial reception here; their contribution was quite up to the standard, and was thoroughly appreciated. Lady Julia, the ape with the human brain, is an almost convincing proof of Darwin's theory; Miss Barbara McArdle, gipsy maid; Chas. Rowen, comedian; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, the factory nightingales; Jack Truman, tenor vocalist; Monty Walker, Yorkshire comedian; Daisy Almer, comedienne; and Vernon's Bioscope also contribute to the programme.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Crowded houses awaited Miss Florrie Gallimore on Monday evening; her contributions were rendered with quite the old charm. A comedy sketch entitled *The Doctor* was capitally performed by Paul Courtney and Co.; Josie Delaine is a charming dancer and vocalist; Lord Murray and Lord gave a clever exhibition of ball punching and boxing; Renson and Waite, comedy duo; Henri Bekker, assisted by Mlle. Maie, conjuror; Cumminger, sand dancer; Charnleys, comediennes and dancers; and the Empire Bioscope complete the list.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—A complete change is being made here this week in the class of entertainment provided, Mr. J. H. Tomkinson's No. 1 Royal Gipsy Company filling the bill. The first part of the programme is taken up with songs and other items of minstrelsy, and in the second part special turns are introduced by the Rizarelis, lady gymnasts; the Recars, clever Chinese eccentric acrobats; Little Via Lette, a pocket edition of Vesta Tilley; and Mlle. Vanda, a clever lady juggler on the revolving globe.

RUGBY. — Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Drew Mackintosh.—Mr. Herbert Skardon and company are this week presenting the sporting drama, *The Rogues of the Turf*. As Arthur Somerton Mr. Herbert Skardon gives a manly and effective rendering, and Mr. Frank Stanley is good as Sir Gerald Heathcote. Mr. Fred Bentley gives a clever portrayal of the trainer, Joe Flaxman, and as Sam Flaxman Mr. Fred J. Edwards is equally good; Mr. Vivian Charles submits a powerful embodiment of Captain Dudley Clinton, the chief of the rogues; and Mr. Lawrence Power is excellent as Mo Soloman. Mr. Pat Quin as Steve Burton does very well. Miss Marie Fontaine as Nellie Flaxman has a charming presence, and proves herself to be a good actress. Miss Clara Steel is piquant as Phillis Wurzel; and Miss Sidney Crowe as Lady Heathcote displays exceptional ability. As the family lawyer, Mr. Mat Russell is good, and Mr. David Cockney as John Strongham makes the most of his part.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. James Hare's company drew a good house on Monday with the new romantic drama, *A Destroyer of Men*, by Sidney Spencer and Clarence Burnette. Mr. Harold B. Lewis as Count Starevitch, ably assisted Miss Irene Clifford as Olga Mischla to forcibly impress the audience with their stage villainies. Mr. James Hare capitally sustained the part of Karl Mischla; Mr. Ross Warren as Coco Tachoski, and Miss Alice Buckland as Nina Pattacake kept the house in execellent humour; Miss Gladys Lloyd charmingly presented Vidal Raval; and good work was done by Mr. C. Bickell as Michael Mischla. Paul Starevitch and Fedor Strellitzki were carefully portrayed respectively by Mr. Hill Cremer and Mr. Frank Orchard. Mr. Arthur Swain (Colonel Limevitch), Mr. Arthur Conroy (Genl. Drakensburg), and Mr. Alfred Minns (Sergeant Kranz), did well in their various characters.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Under the direction of Ethel Arden and Geo. Abel Limited, *The Little Stowaway* was much enjoyed on Monday by a large audience. Miss Eva Lumley in the title-rôle, and Mr. John K. Walton as the Captain, were excellent. *Always Moving* was another amusing sketch by Ross, Rose, and Rosert. The songs by Alma Obrey gave much pleasure; Florrie Forde sang, "Float me, Charlie," "Oh, Matrimony," &c., which went well; and Marie Weston, speciality dancer; the Sisters Neilson, duettists and expert dancers; Bob Baxter, comedian; and Sisters Cora, in their scena, *Sweethearts*, also appeared.

Royal Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Claude Ginnett and company take up a great part of the time of each house with their equestrian spectacle, *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, and gain much applause; Dorians (two ladies and one gentleman) give an acceptable acrobatic act; a clever sketch, *Fun in a Music Shop*, by Brull and Hemsley (Elsa and Arthur), is much applauded; Agnes Tina is a promising little mimic. Turns are also given by J. T. Macmillan, Scotch comedian; the Four Goldini, expert carpet, &c., spinners and acrobats; Lade Henderson, character vocalist; and Wallie Croker, whistler.

SCARBOROUGH.—People's Palace and Aquarium.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—Juan and McQue top the bill here this week, and as acrobatic comedians give much novelty in the performance; Morrice Holmes, comedian, sings some good songs well; the Schallers as dancers and gymnast would attract an audience at any time; George Adney is a clever character vocalist; Alan McAskell, known as the silent conjurer, introduces some clever tricks; Phil Rees' impersonation of leading artists receives well deserved applause; Madge Maynard has a good voice, and uses it to advantage; as a coster delineator, Fred Buckley shows much ingenuity; Vernon's Imperial Bioscope submits new films of an up-to-date character.

Hippodrome. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Zalva.—The re-appearance of Will Goodwin with his budget of up-to-date songs is a welcome addition to a popular programme; the Boultons are smart in their acrobatic dances; Mlle. Bartenelli gives a novel turn as a contortionist and gymnast, and is well applauded; Arthur Holland, vocal comedian, is well received. The pictures are all up-to-date subjects.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. Charles Watson Mills' company is presenting here this week the powerful melodrama, *A Wrecker of Men*. Mr. Frederick Biron submits an excellent picture of the desperate but withal good-hearted burglar Jim Murley; Pharosaphus is well drawn by Mr. Milner Noble; Railton is a strong delineation by Mr. Millar Anderson; Mr. Stanley Champion plays well as Guise Strange; and the Hon. Reggie Verincourt could hardly be in better hands than those of Mr. Harry Dunning; Eric Melville is well looked after by Mr. Thompson Carruthers; and Marion Isaacs by Miss Gwendoline Talbot. Miss Beatrice Reynolds causes much amusement by her smart rendering of Vavasole Slopper; Doris Melville is pathetically played by Miss Cissie Podmore; and Miss Lucy Sibley gives a strong and clever depiction of Risca Mallison.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—Mr. Ernest Dare's company occupies the boards here this week with the drama, *By Sheer Pluck*. A capital portrayal of Major Desmond is given by Mr. Charles Collins. Mr. Ernest Dare as Richard Desmond plays with telling effect. Capt. Gaspard is powerfully depicted by Mr. Alfred E. Calver. Mr. Geo. P. Lester as Smikes is humorous. Nancy Stuart is pleasingly embodied by Miss M. Lowe-Dare. Miss Ethel Tooney is a skilful Elsie Taber, and as Martha Miss Minnie Thurgate is very good.

SHEERNESS.—The Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—The company engaged here this week is an excellent one. Mr. Harry Royde, the "funny comedian," causes roars of laughter. Miss Josie Watson is well applauded for her well-rendered songs; Mr. H. S. Leggett, comedian and dancer, is applauded, his top-boot dance being excellent; the Nicholsons are a clever comedy couple, and their act, *More Ways than One*, is very laughable. Miss Topsy Levane is a popular favourite, and her songs and dances are greatly admired. The Arundel company appears in a capital comedy sketch, entitled *The Count's Stratagem*.

SHEFFIELD. — Lyceum Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—On Monday, Messrs. Lionel Glenister and Wood-Ingram's company appeared in the delightful comedy, *All-of-a-Sudden-Peggy*. The popular and charming artist, Miss Decima Moore, acted with her accustomed grace and piquancy as Peggy; Miss Annie Brophy was a clever representative of Mrs. O'Mara; Mr. Frank G. Bayly's Lord Crackenthorpe was a good character-sketch; Mr. Lionel Glenister was a smart Hon. Jimmy Kepple; Mr. Henderson Bland submitted a careful study of a military half-pay officer as Major Phipps; and other characters were well played by Mr. Harold Weston as Jack Menzies, Mr. Pat Fitzgerald as Lucas, Mr. H. Phillips as Parker, Miss Violet Barton-Astor as Millicent Keppel, Miss Estelle Despa as the Hon. Mrs. Colquehoun, and Miss Kate Wingfield as Lady Crackenthorpe.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*A Fight for Millions* is being played this week by Mr. Robert Perris and his excellent company. Mr. John Carlyle is first rate as the dashing Tom Manley; Mr. Gus Harding is amusing as Solomon Moses; Miss Alwynne Ermon is a prepossessing and dramatic heroine; Miss Mabel Howe makes a pretty little Madge; and other parts are efficiently played by Mr. J. Schofield, Mr. Hugh Mewburn, Miss Rose Kearns, Miss Nora Kingsley, and Miss Elma Turner. The drama is effectively staged.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—On Monday a cleverly-constructed domestic drama by A. W. Brabner was presented for the first time in Sheffield, under the direction of Mr. T. Arthur Jones, entitled *Life's Sweetest Sins*, and its success was immediate. Some good scenery was provided, and the "submarine" episode riveted the close attention of the large audience. The acting was good all round. Miss Mabel Dent gave a strong and consistent reading of the character of the heroine; Mr. Oswald Douglas ably depicted the duplicity and craft of Dr. Colebrook; and Mr. T. Arthur Jones acted earnestly as Harold Marston.

Empire Palace.—Proprietors, The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—For over a quarter of a century has "the London Idol" frequently topped the bill in Sheffield, and this week Miss Vesta Tilley is again demonstrating to packed houses the value of inherited talent, and sound early training, combined with charm of manner and close artistic study. The bill also includes the famous Brothers Griffiths, in a screaming new act; the Brothers Horne, in their laughable boxing sketch, *The Biter Bit*; Mr. Fred Clements, comedian; the Stavordale Quintette, vocalists and musicians; Mr. Lauri Clare, vocalist; Miss Alexandra Edwin, soprano vocalist; Mlle. de Dio, in her beautiful illuminated dances; Prince Kokin, in his marvellous feats; and the American Bioscope.

Grand Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—Miss Frances Heskall, the Players, and other performers are engaged here, together with Pallister's popular picture entertainment.

Central Hall. — Animated pictures, and the efforts of Mr. W. A. Raby, comic vocalist, and the Sisters Lytton, duettists, please the habitués of this hall.

SHREWSBURY. — Theatre Royal. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. Andrew Melville's company is appearing in the drama, *Driven from Home*, and playing to excellent business. Mr. F. A. Marston as Anthony Raybrook gives a good portrayal of the part, as also does Mr. Andrew Emm as Willie, an outcast; and Miss Rose Ralph is sympathetic as Laura Raybrook. The piece is well mounted.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre. — Sole Leesee and Manager, Mr F. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and M. V. Leveaux's company is this week renewing acquaintance with *The Walls of Jericho*. The company, which is of all-round excellence, includes Miss Florence Jackson, who gives a capital portrayal of Lady Alethea Frobisher. A great local favourite is Mr. George A. Brandram, who, as Hankey Bannister, gives a clever and finished piece of character-acting. Mr. Herbert Bunston plays the part of Jack Frobisher with a full sense of all its possibilities. Miss Lydia Busch (Lady Westerby), and Miss Molly Carton (Lady Derenham) also render able assistance.

Palace.—Sole Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. William Trussell.—Extremes meet here; the appearance of Henri Cot, the French giant, and Prince Colibri, the Russian midget, excite great wonderment. Bob Hutt, in a merry and bright sketch, *Welcome Home*, convulses the audience with laughter, and Harry Cotton excels as a droll comedian. Others who entertain are Harry Briggs, triple-voiced vocalist; the Florodora Girls, vocalists; Tate and Tate, acrobats; and Lytton and Bland, in *A Lesson in Love*.

Hippodrome.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Freece; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold P. Howell.—Joe Peterman's miniature musical comedy, *The Belle of the Orient*, is the star attraction. Mr. Joe Peterman (Ike Novinski), and Miss Florence Vie (the Belle), both scoring great successes. Max Duffex, a clever musical contortionist; Flo Somers, comedienne; Curtis and Vani' wonderful dancers; Bros. Bright, gymnasts; Held and Sagar, comedy artists; and Tiny Arnold, Liliputian comedienne and dancer, also give a good account of themselves.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—This week's attraction is the exciting drama, entitled *Why Woman Sins*, which is produced by Mr. Samuel James's company. Mr. Harry Cullenford is seen to advantage in his impersonation of Lieut. Harry Maxwell; Mr. Jackson Hayes as Capt. Herbert Carlton enacts the villain with skill, and has capital assistance from Mr. George Clarkson as Jem Rainbird. Cecil Spencer is well portrayed by Mr. George Ellis; Mr. Will Skelton provides hearty merriment as Sam Spavins, whose clever impersonation of the Gibson Girl is really successful. Miss Gertrude Netterville in her rôle of Ida Valetta shows considerable ability. The Misses Nellie Sheffield and May Seton are well suited as Lily de Vere and Nancy Nibble respectively, and Miss Hilda Baynton plays Nell Desmond admirably.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. E. Angless; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—It is most gratifying to witness the enthusiasm shown at this popular skating rink, where every comfort is made for both skaters and lookers-on. The first carnival of the season took place on Wednesday evening, when a delightful programme of ladies' and gentlemen's single and double races, as well as obstacle races, was gone through with every satisfaction, and awards were given for fancy dress costumes. An interesting feature on this night was the exhibition of fancy skating by experts, the acting-manager being most prominent. The celebrated Red Band, which appears twice daily, provide capital selections that are greatly enjoyed.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—Messrs. E. Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg's company is appearing here this week in *The Traitor*. Miss Ruth Shepherd depicts the rôle of Zula, the avenger, with emotional power; Miss Isabel Hunt as Lieutenant Nicholas does exceedingly well; Miss Katherine Vere is a vivacious Elsie Duprey; Miss Gwynne Warren portrays the Countess of Zicks effectively; Cen-Cen, the Japanese girl, has a piquant exponent in Miss Lilian Matthews; Prince Rudolph is vigorously represented by Mr. Bensley Evans; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan is well placed as the chief of police; and as the English naval captain, Mr. T. W. Hurst is commendable.

Albert Hall, Winter Gardens.—Lessee, Mrs. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—A capital all-round programme was submitted to a large audience at this popular variety hall on Monday evening, the principal item being supplied by Harry Tate's famous comedians in *Motoring*; the Ringling Trio, American eccentrics, who introduce an highly diverting absurdity, entitled *The Manager's Lunch*; and Harry Freeman, in his latest successes. The programme includes Mona McDonald, comedienne; Slippere, blind pianist and baritone; Dave McNeil, comedian; Angeline, the dancing juggler; Louise Zetland, vocalist; and the Bioscope, with the latest films.

SPENNYMOOR.—Cambridge Theatre. — Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—Monday witnessed the first appearance, locally, of the eminent tragedian, Mr. Edmund Tearle. *Hamlet* formed the attraction. In the title-rôle Mr. Tearle was seen to great advantage, and his efforts were greatly appreciated; Miss Esther Tearle submitted a very effective portrayal of Ophelia, and Miss Mary Campbell was generally sound as Queen Gertrude. Mr. J. Cooke Hinton as Claudius, and Mr. Bernhardt Turner as Laertes gave a good account of themselves. As the First Gravedigger, Mr. J. A. Keogh was excellent. During the visit the company have appeared in *Othello*, *Richard III.*, *Jeanie Deans*, and *The Three Musketeers*.

STAFFORD.—Empire and Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—D'Artigan as Le Diabelo, in *Looping the Devil's Wheel*, provides a sensational and exciting turn. J. P. Johnstone is an amusing comedian. York, Mack, and York appear in a laughable knockabout sketch. The Three Itrams provide a pretty and clever acrobatic act. J. H. McCann, comedian and roller-skate dancer, prove very popular. The Empire pictures are good, and Miss Dolly Clayton makes a hit with "May I come home again?"

STALYBRIDGE.—Grand Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Louis Ellison; General-Manager, Mr. Eugene B. Hardie; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. D. Oswald.—An excellent variety programme has been arranged here, the principal artists being Charles Ulrick, barrel king; the Three Whirligigs, in their pot-pourri act; the Three Tivoli Girls, acrobatic dancers; Zarenh, in a quick-change dancing scena; T. W. Barrett, the Nobleman's Son; Duncan, club manipulator; Vosper, a notable mimic; Nellie Montague, burlesque actress; Harry Willats, comedian; and several extra turns.

ST. HELENS. — Theatre Royal and Opera House, Ltd. — General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—Mr. J. W. Whitbread's Irish Répertoire company, under the direction of Mr. Dave Clarke, is here presenting *Willie Reilly, The Irish Dragoon, Sarsfield, The Colleen Bawn*, and *Lord Edward; or, '98*. The company is one of all-round excellence, including, as it does, such experienced artists as Messrs. James O'Brien, Harry Richardson, R. Faulkner, Dave Clarke, H. Forrest, Tom Ireland, Miss Jessie Glen, Mrs. E. F. Brady, Miss Madeline Hurst, and Miss Cecilia Dare, who all achieve a success in their respective rôles.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. T. Barrasford, Will Sley, and Fred Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—At the head of the bill here are Mr. Carter Livesey and Miss Lillian Roseberry in the amusing skit, *Would-be Actors*; the Sisters Julian, exceptionally good vocalists, have made a big hit; Harrigan and Holt are funny comedians; Fatima Diard is the possessor of a fine voice, which she uses to advantage in some operatic selections; the Arleys, assisted by two dogs, give a clever acrobatic turn; the Perrams are skilful manipulators of marionettes, and the McIntoshes evoke loud applause with their clog dancing.

STOCKPORT. — Theatre Royal and Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company, which is one of undoubted ability, is commanding the close interest and appreciation of large audiences here in the representations of *Her Luck in London*. Miss Mary Neil as Nellie Harborne depicts the grave and gay character with marked skill, and Mr. Charles A. Leicester acquits himself admirably as the Hon. Fitzgerald O'Connor. As Richard Lemmen Mr. G. Langdon impersonates the part to perfection; Mr. Douglas Tremayne makes a capital Rev. Lionel Strong; the character of Stephen Harborne has a capable exponent in Mr. Tyrone Power, and Miss Frances Bruce is effective as Lilian Harborne, whilst Mr. J. Telly Dillsen as Jerry Gotobed, and Miss Florrie Groves as Maud Gladys Shovepenny provide abundant fun.

Empire.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Black.—The Four Geraldos, in a club juggling and hoop-rolling act, head the bill here, and are heartily applauded for their really clever feats. Interesting from start to finish is the episode *Her Good Name*, and presented with distinct ability by Miss Diana Hope and company, it proved a very pleasing feature. Maxford and O'Neil are a smart couple; a promising juvenile is Alice Maude, who gives impersonations of noted artists; Tom Kelso and company, in their comedy sketch, *The Silly Servant*, causes plenty of laughter; the Sisters Marion, juvenile duettists, repeat their previous success here; Rowland Hill is a decidedly funny comedian; Mabel La Blanche is a pleasing ballad vocalist; Daisy Morell, comedienne, was highly successful, and A-BA-BE, in a beautiful series of tableaux in colours, was entertaining in a marked degree.

STOKE.—Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Manager, Mr. H. Miller.—Miss Marie Loftus, who heads the bill, is most successful, her sketch, *Singers Past and Present*, being exceptionally good. Bert Williams is a ventriloquist of excellent quality; the Two Errols in their leaping specialty are well received; Mlle. Frederica's performing terriers and pony are admirably trained; the Two Zampas are smart duettists and dancers; the Brothers Lano on the horizontal bars provide a turn of excellence; the Bonanzas are hand balancers extraordinary; and Chas. Gardener is as good as ever. The pictures are capital.

STOURBRIDGE.—Alhambra Theatre.—Manageress, Miss Maude Lynton).—This week Miss Grace Warner and company are here in three pieces, *The Scarlet Clue*, *East Lynne*, and *The Little Widow*. On the opening night the first-named was presented. As Scarlet Sal Miss Grace Warner gave a high-class impersonation, and Mr. George Gordon as Michael Stanton proved an accomplished artist. Mr. Reginald Brown won favour by his delineation of the twin-brothers Jack and Harry Esmond. Mr. J. R. Leigh as Billy the Rotter was amusing, and, in addition, he rendered two or three songs in first-class style. Mr. Arthur Page as Crazy Jim was exceedingly good. Miss M. Stamer as Miss Esmond, and Miss Kathleen Cranston as Mother Scoorge played with excellent effect, while Miss Hilda Herne as Elsie Dane was admirably suited. A word of praise is also due to the juvenile actresses, Miss Phyllis Massey and Violet Palfrey, who undertook their characters with distinction.

STROUD.—Subscription Rooms.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Twitchett.—Mr. Josh A. Hybert's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* company was here on Monday. Mr. Reg. Kloof was a decided success as George Harris; Mr. B. Taylor made an excellent Uncle Tom; Mr. W. Bertram played with humorous effect the part of Skeggs; Mr. L. Humphries realistically portrayed the villainous Simon Legree; Mr. C. Reginald made a good Augustine St. Clair; Lawyer Marks and Phineas Fletcher found clever exponents in Mr. Western Beecher and Mr. J. A. Hybert respectively; Miss Norah Waylett ably sustained the part of Eliza; Miss Kitty Wood evoked merriment as Topsy; Miss Cora North was a pathetic Aunt Ophelia; and Miss Violet Mignon as Little Eva created a pleasing impression.

SUNDERLAND.—Avenue Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company is here this week in the ever-popular comedy, *The Private Secretary*. Mr. Donald Price-Evans gives a capital rendering of the Rev. Robert Spalding, and causes much merriment; Mr. W. Hargreaves is also highly amusing as Mr. Cattermole; Mr. Randolfe Reade has ample scope for his abilities as Douglas Cattermole; and as Harry Marsland Mr. James P. E. Hussey leaves little to be desired. The Sidney Gibson of Mr. Vivian Gilbert could not well be improved upon, and Mr. W. T. Elworthy is a pleasing Mr. Marsland. Miss Dora Gray plays the part of Edith Marsland with *chic* that makes her impersonation very charming, and Miss Beth Elliott scores as Eva Webster.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Hemingway.—Mr. H. F. Housden's company in *A Woman's Past* is drawing crowded houses here this week. Mr. J. Myron Howard gives a masterly impersonation of David Heath, and Mr. Clifton Earle plays with power as Uriah Craven. Mr. David Phillips as Frank Dellannoy is responsible for most of the fun; and Clement Harper finds an apt exponent in Mr. H. F. Housden. Miss Dorothy Wallace works wonderfully hard, and gives a refined and pathetic rendering of Bessie; Miss Doris Cameron (Dorothy Heath) and Miss Irene Carrington (Clara Darrel) both capably fill their respective parts.

Palace of Varieties.—Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. A. Browne and S. B. Stringer.—The Virginians (coloured artists) head the bill here this week, and are accorded a hearty reception; J. C. Scatter, Tyneside comedian, is also cordially received. The bill also includes: The Lannons, pedestal dancers; the Three Delaries, in a speciality act; Joe Mac, comedian; Rachel Lowe, comedienne; Cullen and Carthy, comedians; the Marlo Dunham Trio, in clever gymnastic act; and Vernon's Bioscope.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—King's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Edward Gray.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is here playing *The Christian*. On Monday a full house gave unmistakable approval, and justly so, for the cast is excellent. Miss Laura Walker as Glory Quayle gives a meritorious performance; John Storm is played in capital style by Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp; Mr. Harry Colbeck as Father Lamplugh, Mr. P. Gedge Twyman as Lord Robert Ure, and Mr. Duncan Young as Horatio Drake all do good work. Miss Alice Maude is matronly and lovable as Mrs. Callander; and as Polly Love Miss L. Kingston scores a distinct success.

SWINDON.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—That popular drama, *The French Spy*, ably presented by Mr. Fred Benton's company, is here again. All the popular parts of this house were crowded on the opening night, and the piece was given a hearty reception. As the Countess Andre Miss Madge Devereux was excellent, her rendition of this heavy rôle being highly appreciated. She was well supported by Miss A. Harrison. Tate, whose work as the jealous Olga was very fine, and Mr. Beresford Lovett, who was seen to advantage as Captain Summers, while Mr. Max Coutts as Count Romanoff, Mr. George Sheraton as Petros, and Mr. Hugh W. Tavers as General Trepoff, also did well. Mr. Fred Benton as Fritz, and Miss Cissie Cleveland as Julie were capital, and caused the greatest amusement.

TON-Y-PANDY—Hippodrome.—Director, Mr. David Taylor; General-Manager, Mr. Culine Baldry.—The star turn here is a really sparkling item, provided by the Clement Trio; the Rinaldos also merit much favour, and the sketch, *Conscience*, played by J. H. Reynolds and company, wins loud applause. Other good features are provided by Franklyn, trick cyclist; Nimble Nib and Daisy Renham, ball punchers; Nellie Langtry, and Tom N. Mills.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company presented *The Silver King* to a large and appreciative audience on Monday. In the title-part Mr. Horace E. Herbert acted with great discretion, feeling, and pathos, the character of the heroine being tenderly and sympathetically taken by Miss E. Doyle. As Daniel Jaikes Mr. Percy Foster gave one of the best sketches of the evening. Cissy was presented by little Madge Gillard, and her brother Ned was well rendered by Little Mabel Reid. The Spider was capably portrayed by Mr. Oswald Cray, and other members of the gang were well impersonated respectively by Mr. Ralph Leo, Mr. Wm. Dempsey, and Mr. Seton Bernard. The remaining characters were in very capable hands.

WAKEFIELD.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—That weird play *The Power of the Cross* is presented by Mr. Lingford Carson's company this week. The part of Baron Woulfe Curzola, the human vampire, is ably filled by Mr. Alexander J. Haviland; Mr. Victor Rae is effective as Dr. Leslie Fairfax; Mr. Harry C. Rutland does well as Gerald Fairfax; Mr. L. Fred Tenaur is commendable as Benjamin Hawke; and Mr. Arthur Read is able as David Kingsley. Miss Cissie St. Elmo acts with considerable power as Rita Lascelles; Miss May Grayce is admirable as Blanche Kingsley; and Miss Stanley Burt performs the rôle of Margaret Seaton with pathos and sincerity. The comic parts of Timothy O'Dowd and Dolly Gray are capitally taken by Mr. Richard E. Nugent and Miss Etta Turner.

Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The Seven Zerbinis, in their electrical scena *The Enchanted Glen*, contribute a talented musical performance, which merits applause; the Two Eltons are amusing on the triple bars; Miss Rosie Bartlett is a smart comedienne. Other items comprise Miss Fannie Humber, instrumentalist and dancer; Mr. J. G. Aitken, comedian, who proves popular; Mr. Clifton Hall, baritone vocalist; Mr. Tom Hulme, an amusing patterer; Mlle. Sara Marblesque Trio, in living statuary, and Miss Elsie Kedward, acrobatic dancer.

WALSALL.—Her Majesty's Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—A fine variety company is here this week. Billy Howard and Kathryn Harris cause much amusement; the New Macs add to the merriment; the Sisters Dorrell are pleasing in song and dance; George Young, expert blind pianist, is well received; Wyndham and Kitty give a remarkable performance on the wire; Mezzetti and Mora, in their triple bar act, prove themselves clever; and Harriet Vernon, beautifully costumed, proves a great attraction. The American Bioscope, with some capital pictures, completes a most attractive bill.

Grand Theatre. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Elliott's company occupy the boards here this week in *A City of Sin*. Mr. Conrad Heywood makes a capital Paul Torraine; Mr. A. H. Elliott proves most successful as Father Mark; Mr. W. H. Burton is well placed as Bertrand; Mortain is well presented by Mr. J. Berresford Innes; Miss Edith Wallis charmingly assumes the rôle of Alice Bertrand; and Miss Jenny Weston is good in the part of Ilma.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Court.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. Joseph Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. F. Marriott-Watson's company is reappearing here this week in the stirring drama, *A False Wife*. Miss Florence E. Florence again sustains the heavy part of Lady Mansfield, and her finished delineation of a difficult rôle is indeed a praiseworthy effort.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—Another capital company is doing good business here. Harry Grey, the Australian Nugget, is one of the quaintest comedians seen here for some time. Harry Cass again makes many friends with his capital round of songs, and equally successful are Molly Doon and Olive Arundale, two charming comediennes. Bert Gordon has an excellent voice, and Julian Mack, comedian, and the Great Vincent are well received.

WEST BROMWICH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—*Saturday to Monday* is presented here for the first time this week by Mr. Fred Karno's excellent company, and is cordially received. The chief characters are Clorinda, capitally played by Miss Amy Rogerson, and John Willie Jaggs, amusingly portrayed by Mr. Rolando Martin.

New Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—The Wizard Germaine tops the bill here this week, and is drawing large houses. Bert Woodward gives a smart and original cycling show; Ernie Mayne receives repeated encores for his funny songs; a good turn is submitted by Harry Blake; Mr. Theodore and company present a vocal scena, *Jack Sheppard*; the singing and acting are well received. A humorous ventriloquial turn is given by Nelson Hardy; Silent Tait, the funny man, is distinctly clever. Miss Gladys Mavius deserves hearty mention for her songs. The Hippodrome picures are bright and entertaining.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. J. A. Lewis.—*Sherlock Holmes* is this week being played by a company with Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart in the title-rôle. Mr. Stewart's portrayal quite realises to the audience the famous creation of Conan Doyle. A powerful impression is given by the acting of Mr. W. F. Stirling as Professor Moriarty; the Larrabees have capital exponents in Mr. Ernest Gray and Miss Lindsay Fincham.

Palace. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Well-filled houses are this week thoroughly appreciating a capital programme, the principal attraction in which is undoubtedly the performance by the Bouncing Dillons (Hilda and Willie), whose display is at once graceful, clever, and amusing; Susie and Protti, in continental dances, are neat and decidedly agile; Friscari's performance, from start to finish, is a marvel of precision; Cissy Dryden is a clever male impersonator, and Maud Prenton, a sweet-voiced vocalist, has some taking songs. *The Somnambulist*, by Hillman and Russell, is notable for the pretty operatic selection introduced. Herbert La Martine excels as a dancer, and some capital pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mrs. Morton Powell's company is this week appearing here for the first time in that successful play *When It Was Dark*. As the hero, the Rev. Basil Gortre, Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee gave a fervent and manly representation; Mr. George H. Pitt was thoroughly artistic as Constantine Schuabe; another exceedingly well-acted character was the Sir Robert Llewellyn of Mr. W. Marsh; Mr. Robert Hall gave a praiseworthy interpretation of Harold Spence; the Hon. Charlie Gayfly was amusingly portrayed by Mr. Miller Wilson; Mr. Henry Heller was distinctly good as the Rev. Mr. Byars; so, too, was the Mr. Ommaney of Mr. Charles Clayton. Mr. George Mortimer's Nunc Wallace proved worthy of commendation; unstinted praise must be given Miss Eva Moss for her highly dramatic impersonation of Gertrude Hunt; Mrs. Morton Powell looked charming, and acted with distinctions as Helena Byars; Miss Bessie Ellis made a delightful Gracie Goldeye; whilst Miss E. Allen as Flossie Lovegay and Miss G. Allen as Minnie Golightly were both excellent.

Victoria Hall.—Manager, Mr. E. W. Sully.—Gough's premier Bioscope and Variety Company are attracting large audiences here this week. The pictures shown on the Bioscope are extremely good, and much appreciated. Miss Dolly Harmon is loudly applauded for her serio-comic and descriptive songs; another good turn is Miss Margaret Jacobson, el

PROFESSIONAL APARTMENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the letter signed "Landlady" in your issue of Dec. 1, I would like to make one or two remarks. All members of the profession who tour realise the importance of this question, and how much it means that they should have some efficient and satisfactory way of discovering really good apartments. In the first place, you might perhaps let me say that with regard to stage-door keepers' commission, I have never found this practice obtain in well-managed theatres, though, if the stage-door keeper takes a lot of trouble in sending rooms, perhaps a tip now and then would not come amiss. I would like to direct the attention of members of the profession, more especially those who belong to the Actors' Church Union, to a scheme recently organised by the general secretary of the Union, Rev. Donald Hole. The idea is to ask the local chaplains to furnish the general secretary with a list of really clean, comfortable rooms, where moderate prices and fair dealing will obtain. These addresses will not be registered until they have been tested, and any properly authenticated complaint will be sufficient to have them removed from the list altogether. The chaplains of the Union are, of course, in a very strong position to do this, because they go in and out of the houses, and know the character of the inmates and the life they lead, and therefore can easily tell if a person is likely to be comfortable or not. When the scheme has assumed some dimensions, the Union will issue cards to all the landladies; these they can hang up in their windows, and as long as they are there the Union will guarantee that the acommodation is satisfactory. My experience may have been somewhat unfortunate, but I may say that I have been in many rooms which appeared on the Actors' Association list, and it did not seem to me, to say the least of it, that they were better than "ordinary." I think it is a very serious matter for the members to recommend rooms hastily and without consideration, because if this is done it means that the list supplied by the Association becomes in a very short time of no use to anyone.

Of course, the landladies have their grievances; so, also, have the members of the profession. What about the landlady who quotes 16s., and when the bill arrives charges extra for fires, lighting, and coal. Then what about the landlady who books your rooms for 16s., and then because somebody offers her 16s. 3d., writes at the last moment to say you cannot have them. I really think that as well as a white list there should be a black list for these persons. It would be quite worth while to form a bureau for the registration of theatrical rooms, which would supply a list of rooms by the year for a nominal subscription of 5s. or 10s. Personally, I would gladly pay twice the latter amount if I was always sure of having clean, decent, and respectable rooms where I would not be cheated, and where I would meet with at least cleanliness, if not with luxury.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES MANNERS.

Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.
Dec. 5, 1906.

A PORTRAIT OF MISS DAPHNE DE ROHAN, as she appeared at Bow on Nov. 2, 1906.

D aintily sweet, with powder and patch,
A nd arrayed in soft, silvery sheen;
P retty white curls all over her head,
H er tiny shoes fit for a Queen.
N ow raising her fan, now curtseying low—
E very step a delight to treasure—

D ancing the graceful old English dance,
E 'en treading its stately measure.

R ich jewels are sparkling on her hands,
O n her neck and bosom gleaming;
H er blue eyes brighter than them all,
A nd yet with laughter teeming.
N o one can say, if grave or gay, of what my lady's dreaming.

—*Painted by* FANNY FREDERICA ADDY.

BOW SCHOOLS SWIMMING ASSOCIATION.

The special item on the programme, however, was the appearance of that well-known and popular society entertainer, Mlle. Daphne de Rohan, so favourably known in London and Brighton, and, indeed, in all parts of England and the Continent. Mlle. de Rohan, who is a "Lady of Honour" of the French Marine Ambulance Society (Mariniers-Ambulanciers), kindly delightly her audience with a very remarkable and artistic presentation of the celebrated "Quarrel Scene" from *The School for Scandal*. Mlle. de Rohan, who has been called "the world-famed Lady Teazle," certainly did justice to her reputation. Attired in a delightful creation of silver, fur-trimmed and pearl-embroidered, she captivated all and sundry as that winsome, petulant woman of fashion, whose disputes with old Sir Peter (well played by Mr. Fred Evered) have been the delight of actors and playgoers alike for more than a century. Mlle. de Rohan's power of enunciation is one of her many natural gifts, and being also a composer of merit and an elegant devotee of Terpsichore, she enhanced the general effect of the scena by introducing therein a beautiful gavotte, composed by herself, to which she danced with a charm that carried one irresistibly back to the days "When George III. was King." Mlle. de Rohan received a perfect ovation, and was presented, in the name of the committee, with a bouquet by little Miss Doris Kay, who, wearing her new French decoration, the "Prix Perrin," and other honours for her wonderful proficiency in swimming, tripped smilingly on to the platform to perform her pleasant task.—*The Brighton Standard*, Nov. 29, 1906.

THE STAGE EMPLOYEES' ANNUAL CONCERT.

The fourth annual concert in aid of the benevolent funds of the Heads of Departments Association, the Carpenters and General Staff Branches of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, took place on Sunday evening last in the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The list of patrons included her Grace the Duchess of Leeds, Sir Charles Wyndham, Sir Charles V. Stanford, Sir Edward Moss, the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P., Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Rutland Barrington, Miss Jessie Bateman, Mr. Granville Barker, Miss Lillian Braithwaite, Mr. Dion Boucicault, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Alfred Butt, Mr. Louis Calvert, Miss Kate Compton, Miss Constance Collier, Mr. Frank Curzon, Mr. George Edwardes, Mr. H. V. Esmond, Mr. Charles Frohman, Mr. Frank Glenister, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. Seymour Hicks, Mr. Sidney Jones, Mrs. Kendal, Mr. W. H. Kendal, Mr. J. H. Leigh, Mr. Cyril Maude, Miss Evelyn Millard, Miss Mary Moore, Miss Eva Moore, Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Agnes Nichols, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Mr. Paul A. Rubens, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, Mr. Otho Stuart, Mr. Alfred Sutro, Mr. William Telbin, Mr. Fred Terry, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Mr. J. E. Vedrenne, Miss Genevieve Ward, Mr. Lewis Waller, and the Alhambra Company, Ltd.

Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, Miss Genevieve Ward, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Miss Lillian Braithwaite, Miss Ethel Matthews, Mr. Grant Allen, Mr. E. Dagnall, Mr. Harry Norton, Mr. Saxon, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Kimpton, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, and other representatives of the theatrical profession.

The programme was a most attractive one, and was evidently greatly appreciated by the large audience present. The London Symphony Orchestra, and its most able conductor, Mr. Landon Ronald, received most enthusiastic applause for the delightful rendering of the orchestral numbers. The opening overture, "Zampa," gave a foretaste of the enjoyment to be expected. Mr. Hector Lightfoot, the new Australian tenor, followed with "Onaway, awake, beloved," accompanied by the orchestra, and both singer and orchestra did full justice to Coleridge Taylor's beautiful music. Miss Helen Blain sang "Abide with me," accompanied on the pianoforte by Mr. Fredk. B. Kiddle. Many in the audience evidently remembered that this gifted lady sang last year at a moment's notice in the place of an artist who had failed to appear. Miss Blain sang with much feeling, and only the great length of the programme precluded the encore demanded being granted. The *Tannhäuser* overture was the next item for the orchestra, and rarely has that masterpiece of Wagner's been better played. Mr. Landon Ronald seems to understand perfectly the art of obtaining the best that this very fine orchestra could give.

Mr. Charles Knowles gave an exceedingly fine and expressive rendering of Sullivan's "Thou'rt passing hence." It was announced from the stage that Mme. Alice Esty was suffering from the effect of a severe cold, but had most kindly come to keep her promise. This indisposition did not prevent this great artist giving a brilliant rendering of Verdi's "Ah fors e lui," and the audience in their enthusiasm wished to have an encore, which in the circumstances was hardly considerate. The orchestra then gave the second and third movements from the "Pathetic Symphony," which was much applauded, following that item with "Two songs without words"—(a) "Spring Song" and (b) "Bee's Wedding" (Mendelssohn). These were so daintily played as to seem really fairy music. Mr. Joseph O'Mara had an enthusiastic welcome, and sang "On with the motley," from *Pagliacci*; but he, also, had to decline an encore. Next came a fine performance of the *William Tell* overture which, like "Zampa," never seems to pall on an audience, however often it is included in a concert programme. To hear this overture played by the London Symphony Orchestra is like hearing it anew. The light and shade, the piano and crescendos, were most defined. Altogether it was an artistic treat, and Mr. Ronald well deserved the great applause with which this item was received.

Mme. Mary Conly's beautiful soprano voice gave great pleasure in Verdi's "Ernani Involami." This artist's contribution was greatly appreciated, and regret was manifest that an encore could not be given.

Mr. Denis O'Sullivan's spirited rendering of "The smith's song," accompanied by the orchestra, was also cordially received. The overture from *Rienzi* by the orchestra followed; and Miss Marie Stiven contributed the remaining vocal item, "O my heart is weary," which she sang beautifully. This fine programme was brought to a close with the performance of the overture from "1812" (Tschaikovsky).

The concert committee announced in the programme their "most grateful thanks to Mr. Landon Ronald and the ladies and gentlemen who generously gave their services at the concert." The only artist who failed to appear was Mr. Herbert Grover, who arrived from singing elsewhere just after the last item had commenced.

The thanks of the committee were also given to Messrs. Ascherberg, Hopwood and Crew, Ltd., for kindly lending the parts of Mr. O'Mara's song; to Messrs. Novello and Co., for the parts of Mr. Lightfoot's song; to "Bechstein," for use of the grand piano; to the Positive Organ Co., for the use of the organ; to Mr. Robert Affleck master machinist, and Mr. William Crawshaw, electrical engineer, who kindly gave their services at the theatre on the day and evening of the concert. Mention must also be made of the splendid assistance given by Mr. Harry Norton, stage-manager, the Criterion Theatre, who sold the most tickets; and of Mr. E. Dagnall—"Inspector Bott"—of the Criterion Theatre, who came next to Mr. Norton in this direction.

The donations received from patrons of this concert, exclusive of the receipts from those who kindly took tickets, are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Alfred de Rothschild	5	5	0
Mr. George Alexander	2	2	0
The Directors, Alhambra Co., Ltd.	2	2	0
Mr. A. W. Pinero	2	2	0
Mr. William Telbin	2	2	0
Sir Edward Moss	1	1	0
Mr. Dion Boucicault	1	1	0
Mr. Frank Curzon	1	1	0
Mr Sidney Jones	1	1	0
Miss Agnes Nichols	1	1	0
Mr. W. S. Penley	1	1	0
Mr. Paul A. Rubens	1	1	0
Mr. Alfred Sutro	1	1	0
Miss Irene Vanbrugh	1	1	0
Miss Kate Compton	0	10	0

The Concert Committee was composed as follows:—Arthur Palmer, secretary, Carpenters' Branch; H. Porter (New Theatre), General Staff Branch; H. J. Powell (Prince of Wales's), Heads of Departments' Association; A. Spaull (Tivoli), Carpenters' Branch; Charles Thorogood, president, General Staff Branch; Philip Thomas (Alhambra), General Staff Branch; J. Wilson, Carpenters' Branch; chairman, James Cullen (St. James's Theatre), president, Heads of Departments' Association; treasurer, G. H. Dyball (Tivoli), secretary, Heads of Departments' Association; hon. secretary, William Johnson, general secretary, N.A.T.E.

Those who acted as stewards were:—Mr. Charles Thorogood (in charge of the gallery), assisted by Mr. H. Bowmer (Gaiety), Mr. Ed. Stow (New), Mr. Martin (Scala), Mr. Haley (Alhambra), and Mr. Sinkins (Comedy); Mr. W. G. Farrell (Criterion), in charge of the amphitheatre, assisted by Mr. J. Phelps (Drury Lane) and Mr. A. J. Mason (Vaudeville); Mr. H. J. Powell (Prince of Wales's Theatre), in charge of the balcony, assisted by Mr. Hunt (Alhambra). The programmes and cloakrooms were in charge of Mr. Thomas (Alhambra) and Mr. Spaull (Tivoli). Front box-office, Mr. A. Palmer and Mr. Atterton. The secretary, Mr. William Johnson, was acting-manager for the committee.

The concert, while being the greatest artistic success yet achieved by the stage employees organisations, will not, unfortunately, be so financially successful as previous efforts.

The birth of the London Symphony Orchestra took place in consequence of an impossible contract issued by Mr. Henry J. Wood in February, 1904, when about sixty members resigned their positions in the Queen's Hall Orchestra, in which they were members.

Mr. Thomas R. Busby set about organising the now famous London Symphony Orchestra, and convened a meeting at the St. Andrew's Hall, Oxford-street, at which meeting the orchestra was formed, Mr. Busby being appointed secretary. Dr. Hans Richter conducted the first concert, which took place in June, 1904. The event created an immense impression. Symphony concerts were given in the winter of 1904-5, and were conducted by the most eminent conductors in Europe, viz., Arthur Nikisch, Fritz Steinbach, Edouard Colonne, and Peter Raabe; whilst amongst the British conductors there were Sir Edward Elgar, Sir Chas. Stanford, and Dr. Frederic Cowen, the result being that all these eminent conductors pronounced the orchestra to be the finest in the world—a fact of which all Britishers are justly proud.

The orchestra, accompanied by the Leeds Choir, paid a visit to the French capital in January last, the event creating the wildest enthusiasm in the musical world, and was the first occasion when a representative orchestra had played abroad. The visit was under the distinguished patronage of H.M. King Edward VII. and M. Loubet, the French President, the latter of whom Mr. Busby had the honour of receiving, and who warmly shook hands with him.

The success of the London Symphony Orchestra grows apace, and is a most striking instance of what can be done with unanimity, all the members being most keen on furthering the interests of the undertaking. The organisation was turned into a limited company in February, 1905, the shareholders being confined to the members of the orchestra, and at that time Mr. Busby was appointed managing-director and secretary. There is not the slightest doubt of its artistic success, and its financial position is most flattering. As recently as Nov. 19, 1906, H.M. Queen Alexandra honoured the Symphony Concert by her presence, and expressed her delight with the programme of the concert, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

MR. LANDON RONALD.

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Mr. Landon Ronald is the son of Mr. Henry Russell, the composer of "Cheer, boys, cheer" and other popular songs. Mr. Ronald is himself the composer of several important symphonic works and over 150 songs. His first appearance in public was as solo pianist with *L'Enfant Prodigue*, the wordless play, and attracted the attention of the late Augustus Harris, and he appointed Mr. Ronald to the position of deputy-conductor at Covent Garden, and he conducted grand opera there. He toured the United States as conductor with Mme. Melba in 1894. He appeared before Queen Victoria in 1897 at Windsor, and at Balmoral in 1898, in which year he was conductor at the Lyric Theatre, where he contributed some of the most attractive numbers to the score of *Little Miss Nobody*, *L'Amour Mouille*, *Florodora*, and *The Silver Slipper*. He also wrote the entire music of the Coronation ballet, *Britannia's Realm*, 1902, and *L'Entente Cordiale* at the Alhambra in 1904. His work has covered a wide field, and he is one of the busiest, effective, and most popular conductors of the day. He rendered every assistance to the concert committee, who greatly appreciate the interest he kindly took to ensure the success of their arrangements.

PANTOMIME AT ABERDEEN.

Mr. Robert Arthur opened his new theatre, His Majesty's, Aberdeen, on Monday with *Little Red Riding Hood*, which was produced on a scale of spectacular splendour never hitherto attempted in Aberdeen. From start to finish the performance went with remarkable smoothness. Though the theme is so well worn, many ingenious new situations have been introduced. The scenic and other accessories are of the most appropriate and artistic nature, and the members of the company do the rest. Mr. Frank Dix is responsible for the libretto, which is a good specimen of pantomime literature.

The production is divided into two parts, the first including four and the second five scenes. The opening dance and chorus introduced a bevy of pretty children; they were followed by a stirring huntsman's chorus, and a delightful interpretation of the "Old Apple Tree"; and then came a very fine rendering of the Umbrella song by Miss Muffett. This feast of good things was sufficient to put the audience in an excellent humour for the rest of the evening. The third and fourth scenes, which represent "Poppyland Glen," make a beautiful couple of stage pictures, and the snow effects in the fourth scene are also worthy of particular commendation. At this point the chorus and juvenile dancers hold the stage most agreeably, and the scene concludes with a charming tableau, which was rapturously applauded.

The second act, which opens in the Manor Garden, introduces some amusing fooling and several enjoyable songs contributed by the Squire and Boy Blue. In the third scene, inside the Dame's Cottage, an exceedingly clever and comical turn is given by the Brothers Redmond, and a short fourth scene makes way for the grand finale in the hall of the Manor, the principal feature of which is a "March of the Nations." This undoubtedly makes the most brilliant picture in a relatively brilliant production.

The company, taken all round, is one of the best pantomimic combinations we have ever seen. Mr. Andie Caine, an indefatigable worker and a genuinely clever and original comedian, appears with a high degree of success as the Squire; Miss Nellie Wigley makes an undoubted hit as Little Miss Muffett. She acts gracefully, and her rich, powerful voice is heard to advantage in some of the best of the songs. Miss Winnie Harber has already established herself as a favourite by her presentation of Boy Blue; and Miss Lynda Love makes a dainty Red Riding Hood. Mr. Willie Garvey is most amusing as Mother Hubbard; and the Brothers Redmond are specially resourceful as comedians. Misses Maud Sandeman, Florence Ray, Little Phyllis Nolan, and Maggie Baugh represent the parts of Jack, Jill, Dorothy, and Rosie very effectively; and excellent work is contributed by Mr. Fred Leitz as Gibby, the dog, Mr. Albert Chapman as Lupus, the Wolf, Miss Raynor Golden as the Fairy Glow-Worm, and "Tiny Tim" as Rupert. The *corps de ballet*, under Mlle. Elis Clerc, provide one of the most notable features of the entertainment, and the music by Mr. Julien H. Wilson is tuneful and appropriate throughout.

The pantomime was staged under the personal superintendence of Mr. Arthur, and its cordial reception by the great audience must have been extremely gratifying to all who were concerned in its production.

PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG was present at the Haymarket Theatre and witnessed the performance of *The Man from Blankley's* on the 30th ult.

PUPILS AT PRACTICE.

The lady Hamlet is no new figure of the modern stage, but to the pupils of Mrs. S. Brereton Douglass (Miss Stella Brereton) is apparently given the rare capacity to sustain a whole Shakespearean play. The revelation was made at an afternoon performance at the Queen's (Small) Hall, on Monday, when, among the numerous items of the programme, was to be found an excerpt from *Hamlet* in which the Prince of Denmark was a lady, the Ghost was a lady, and even the beard of the aged Polonious hid a fair and feminine face, while there is no doubt that the Gravediggers and all the other companions of the melancholy Dane could have been represented had occasion required. The passage chosen from Shakespeare's play was the scene in which Hamlet accuses his mother of conniving at his father's death. The title-rôle was taken by Miss Maggie Maskall, who made quite a remarkable impression in the character. She looked the part to perfection, and acted with an intelligent appreciation of its many phases of expression. Her articulation was, for the most part, excellent, but in the heated denunciation of the Queen she allowed herself to be carried away by the passionate character of the words, and so hurried the lines as to render them indistinct. Such a fault, however, is one that time will remedy, and Miss Maskall's performance may be well described as one of great promise. The Queen was played with commendable power and dramatic resource by Miss Edith Maskall, whose aid in the strenuous scene was invaluable. Miss Grace Thelwall gave the generally-accepted reading of the Ghost, and managed to make him sufficiently weird; and a venerable Polonius was found in Miss Maude Garton. The balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* presented two of the talented young ladies above mentioned in the chief parts. Miss Maggie Maskall was a most attractive Juliet, and spoke the beautiful lines with graceful emphasis, and Miss Edith Maskall made a comely Romeo, and acted with true boyish ardour. Shakespeare was still further represented by Queen Katharine's trial speech from *Henry VIII.*, the piece being spoken by Miss Edith Maskall with fine vigour and eloquent gesture.

Great pleasure was derived by a large audience, which included Mrs. Kendal, from the varied selection of more or less familiar recitations. The enthusiasm of the audience was early aroused by Mr. Frank Desprez's popular poem "Lasca," which seems to find a place in most entertainments of the kind. Apart from a tendency to hurry at times, Miss Edith Maskall gave a picturesque delivery of the terse and telling lines contained in the thrilling tale of the backwoods of Texas, and the piece at the end had the distinction of a double recall. Similar honours were paid to Miss Grace Thelwall, who, in the character of a drunken miner, recited "A Letter from England" in a masculine voice and with remarkable energy. Miss Higgins secured the rapt attention of the audience for her delivery of "An Irish Recitation," by George R. Sims, and impressed all by the sympathetic quality of her voice and her admirable manner of using it. Easy transitions from gay to grave were made by several of the students, Miss Dorothy Chetham, who supplied a charmingly coquettish rendering of C. Rae Brown's "Ballad of a Bazaar," also giving Mrs. Bradshaw's recitation "Lost and Won" in a way that gained well-merited approbation. Miss Maude Garton submitted a humorous rendering of Anstey's "Picture Sunday," and subsequently, in the robes of Cardinal Wolsey, gave that prelate's famous speech from *Henry VIII.* with skilful enunciation. Miss Jeanne Picriaux was entrusted with the delivery of Mrs. Bradshaw's recitation "Courage." The pieces were agreeably interspersed by music at the piano, including Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" and morsels from Mendelssohn, tastefully played by Madame Roe.

The varied nature of the programme showed Mrs. Douglass's pupils to the best advantage, and in each case the finished methods of the practised teacher were reflected. The way the young ladies take the stage gives evidence of a thoroughly practical tuition in the art in which they desire to be perfected, and few faults are to be detected either in gesture or deportment. The appreciation of the audience was constant and cordial, and at the close Mrs. Douglass was summoned to the platform to receive a handsome bouquet.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

Owing to illness it was found necessary to alter the programme of the Chamber Concert given at the Royal College on Thursday evening, Nov. 29, and omit the Brahms Quartet and the Beethoven Violin Sonata and Trio; therefore the concert commenced with Mendelssohn's Variations for Violoncello and Piano, in D major, Op. 17, skilfully performed by Miss Winifred Burgess and Miss Marjorie Adams. In two songs, "By the hearth fire" and "Resurrection," by G. Henschel, Mr. John R. Prout was heard to much advantage; and Miss May Harrison was much applauded in Bach's violin solo, "Chaconne." Lotti's now seldom heard song, "Pur Dicesti" enabled Miss May Peach to display a pure and well-trained voice; and Miss Ellen Edwards in her piano solos of Chopin's Preludes, Nos. 23, 7, 10, 21, 3, 14, and 16, played with a delicate touch and good expression, and Liszt's "Faux Follets," gained a most hearty recall from the large audience. Brahms' songs, "Gestillte Sehnsucht" and "Geistliches Wiegenlied" were hardly the kind of music adapted to student requirements, but Miss Bessie Bowness sang them with a fair amount of success, being greatly assisted by the viola accompaniment admirably played by Mr. Frank Bridge. The concert concluded with an organ solo, Variations on Ground Bass, Liszt ("Weinen Klagen" and "Crucifixus," from B minor Mass of Bach), cleverly played by Mr. Herbert Smith. The accompanists were Miss Marjorie Adam and Mr. William Murdoch.

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N.B.—We can confidently recommend all the above, as they have been placed with most of the principal Pantomimes throughout the country. Professional copies will be supplied to recognised artists upon receipt of professional card and six stamps for each song required.

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"CHRISTMAS," Valse, by Alfred Margis.
"FOLIE D'AMOUR," Valse, by Paul Fauchey.
"FASCINATION," Valse, by F. D. Marchetti.
"WIENER FRAUEN," Valse, by Franz Lehar.
"REVE DE JEUNESSE," Valse, "SOURIRE D'AMOUR," Valse by Frank Lambert.
"LA MATTCHICHE" (Maxixe), by Ch. Borel-Clerc.

N.B.—The above are particularly recommended for Ballets and Marches.

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Play, by Wilkie Collins, entitled
"THE NEW MAGDALEN."

A welcome change is presented here this week; thanks to the enterprise of the directorate we have been afforded the opportunity of seeing Miss Edith Wynne Matthison and a West End company in *The New Magdalen*. Large and enthusiastic audiences have assembled throughout the week, and have given unmistakable evidence of their appreciation of the interpretation rendered by the excellent company. As Mercy Merrick, Miss Edith Wynne Matthison enters thoroughly into the spirit of the part which "fits her like a glove." From the outset Miss Matthison creates a most favourable impression, and as the play proceeds, and the confession is made, the feeling becomes one of great admiration. She was called again and again during the evening, the applause at the final fall of the curtain being of a most spontaneous character. The next most striking figure in the play is Mr. Ernest E. Norris's sound piece of work as the Radical parson, a man whose character is marked by great energy and decision. In the difficult part of Grace Roseberry, Miss Daisy Murch scores heavily, and Lady Janet Roy is most ably and agreeably impersonated by Miss Phyllis Manners. Mr. Walner Gregory as Horace Holmcroft gives a performance of much individual worth; Messrs. F. L. Laurence, James Storey, Lloyd Townrow, Francis Day, James Penryhn, and Thomas Ashley capably fill less important parts. The play is excellently mounted, and the incidental music is done justice to by the Marlborough Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Charles Elcock. The curtain-raiser is a new one-act farcical play by Richard Clarke, entitled *A Matrimonial Advertisement*, and the characters are all equally well interpreted; judging by the applause, the piece was well suited to the taste of those in front.

THE CORONET.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Comic Opera, by André Messager, entitled
"THE LITTLE MICHUS."

Mr. George Edwardes' excellent company is appearing this week in the charming and whimsical *The Little Michus*, which scored such a notable success at Daly's. There are some delightful melodies in quite André Messager's best style, the plot is clever and coherent, and strewed with the roses of romance, and the fun waxes fast and furious whenever General Des Ifs looms in sight. Mr. Eric Thorne has the reversion of the part of this fine old warrior, General Des Ifs, from Mr. George Graves, and ably he acquits himself in the rôle. The house is kept in one long continuous roar of laughter throughout the second act, when the General gives us a glimpse of his past, and discourses of many things, including the gazeka, all in the most natural and droll fashion imaginable. If Mr. George Graves had not been so unapproachable in the part, we should have dreamed Mr. Eric Thorne's assumption to be the best possible. Mr. W. Talleur Andrews creates an excellent impression as the dashing young officer, Gaston Rigaud, and he has a remarkably good voice, his rendition of "It's no use crying for the moon" being a genuine vocal treat. Mr. Leonard Mackay is well known as a capital exponent of comic opera heroes, and besides a fine voice, which is heard to great advantage in "My heart's a weather glass," he possesses a keen yet quiet sense of humour. A pair of delightful exponents of the two Little Michus are furnished in the dainty shapes of Miss Iris Hoey, as the shy, sensitive, and self-sacrificing Blanche Marie, and Miss Thelma Raye as the more madcap and unconventional Marie Blanche. Miss Raye has a very taking song, "I'd like to be a grand lady," and she plays her own accompaniment on the violin while she sings Braga's Serenata, thus proving the possession of great talent and versatility. Mr. Jack Cannot enters thoroughly into the spirit of the part of Bagnolet, and plays the part *con amore*. His singing and dancing are most acceptable, "The regiment of frocks and frills" being one of his most successful vocal efforts. Miss Florence Parfrey contributes a clever and characteristic sketch of the general dealer's wife, Madame Michu, and Mr. George Miller is vastly amusing as the old slow-coach, Père Michu. Miss Nora Brocklebank, as Mme. du Teste, sings very sweetly in the second act, and great praise is due to Miss Vivien Tailleur, whose lissom dancing and graceful gyrations are quite above the average of such calisthenic displays. Mr. Willie Warde, jun., provokes considerable amusement with a few deft touches as an old market man, and Miss Alice Oppitz as Mlle. Herpin, and Adeline Lester as an old market woman, do good work. Mr. Kevan Bernard is assistant acting-manager, Mr. Fred Storrie stage-manager, whilst the piece is produced under the direction of Mr. J. A. E. Malone, and the dances and chorus business are arranged by Mr. Willie Warde. A new heating apparatus has been installed at this theatre, of which Mr. Edward Lytton is justly proud.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Drama, by Walter Howard, entitled
"TWO LITTLE SAILOR BOYS."

Mr. J. M. East has done well in booking Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company in *Two Little Sailor Boys*. This play, which is well handled by a capable cast, is a melodrama in the strictest sense of the term, and the strong dramatic interest, combined with a deal of comedy, proved much to the taste of Monday's audience. The two little sailor boys find excellent representatives in Miss May Day as Cyril Grey and Miss Ethel Frances Greene as Tom Yorke. The latter moves the whole house to tears when appealing to his mother for her love. Mr. Jerrold Heather proves an excellent lead as Commander Tregarthen, acting with commendable ease and self-restraint; Mr. Horace Booth as Lieut. Richard Redstone, R.N., portrays a calculating villain with just sufficient coolness of manner; Mr. W. H. Hallatt ably represents Captain Tom Yorke; Mr. J. Court Harvard as the old Admiral Grey, retired, is effective; Mr. Osca Power as Jack Jolly, A.B., and Mr. Tom E. Sinclair as Ben Baxter indulge in some really good humorous acting; in this they are very ably assisted by Miss Lizzie Chambers as a pert domestic, Lucy Wilson; Mr. Ambrose Horton gives a good character-sketch as Jim Royston, a burglar; Miss Alice De Foe s Mildrey Grey invests the part with a deal of gentleness and grace, and makes a charming heroine; Miss Blanche Steele plays the adventuress, Lola Grey, realistically, and suggests with unerring effect the vindictive nature of the character. Mr. George Drew as Inspector Johnson, Mr. Frank Greyson as Thompson, Mr. Albert Newton as Barker, Mr. Ernest Brunton as Blinker, and Miss Dorothy Lennox as Mary Primrose all do good work.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Drama, by Fred Melville,
entitled
"BETWEEN TWO WOMEN."

The popular manager at this theatre, Mr. Cecil Paget, with his usual perspicuity believes in varying his weekly menu, so after light comedy we are served with full-blooded and vigorous melodrama, dear to the hearts of popular audiences, in the shape of Mr. Fred Melville's play *Between Two Women*. Like all Mr. Melville's work, the piece is a skilful exhibition of stagecraft, and tragic incidents are well intermingled with diverting comic episodes. Mr. Fred Melville's company admirably interprets the play, which wins complete acceptance from crowded houses. The central figure of the piece, the remorse-stricken, self-sacrificing young clergyman, Philip Carton, is most impressively played by Mr. Godfrey Tearle, who thoroughly looks the part. Mr. Tearle's death scene is particularly well rendered. Mr. Fred Goddard gives us some fine and vigorous declamation as the Earl of Millard; Mr. Howard Travis is duly impulsive and boyish as the vacillating Henry Millard; Miss Molly Molone acts with tenderness and feeling as Violet Thornton, the good angel of the play, and the dissolute Carmen de Savareux is admirably played by Miss Nellie Fletcher, who well indicates the one redeeming feature in the woman's character, namely her love for her blind boy. Miss Lulu Bowes beguiles many of their tears as the little blind waif; Mr. Walter Thornton is excellent as the polished villain, James Durward, to whose partner in crime, Major Strangeways, full justice is done by Mr. Roland Yorke. Mr. Fred Danvers is a humorous Jack Pringle, and he is well played up to by Miss Lilian Earle as Polly Popp. Mr. Frederick May is particularly good as the besotted Dick Burgess, and Miss Florence Hamilton makes a good deal of the small part of the lady customer. The scenery is first-class, several of the sets being capital examples of skilful brushwork.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Play, by Alfred Sutro, entitled
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."

Mr. Arthur Bourchier could not have wished for a better reception than was accorded him and his company from the Garrick Theatre when they visited South London on Monday, and opened a week's engagement at the Kennington Theatre in *The Walls of Jericho*. The play is one of Mr. Sutro's best, and the vivid picture he draws of the wasted lives of those who move in the smart set of the West-end appealed to the sympathies of a suburban audience. The piece is beautifully mounted, and the dresses worn by the ladies in the first and second acts especially are quite triumphs of the costumier's art. Mr. Arthur Bourchier, as Jack Frobisher, the successful Colonial who has entered the smart set and found his surroundings thoroughly unwholesome, and Miss Violet Vanbrugh, as his wife, who has delighted in the butterfly existence, divide the honours of the production. Mr. Bourchier gives a wonderful study of the part, for it is one which affords full scope to his remarkable histrionic gifts, and he makes a profound impression by the way in which he handles the dramatic situations which arise in the third and fourth acts. Miss Violet Vanbrugh's impersonation of Lady Alathea Frobisher is faultless. First as the frivolous woman constantly deprecating her husband, then as the wife suddenly awakened to the fact that she really loves him, later as the indignant rebel, and finally as the loving help-mate fully conscious of her duties, she is superb. It is a difficult part, but she is more than equal to it. Miss Pamela Gaythorne, as Lady Lucy Derenham, the girlish and impulsive younger sister, is exceedingly clever, acting with a graceful freedom which is quite fascinating. As Hankey Bannister, Mr. Charles Goodhart is a characteristic rough diamond, and speedily becomes a warm favourite with the audience. Mr. Arthur Whitby gives a faithful interpretation of the rôle of the Marquis of Steventon, the impecunious aristocrat; and Mr. H. M. Chart's Harry Dallas leaves little to be desired. As Lady Westerby, Miss Nora Greenham is seen to advantage; whilst Miss Jean Harkness makes a lively Miss Mornington, the bridge-playing daughter of a Bishop. Mr. Walter Pearce as Bertram Hannaford, Mr. Douglas Imbert as Lord Drayton, and Mr. Alfred Bristowe as the Hon. Wilfred Renton ably sustain their respective parts. Miss Olive Terry, who appears as Miss Wyatt, does the cake-walk with a great deal of vivacity; while Mrs. Nye Chart (the Duchess of Skye) and Miss Vivienne Whitaker (Lady Parchester) are both admirable. The minor characters are well taken and sustained.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Operetta, in Four Acts, entitled
"HAMAN THE SECOND."

The Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company opened the week at the Pavilion with the well-known Yiddish operetta *Haman the Second*, which was well mounted and dressed, and had evidently been well rehearsed. Although the story is singularly reminiscent, and the music not particularly brilliant, yet the entire performance went with a swing that fairly exhilarated the audience, who were most appreciative. Professor F. Staub is to be highly commended for his conductorship of a really smart orchestra, who render with praiseworthy care the various numbers, while the strong chorus vocally work well, although there is still wanting the attention to "business," which is so necessary in productions of this kind. As the Minister Clemens (Haman the Second), Mr. J. Fineberg acted in his usual deliberate and incisive manner; and Mr. M. Gusofsky, with his fine voice, sang most tastefully and portrayed with vigour the part of Jacob; while efficient support was accorded by Mr. N. Hamburger as Rabi Avigdor. Madame J. Kayzer delighted the audience with her admirable impersonation of Rachel; and Madame Goldstein showed a great command of pathos as the Queen, while the majestic bearing and the capital acting of Mr. N. Isaacowitch as the King won general admiration. Mr. S. Schilling gave a humorous rendering of Schylock, which elicited much merriment, and Miss Bryh, who is a clever and vivacious artist, personated Scheindele most naturally. A strong character sketch of the convert Osip was provided by Mr. J. Goldsmith, and Mr. J. Scherman was successful in the small part of Yeakim. During the week *Deborah*, *David's Violin*, *Thirty Years under the Earth*, *Anna the Finisher*, and *The Mother's Favourite* have been played.

THE GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Romantic Play, in Four Acts, by
Paul Kester and Charles Major,
entitled
"DOROTHY O' THE HALL."

Fulham playgoers have been enjoying a special treat in the shape of a visit of Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry, with their full West-end company. The play is full of life and action: it deals with the romantic love affair of Dorothy Vernon, of Haddon Hall, and is ingeniously constructed to bring in personages of no less importance than Queen Elizabeth and Mary Queen of Scots. Miss Julia Neilson plays the title-rôle, the romantic and daring Dorothy. It is not an easy part, this impersonation of a young and frolicsome maiden, but as the actress warms to her work she plays with all her wonted charm and power and skill, while the authors have provided numerous opportunities for her to display her gift of sly humour and quick repartee. Nor is she less at home in the grand manner, and in her duel with Sir Malcolm she was splendidly active and resolute. Needless to say, she finds a fitting mate in Mr. Fred Terry as Sir John Manners, who is the most delightful of romantic lovers, and bears himself most gallantly throughout. Mr. Horace Hodges is to be congratulated on a very clever piece of acting as Perkin, the dwarf, a performance pitched in just the right key. The representatives of the two Queens also were good. Miss Miriam Lewes was a lifelike representative of Queen Elizabeth, and portrayed the character of that astute and imperious person with much success, and Miss Lillias Waldegrave was successful in showing the personal charm of the luckless Mary. Mr. Fred Groves and Mr. D. J. Williams were properly stately as the Earl of Rutland and Lord Burleigh respectively, and Mr. J. Carter Edwards did well as the peppery Sir George Vernon. Miss Claire Pauncefort was good in the comedy part of Lady Vernon, and Miss Mary Mackenzie was bright as the maid Jenny, whilst Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw showed plenty of spirit and power as Sir Malcolm Vernon. In fact, all the minor parts were adequately filled, and the whole play went excellently from beginning to end.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Dec. 3, the Drama,
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."

The attraction here this week has been Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company in the above-mentioned drama, and the long struggle between the criminal and the detective that forms the main theme of the play has been followed with keen interest by highly appreciative audiences. Mr. Lionel d'Aragon submits a realistic and impressive rendering of Lucio Delgado, seeming really to revel in the portrayal of the latter's heartless and ferocious villainy, and speaking his lines with a fierce intenseness that makes every word redolent of the most appalling wickedness. Mr. d'Aragon easily secures the effect on his audience that he seeks, and, indeed, so works upon the feelings of the "gods" that, towards the end of the evening, his every entrance is the signal for a storm of hisses. Another excellent impersonation is the Paul Gouffet of Mr. T. W. Dunscombe, whose characterisation of this French Sherlock Holmes is perfect in every detail. The detective's alertness, his agility, both of mind and body, and his grim determination to run his enemy to earth at whatever cost to himself are portrayed with great skill, while at the same time the many chances for over-exaggerating the character are carefully avoided. Mr. Malcome Wills plays Lucien Courtier is an easy, natural style, and with a good deal of reserve force. Miss Eugene Magnus gives a sympathetic rendering of Marie de Brisson, acting with power and conviction; Miss Marie Tennant is well suited as La Pinau, and invests the part with considerable distinction; and Miss M. Leslie Cudd gets a lot of amusement out of the rôle of Babette. As Peter Pottleberry Mr. C. Alan Hineson is responsible for much hearty laughter, and his sayings and doings are followed with much interest. Mr. George Pythian makes the small part of the Mad Doctor stand out prominently, and Mr. F. C. Raphael is an efficient Jean Barbelou. The play is well mounted, and the painting of some of the scenery is unusually good.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 3, the Play entitled,
"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."

The attraction at the Dalston Theatre this week is Mr. Frederick Melville's play, *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. The average Dalstonian appears to be very anxious to make the acquaintance of this lady, and consequently, to the delight of the management, the house is being filled nightly. To Miss Beatrice Homer falls the lot of depicting the title-rôle. To her credit be it said that she succeeds in imbuing this weird personage with an amount of vitality which makes the part one more than usually interesting. Miss Margaret Watson appears to advantage as Morita an Italian girl; Miss Nellie Jackson does well as Aggie Brown, and Miss Nell Oliver is well placed as Rose Courtenay. Jack Merriman, one of the jolliest characters in the play, finds a manly representative in Mr. Philip Darien. Mr. Leyton Cancellor, as Hubert Gold, does much to sustain the interest of the play; and he is well assisted by Mr. Charles Barrett as Antonio Luchesi, and Mr. Allan Davenport as Tom Redvers.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Drama, in Four Acts,
by Arthur Shirley and Sutton Vane, entitled
"THE SPIDER AND THE FLY."

This highly sensational drama forms the current attraction at this theatre for the week, Messrs. Carpenter and Cooper's company presenting it. Messrs. Shirley and Vane are two experienced hands at melodrama, and the result of their collaboration is a production that adequately fulfils the demands of popular audiences. The company is an excellent all-round one, and work very hard for the general success. Mr. Stanley S. Gordon as Cyril Girdlestone acts with force, and makes a good impression; Mr. Ellis J. Preston, as his brother Welby, enacts the rôle in the conventional manner, and gives a good account of himself. Mr. Frederick Ross, as Davis Strong, submits a clever and valuable performance that wins general appreciation. Messrs. Fred Terris and Charles A. Preece, as the Brothers Roc, add not a little to the gaiety of the evening, finding in Miss Lucy Murray, as Molly Blake, a valuable ally. Mr. H. C. Lanesby presents a neat little character-study as the Rev. Mr. McAllister. Miss Nina Naughton gives an exceptionally good performance of Edith McAllister, particularly so in the last act; Miss Amy Venimore, as "The Spider," is sufficiently repellent in her portrayal; Miss Ada Palmer, as Jane Ellen Scriven, is good; and Miss Marjorie May, as Flipps, deserves commendation. The drama is well mounted, the big scene in the last act causing a sensation, and a good house gave the production a cordial reception. Mr. Gliddon, the musical director, and his orchestra still add to the pleasure of the evening with an excellent programme of music.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Drama, in a Prologue and Four Acts,
by J. A. Campbell, entitled
"THE SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD."

There are several strong points and interesting situations in this play of Mr. Campbell's which should ensure it a hearty reception everywhere. As Stephen Haysel Mr. Austin Milroy gives a forcible portrayal full of merit and distinction; Mr. Charles Fancourt is decidedly good and well suited as the Rev. Alan Grey; Mr. Wordley Hulse cuts a capital figure as Capt. John Thornton; and Mr. Hugh Brady is full of genuine Hibernian wit and vitality as rollicking Barney O'Reilly. Miss Jennie Douglas-Hicks sustains the rôle of Maria Haysel in lifelike, telling fashion; Miss Nellie Hook is versatility itself as Eliza Muggins; little Ivy Rocheforte plays intelligently as Eric Dugdale; little Dott Moss is pleasing and sprightly as Hannah Spry, her singing, dancing, and banjo solos being quite the hit of the piece; whilst Miss Mary Fulton's impersonation of Mary Haysel is one of merit and carefully-thought-out effect. The play is mounted and staged in good style, Mr. Wordley Hulse being the acting and Mr. Walle Spinner the stage-manager for Mr. J. A. Campbell.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Musical Play, entitled
"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."

The Belle of New York, with its melodious music, is attracting large and enthusiastic audiences at the Prince's Theatre this week. Mr. Geo. Musgrove's principal company all work with a will. Miss Empsie Bowman in the title-rôle gained hearty applause, especially for her admirable rendering of the "Follow on" song. She plays the part with great charm. Miss Lily Maxwell as Fifi is distinctly chic, and does exceedingly well in her duets with Harry Bronson. As Mamie Clancy, Miss Florence Hensel is capital. Her dancing is wonderful, and she quickly wins the favour of her audience by her archness and coquetry. Miss Winnie Browne makes a stately and imposing Cora Angelique, and looks and acts well. As Ichabod Bronson, Mr. Paddy Dupres extracts every bit of fun and satire there is in the part, and earns many plaudits for his efforts. Mr. John Doran as Harry Bronson could scarcely be bettered. He acts with perfect ease, and sustains the part in a breezy and hearty manner. Mr. Max Copeland is one of the best Karl von Pimpernicks we have seen. He makes a wonderful character-study of the demented German, and profoundly impressed his audience. Mr. Frank Lawton still charms everybody with his clever whistling as Blinky Bill; and Mr. Walter Uridge as Kenneth Muff cuts a comical figure. As the twin Counts Rattattoo, Mr. Lionel Yeoman and Mr. R. L. Cody afford much amusement. Mr. Alfred Sandoe as Dock Snifkins does good service; and Mr. A. Linforth as Twiddler deserves commendation. As Mr. Snopper, Mr. Owen O'Brien is capital; and Mr. Tounsley Searle as Mr. Peeper makes an able photographer. Smaller parts are all well cast, and the mounting of the play leaves nothing to be desired. The chorus and orchestra, under the able leadership of Mr. Ernee Woodville, all do excellent work.

CRYSTAL PALACE.

On Monday, Dec. 3, the American Musical Play,
entitled,
"THE PRINCE OF PILSEN."

This typically American production, with its *dramatis personæ* of over sixty named characters, is played to the accompaniment of hearty laughter and unstinted applause. Mr. J. B. Fox in the title-rôle made an imposing figure, also singing well; Hans Wagner, the Cincinnati brewer and *soi-disant* Prince, was quite safe in the experienced hands of Mr. Martin Adeson, whose unctuous humour kept the house amused; as Lieut. Tom Wagner, Mr. G. Villiers Arnold sang with taste, and Mr. Lawrence was quite the stage peer, as the Earl of Shrimpton. A more agile François than Mr. Alfred Selby it would be difficult to imagine, and Miss Meg Hamylton as Jimmie, the bell boy, was fresh and smart. Miss Isa Bowman's experience stood her in good stead as Nellie Wagner, and Miss Nellie Barnwell sang and danced well as Edith Adams, the Vassar girl. The French maid, Sidonie, as played by Miss Nell Emerald, was quite a feature of the piece, with her irresponsible patter. Miss Maisie Ellinger was in good voice as Mrs. Madison Crocker, the New York widow, and the American girls, nine in number, as introduced by her in song, were all smart. The Heidelberg boys, companions of the Prince of Pilsen, were possessed of trained and tuneful voices, which were heard to advantage in concerted pieces. Mr. D. O. Uglas, as Sergeant Brie, the chief of the gendarmes, was responsible for some amusing by-play; and a perfect galaxy of Sea Shell Girls and Bathing Girls, not to mention Hunting Girls, filled in the background tastefully. The choruses throughout were rendered with more than ordinary care and finish, due, no doubt, to the attention paid to them by Mr. Tunbridge, Mus. Bac. Oxon., the musical director. Altogether Mr. Musgrove's company was another success for Mr. J. Bannister Howard.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Dec. 3, the Drama,
entitled
"BEN-MY CHREE."

Mr. Arnold Bell and company are fulfilling a week's engagement at the Stratford Theatre Royal with *Ben-my-Chree*, and the piece is being very cordially received. Mr. Arnold Bell contributes a powerful performance as Dan Mylrea, and his acting is always convincing and natural. Mr. Guy Morville handles the part of Ewan Mylrea very skilfully; and Mr. F. Carlyle plays Thorkell Mylrea on most appropriate lines. Mr. H. W. Clifford makes an impressive Gilchrist Mylrea; and Mr. Cuthbert Imrie admirably enacts Mr. Harcourt. Mr. F. C. Robson makes the most of his opportunities as Davy Fayle; and Mr. Herbert Fuller is well placed as Hommey-beg. Miss Marion Forrester makes a sympathetic and charming Mona Mylrea, and renders the character exceedingly popular. Miss Violet Campbell does well as Kitty, and Miss Lilian Vyner is an excellent Kerry. Other parts receive careful treatment.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Drama, in Five Acts, by G. Carlton Wallace,
entitled
"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH."

The Village Blacksmith has again erected his smithy at the Shakespeare Theatre, and with pleasant recollections of his last visit large crowds have attended each performance this week, and testified their keen appreciation of the play by unstinted applause.

Exceedingly well written, it is a play that appeals strongly to the hearts of the audience, and the wrestling match in the last scene is a fitting climax to a series of thrilling human incidents.

Mr. Sam Livesey, with his fine physique, is well suited to the rôle of John Strong, the blacksmith, and the earnest and convincing force of his acting makes a deep impression. He is at his best in the first scene of Act IV., when he holds the audience spellbound with his impersonation of a man driven half mad with privation and drugs. He is well supported by Mr. Joseph Carter, who repeats his former success in the difficult and exacting part of the villainous Captain Leo. As Kate Strong, Miss Maggie Edwards has a thorough grip of her character, and by her tender womanliness quickly gains the sympathy of the audience. Little Miss Bertha Hanbury acts the part of the child "Harry Strong" with considerable self-possession and renders her lines with praiseworthy distinctness. Most of the humour of the piece falls on the shoulders of Mr. G. V. Campbell, who as Billy Twig, a country boy, keeps the audience well amused, and fully deserves the applause with which he is repeatedly greeted. Capital character-sketches of the travelling tinker, Jeremiah Parkins, and his wife, Sal Parkins, are contributed by Mr. Thos. E. Marshall and Mrs. T. C. Livesey respectively, and Miss Cassie Le Grande is satisfactory as Ruth Parkins. Mr. Edwin Maydew is a capable exponent of the part of Lucas Marlow; and the minor parts are all capably sustained. The drama is produced under the direction of Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey, for whom Mr. Geo. E. Carlton is business-manager and Mr. Edwin Maydew stage-manager.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, N.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Musical Play, in Two Acts, adapted from the
French by George Grossmith, jun.,
Composed by Ivan Caryll and Lionel Monckton,
entitled
"THE SPRING CHICKEN."

To-night the Alexandra, Stoke Newington, closes its doors as a theatre after the performance of *The Spring Chicken*, which has been played here throughout the week by Mr. George Edwardes's company. One cannot but feel a tinge of regret that this fine theatre, upon the boards of which all the leading members of the profession, from the late Sir Henry Irving downwards, have at various times appeared, is shortly to be devoted to another style of entertainment. *The Spring Chicken*, as is customary with all productions sent out under Mr. George Edwardes's direction, is as elaborately dressed and mounted as a West End production, and also has the advantage of a large and attractive chorus. Mr. George Gregory, who appears as Mr. Girdle, works hard right through the piece, and does not spare himself in his efforts to provoke laughter. Miss Irene Verona, who is quite the best exponent of "Connie Ediss" parts, after Miss Ediss herself, scores heavily as Mrs. Girdle, her songs being enthusiastically received. Baroness Papouche is well played by Miss Gertrude Gilliam, and a very charming Dulcie Babori is found in Miss Nancy Langtyre. Miss Mabel Russell infuses a considerable amount of brightness and vivacity into her impersonation of Rosalie, and hers is one of the most spirited performances in the piece. Mr. John Brabourne does well as Gustave Babori, and the Boniface of Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., save for a slight tendency to over-act, is, in all other ways, satisfactory. Two performances that stand out prominently by reason of their cleverness are the Emmy Low of Miss Nellie Lonnen, and the Stephen Henry of Mr. William Spray. Of the remaining parts those filled by Messrs. Frank Hector, Ernest Mahar, and Jocelyn Hope are the most noticeable.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Drama, by George R. Sims and Henry Pettitt,
entitled,
"IN THE RANKS."

One of the genuine Adelphi successes is supplied this week in the stirring military drama written by the late Henry Pettitt and George R. Sims, which is stamped with the hall-mark of success of many a London and provincial audience. The military bearing and handsome presence of Mr. Ashley Page mark him out for the rôle of the soldier hero, Ned Drayton, and the part fits him like a glove. Miss Marion Denvil ably sustains the character of the sorely-tried heroine, Ruth Herrick, and acts with much pathos and feeling throughout the piece. A newcomer, Mr. Roland Arthur, makes a favourable impression in the rôle of Captain Holcroft. Miss Georgie De Lara plays prettily as his sweetheart, Barbara Herrick; and Mr. C. A. Chandler is impressive as Richard Belson, the hop-picker. In the villainous part of Gideon Blake, Mr. Alfred Harding is seen to full advantage. Great praise must be bestowed upon Mr. Tom Taylor for his spirited performance of Colonel Wynter; Mr. Fred Woodville, as Farmer Herrick, is well received. Mr. Johnny Chippendale scores a success in the rôle of Joe Buzzard, and Miss Mattie Everett, as Mrs. Buzzard, causes much fun. Mr. John Sargent makes a capital Sergeant Searle, and plays with force; Miss Elsie Jezzard, the young child-actress, is successful as Polly Timmins, and the remaining characters are all in good hands. The scenery and effects are quite up to the standard.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Play, in Three Acts, by Sir A. Conan Doyle,
entitled
"BRIGADIER GERARD."

Few plays that have been brought to the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, by Mr. Peter Davey, the enterprising managing-director, have been more to the taste of local playgoers than *Brigadier Gerard*, which, with a company furnished by Mr. Lewis Waller and Mr. Davey himself, commenced a week's run on Monday night, and has been delighting crowded houses during the week. The company is a thoroughly capable one all round, and their efforts have been received with a degree of favour almost enthusiastic in its intensity. Chief honours are carried off by Mr. Loring Fernie as the light-hearted swashbuckler Brigadier, by Miss Maud Hoffman as the Comtesse de Roquelaure, and by Mr. George Mallett as Tallyrand. Mr. Fernie gives a fine, breezy picture of the Brigadier, and Miss Hoffman presents a polished and refined impersonation of the Countess; whilst Mr. Mallett's embodiment of the crafty Tallyrand is a faithful one in all its details. All three were heartily rewarded for their efforts by the audience. Others in the company who are deserving of particular mention are Miss Gertrude Beattie, who gives an engaging impersonation of the part of Agnes; Mr. Arthur Somers, who acquits himself as Napoleon, Mr. Penn Hamilton as Mons. D'Albert, Mr. Jas. Crowe as Mons. Bassompierre, and Mr. Reginald Mason as Pierre. It is unnecessary to add that the play was staged with great completeness in every particular.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Dec. 3,
the Drama, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE PRODIGAL SON."

The return of the Prodigal Son, to use a metaphor, was a welcome event at the Stratford Borough Theatre on Monday night, when the favourable impression gained by the piece on its first visit was heartily endorsed by a large and appreciative audience. Newly on tour then, it is now played in much more concise and brisk form, thereby sustaining the interest of the story better, and it is splendidly interpreted by a well-balanced cast. Mr. Norman Partriedge is eminently suited as Oscar Stephenson, and his fine stage appearance, fluent diction, and earnest methods lend distinction to the part. The rugged, phlegmatic nature of Magnus Stephenson is realistically depicted by Mr. Herbert Hewetson, who scores heavily in the rôle. Mr. Howard Russell brings his ripe experience to bear upon the part of Stephen Magnusson with eminently satisfactory results; and a most convincing portraiture of Oscar Neilson comes from Mr. Fred Epitaux. Miss Lily Hall Caine is entirely successful in the dual rôle of Thora and Eilin. As Thora she contributes a most charming and agreeable performance, and the change to the animated, naïve, enquiring girl, Eilin, shows the possession of much histrionic ability. Miss Cecil Cromwell depicts with undoubted skill and artistic restraint the worldly-minded Helga Neilson, her acting in the Casino scene being exceedingly realistic and convincing. Miss Alma Murray makes a natural and tender Anna Stephenson, and her acting is in entire sympathy with the part. Miss Mima Renouf submits a highly commendable rendering of Margaret Neilson. Mr. David Wills acts the Sheriff with sound judgment; Mr. Charles Douglas Cox plays Dr. Olsen very appropriately; Mr. Charles A. Maynard is excellent as Neils Finsen; and Mr. Gordon Macintosh, though too vividly made up, does well as the Director of the Casino. Remaining parts are all carefully played, and the piece is mounted with that care and correctness usually associated with productions under the régime of Mr. Arthur Collins.

AN IRISH ELOCUTIONIST.

The Rev. J. J. Nesbitt, LL.D., who died at his residence, The Nest, Birchington, Kent, on the 17th ult., was a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, in 1892, and afterwards took the LL.D. degree. He was chaplain of Bethesda Church in Dublin for three years, and quickly made a reputation as the first amateur reciter in Ireland. For five years he was then vicar of Rodmersham, Kent, and recited a great deal professionally at the Steinway Hall, Salle Erard, Queen's Hall, Ancient Concert Hall (Dublin), as well as at private "At Homes," making a mark as an elocutionist of strong dramatic power with a good voice and wide range of humour and pathos. Le Fanu's "Shamus O'Brien," Buchanan's "Phil Blood's Leap," and "Kissing Cup's Race" were amongst his most successful recitations.

His health compelled him to leave his parish at Rodmersham, and he travelled round the world, lecturing on elocution in both Canada and the United States. His publications were "The Unique Reciter" (1897), "The Westminster Reciter" (1899), "Lord Roberts, V.C.," and other poems (1902), and at the time of his death he was working on an original book on the science of elocution, embodying his lectures.

Dr. Nesbitt was one of the founders of the Corinthian Club (a Bohemian Club) in Dublin, and was a member of the Royal Societies, Savage, Authors', and Primrose Clubs; also a life-member of the Royal Temple Yacht Club.

He married, while at Rodmersham, in 1900, the widow of Edward Twopenny, of Woodstock Park.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

WHEN Sir Charles Wyndham was in New York in 1862, endeavouring to obtain a commission as surgeon in the United States Army, he stayed at Willard's Hotel, one of the best in the Empire City, and, after various unavailing applications to dignitaries, fell back on the plan of sitting in the public room of the hotel with an illustrated book on surgery lying open ostentatiously on his knee, in hopes that someone's eyes might be caught by a most formidable illustration thus exposed, and that he might thus find a sponsor and patron who would assist him. Towards the end of the second day he noticed sitting opposite an elderly gentleman, who was haunted by autograph-seekers. Sir Charles thus tells the remainder of the story.

"I approached my unknown celebrity. He was courteous like the others, but too abrupt to be a divine. He must be a Cabinet Minister! Better still! No good, though. Whatever he was, he could do nothing. 'Deliver your letters of introduction,' he said. 'Have none,' I replied. He grunted disapproval. Without introduction the public ear was deaf. He was very sorry for me; he could not advise me, and he left the room. The morrow found me again at my post. Hour after hour passed by, when suddenly my elderly gentleman appeared, and from the corner of my eye I saw him stop, catch sight of me, and, to my infinite gratification, make straight for me! I told him that a letter to General Banks which had been offered to me I had even refused to wait for, as it had to come from Paris. 'I know General Banks,' he replied; 'I'll give you a letter to him if you like, but I shall be bound to say I know nothing about you.' 'So long as I am able to get to him,' I said, 'I should ask for nothing more.' And so my new friend sat down at once to write the letter.

"The letter was finished and handed to me, as he bade me good-bye and left me. It was short and business-like. It merely said that I was a perfect stranger to the writer, whom, passing through Washington, he had casually met, but that he had conceived an interest in me. He thought I was the kind of young man who meant business, and that if General Banks could put me in the way of getting what I wished, he would esteem it a personal favour. And there lay the signature before me—P. T. Barnum!"

"MACREADY," says Mrs. Aria, in her charmingly-written book on Costume, which has just been published by Macmillan and Co.—with dainty illustrations by Mr. Percy Anderson—"carried his sense of the importance of costume to such a point during the rehearsals of *Henry V.* that he went to bed in his armour, desiring that, not only should the dress become the part, but he should become the dress. I recollect," says Mrs. Aria, "Sir Henry Irving quoting this fact, when telling me that he himself always followed the practice of wearing the clothes for a new part a few days previous to assuming them on the stage."

"MRS. TREE vows that if you gave her a dozen yards of white crêpe de chine, she would make a costume in which she could appear as Ophelia, Lady Macbeth, Constance, and Juliet, and would undertake in the disposal of her draperies to satisfy the demands of the most exacting critic. But on the subject of fashion Mrs. Tree is a heretic, refusing to treat it seriously, and indulging in the theory that 'everything is people, nothing is gowns.' The philosophy of clothes as expounded by Mrs. Tree, if rendered popular, would not bring much grist to the mill of the modiste; but then 'In this life nothing comes off—except buttons' is her favourite pessimism."

APROPOS of Mr. Bourchier's approaching revival, Mr. Bram Stoker, in his noble biography of Henry Irving gives an amusing instance of Shakespearean criticism. When Irving revived *Macbeth* in 1888, an ingenious gentleman went so far as to suggest that the Messenger who in Scene 5, Act I., announces to Lady Macbeth the coming of the King, should have a bad cold, for the reason that Lady Macbeth says in her soliloquy:

"The raven himself is hoarse
That croaks the fatal entrance to Duncan
Under my battlements."

HERR BLEIBTREU in support of his theory that Rutland, not Shakespeare, was the author of the celebrated plays, is driven into a curious self-contradiction. The old argument against the Baconians, that no one so well-informed as Bacon would have made a clock strike in ancient Rome or surrounded Bohemia by the sea, &c., has been brought against Bleibtreu. He has been supporting his Rutland theory by pointing to the vast and various knowledge displayed in the works of Shakespeare; so it seems at first that he is in a dilemma. The German intellect, however, is equal to the emergency. "I say at once," says Bleibtreu, "that these obvious and incredible blunders were ironical tricks of the Unknown meant to mislead all trespassers on his own ground of authorship." But why did the Artful Dodger-dramatist display ignorance at one time and erudition at another?

FOR instance, Bleibtreu says:—"I consider as the finest divination in my theory the argument why the poet of *Hamlet* transplanted the student Hamlet to Wittenberg, quite an unknown university for English ears. Will anybody give me a clue how the uneducated comedian could know that only Wittenberg was the right place to educate a Hamlet, an invention of the most wonderful geniality? Well, my own Rutland, son-in-law of Sir Philip Sidney, knew perfectly why!" While he was about it, the son-in-law of Sir Philip might have known that the University of Wittenberg was not founded till 1502, so that its mention in *Hamlet* is a complete anachronism. But perhaps this was another of Rutland's ironical wiles.

ONE thing that strikes the reader of these Shakespeare-authorship theories in the extraordinary amount of trouble taken by the "concealed poets" to remain *incognitos*. The bother they must have had with their anagrams and "ironical tricks" must have been tremendous. It really serves them right for their folly that they gained nothing by these elaborate contrivances, since they have had no effect on Posterity. It must have been poor comfort to Bacon or Rutland in their lifetimes to have seen Shakespeare taking not only all the money profits of the plays, but all the complimentary verses, while they played the parts of "ghosts."

IT never seems to have occurred to the Baconians or the Rutlandites that one of the strongest arguments in favour of the author of the plays was an actor, is the extraordinary technical skill of Shakespeare's construction. The mere scenario of *Othello*, for instance, could only have been planned by a man with the technique of the stage, ground into him by constantly treading it.

IT seems that the managers of the Paris theatres and music halls who clamoured a few months ago for the abolition of the Censor, are now most anxious for his reappearance. At present they are at the mercy of organised disturbance, which brings in the police and exposes them to arbitrary enactments. In other words, they prefer to be under a Government Department than under police rule. "La Censure," we are told, is almost certain to come back again in some form or other. It will probably not receive the name of Censorship.

"THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH."

A new Dramatic Adaptation, in Three Acts, of the Christmas Story, by Charles Dickens, produced at Terry's Theatre on Saturday, Dec. 1.

Caleb Plummer .....MR. CHARLES GROVES
John Peerybingle .....MR. A. B. IMESON
Mr. Tackleton .....MR. JOHN RYDER
Edward Plummer .....MR. HENRY ARMSTRONG
Porter .....MR. R. GREY
Dot .....MISS FRANCIS RUTTLEDGE
Bertha .....MISS GLADYS ARCHBUTT
Mrs. Fielding .....MISS ALICE BARTH
May .....MISS HETTY TEMPEST
Tilly Slowboy .....MISS MAUD STAMER
Spirit of the Cricket .....MISS IREDALE HOPE

Numerous dramatic versions of one of the most popular of Charles Dickens's Christmas stories have been produced. The first of these was a drama, in three acts, adapted, "by permission," by Albert Smith, and staged at the Lyceum Theatre, on Dec. 20, 1845, with Mr. Sam Emery as Peerybingle, Keeley as Caleb, Miss Turner as Tilly, Miss M. Keeley as Bertha, and Mrs. Keeley as Dot. On the last day of the same year another version by Edward Stirling was performed at the Adelphi Theatre, and the popularity of the story was so great that nearly a dozen other dramatisations of the story were produced at various theatres. Even a burlesque, by E. L. Blanchard, was, in January, 1846, staged at the Olympic Theatre under the title of *The Cricket on Our Own Hearth*, but the travesty proved a failure. In April, 1862, a play by Dion Boucicault, entitled *Dot: a Fairy Tale of Home*, founded on the story, was performed at the Adelphi with the late J. L. Toole as Caleb Plummer, and this piece was revived at the Gaiety in December, 1870—a few months after Dickens's death—Miss E. Farren playing the part of Tilly to Toole's Caleb. A recent revival was at the Garrick in December, 1903, Mr. Bourchier appearing as Caleb.

The name of the author of the new adaptation is not given on the programme, but the story is closely followed; and all the leading characters were excellently played by the members of Mr. W. H. C. Nation's company. Mr. Charles Groves quite realised the old toy-maker. Caleb Plummer, who actuated by love and pity for his blind daughter, Bertha, has deceived her as to their actual surroundings, and more particularly regarding the real character of their employer, Mr. Tackleton. Mr. Groves was specially natural and effective in the scene in which the poor girl learns the truth—that her father is an old grey-headed broken-down man, and that Tackleton is a hard, grinding taskmaster. Mr. A. B. Imeson was also successful in his portrayal of John Peerybingle, the carrier, who is led to believe that his wife is unfaithful to him, and to whom appears, as he sits alone by the fireside, moody and unhappy, the Spirit of the Cricket. The mingled feelings which overwhelm the man were truthfully and powerfully depicted. Mr. John Ryder made good use of his opportunities as the unsympathetic Mr. Tackleton, who, however, comes under the influence of that potent Yule-tide influence which finds expression in some form in all of Dickens's Christmas stories. Mr. Henry Armstrong did well as young Edward Plummer, whose mysterious appearance, disguised as an old man, causes all the trouble in the Peerybingle household. Miss Frances Ruttledge, though physically not answering to the description of Dot, for she is referred to in the story as being short and plump, was a bright, winsome representative of the character, and displayed genuine feeling when estranged from the devoted John. Miss Gladys Archbutt presented a pathetic picture as the blind girl, Bertha, easily securing the sympathy of the audience; that experienced actress, Miss Alice Barth, was a bustling Mrs. Fielding; and Miss Hetty Tempest was pretty and pleasing as May Fielding. Miss Maud Stamer achieved a notable success as Tilly Slowboy, displaying the genuine Dickensian humour as the eccentric, but kind-hearted, young woman. Her business with the Peerybingle baby was capital fun, reaching a climax when a piece of hot potato causes Tilly to utter a series of ear-piercing yells to the consternation of the guests assembled at Caleb's hut. Miss Iredale Hope, as the Spirit of the Cricket, spoke her lines well; and Mr. R. Gray appeared as Tackleton's man Porter. The piece concludes with a merry dance; and the music has been arranged by M. Napoleon Lambelet, the musical director.

The principal piece is preceded by the farce by Frederic Hay, entitled *A Restless Night*. Mr. Charles Groves appeared in his original part of Corporal Tir, and repeated his former success. Mr. A. B. Imeson was well placed as Jaques; and Mr. Campbell Bishop ably represented M. Goriot. Miss Gladys Archbutt, as Goriot's daughter Annette, gave an acceptable rendering of "Ah! Love, he is a cunning child." Miss Lane, as Fifine, sang "The Schoolgirl of the Period" in good style, and at the opening of the farce "A Village Roundelay" was sung by Misses De Lacy, Hetty Tempest, Daisy Nunn, and full chorus. All these songs were imitations from French originals by Mr. W. H. C. Nation. Mr. Armstrong, as Andre, and Mr. Gray, as Pierre, completed the cast. The costumes were designed by Messrs. Hyman, after sketches made in the Pyrenees by Mr. Nation.

NEW LONDON THEATRES.

The fine block of buildings illustrated in our present issue comprises the two new theatres and large shop premises erected by Mr. W. G. R. Sprague for the Jacobus-Marler Estates, Ltd., The frontage to Shaftesbury-avenue, which is of Italian Renaissance design, is 150ft. long. There are also frontages to Rupert-street of 157ft., to Upper Rupert-street of 130ft., and to Wardour-street of 180ft., the whole block comprising an area of about 25,000 superficial feet. The principal entrances to both theatres are at the corners of Rupert-street, Wardour-street, and Shaftesbury-avenue respectively.

The shop premises, which are occupied by Mr. Jack Jacobus, have a frontage of over 60ft., in the centre of the block, with a total depth of nearly 50ft. In spite of this large deduction of space from the site, Mr. Sprague has contrived to plan what will be, when completed, two of the finest West End theatres of London.

The theatre which Mr. Charles Frohman and Mr. Hicks are arranging to occupy is the one at the corner of Rupert-street, which is proposed to be opened to the public at Christmas. This theatre is decorated throughout in the Louis Seize style, with upholstering and seating of a rather deep shade of old rose, the decorations being carried out in a warm ivory white tone, with plain gold enrichments. The electric and other fittings are all designed in the same style.

The theatre throughout is constructed of fire-resisting material, the auditorium, saloons, and staircases being entirely of concrete and steel, and the stage throughout of teak or other hardwood, and the building generally embodies all the latest improvements and the London County Council's requirements. The auditorium, which has accommodation for about 1,200 persons, with extra standing space for a further 260, representing in money about £270, is constructed on the two-tiered principle, having about 180 stalls at the lowest level, with a good pit at the rear.

A fine roomy dress circle, having eight rows, for about 294 persons, occupies the first tier. On the second tier is the family circle, with five rows, for about 114 persons, with a spacious gallery behind, slightly raised above the family circle, and partly being of the same tier.

The auditorium is 50ft. wide by about 70ft. deep. The interior of the house has been designed by Mr. Sprague on a circular plan, the walls forming a segment of a circle. The second tier is a true circle on plan, and the dome and covings of the main ceiling complete this fine effect.

The principal entrance from Shaftesbury-avenue is through a semi-circular vestibule into the main crush room, about 40ft. long and 20ft. wide, over which is the foyer, with an open elliptical balcony overlooking the crush room below. This apartment is boldly treated with a fine arcading, elliptical on plan.

Fine saloons are elsewhere provided for the different sections of the house, together with retiring rooms, &c. The stage is about 40ft. deep, with a width of about 70ft, and a height to the grid of about 60ft.

A royal box, with private retiring room adjoining, most artistically decorated and furnished, is arranged at the dress circle level, and approached from Rupert-street.

There is a large block of commodious dressing rooms at the back of the stage, abutting upon Little Rupert-street, together with property and other rooms. The theatre is lighted throughout by electricity, and warmed by low pressure heating system.

The adjoining theatre, abutting upon Wardour-street, is somewhat larger than the one just described, and the planning throughout is quite distinct in almost every respect from the Rupert-street theatre, excepting as regards the elevation, the general lines and treatment being identical in both theatres. Full details and description of this house (which is proposed to be opened in March, 1907) will be given in a future issue.

It may be mentioned that Mr. Sidney Marler, for whom Mr. Sprague has already designed several of our latest theatres, is largely interested in the present enterprise.

SHAFTESBURY AVENUE NEW THEATRES.

Proprietors, the Jacobus-Marler Estates, Ltd.] [Architect, Mr. W. G. R. Sprague.

AFTER the Rugby football match at the Crystal Palace this evening there will be given, in the Centre Transept, a grand concert of the combined bands of H.M. Coldstream Guards (conductor, Lieut. J. Mackenzie Rogan), the Palace Military Band (conductor, Mr. Herbert Godfrey), and the great organ (played by Mr. Fred W. Holloway). The vocalists will be Miss Edith Evans, Mr. John Bardsley, and Mr. A. H. Gee. Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock, the musical director of the Palace, will act as accompanist.

MLLE. YETTA has just completed a most successful fortnight's engagement at the exhibition held at the Theatre Royal, Worthing. Her exceptional talent as a wire-walker and her pretty and graceful show generally have attracted large audiences and made her many friends, and on the concluding Saturday evening of her engagement her performance was most enthusiastically applauded. Gifts of beautiful flowers and chocolates were bestowed upon her, and the audience evidently parted with her with much regret.

THE SHAKESPEAREAN SCHOOLS.

Mr. Cyril Maude, as honorary examiner of the Shakespeare Schools of Rhetoric and Dramatic Arts, founded in 1889 by Mr. Carrington Willis, attended at the Bishopsgate Institute on the afternoon of the 30th ult. for the purpose of conducting the winter examination of candidates for first and second class certificates in reading, reciting, and acting.

In reciting the candidates for first-class certificates were the Misses Fanny Lugg, who gave a selection from *Much Ado About Nothing*; Alice Woodthorpe, "His and Hers" (Weller); Viola Roach, "The First Quarrel" (Tennyson); Florence Geere, "Brutus and Portia" (*Julius Cæsar*). The candidates for second-class certificates were the Misses Grace Croft, "The Story of the Faithful Soul" (A. Proctor); Jessie Revelle, "In the Round Tower of Jhansi" (C. Rosetti); Marjorie Dawes, Letter Reading scene from *Macbeth*; Mabel Garrard, "Queen Katherine's Speech" from *Henry VIII.*; Winifred Cresswell, "The House Opposite" (A. Hope); Rose Clarke, "The Matinée Hat" (F. Anstey); Messrs. Edward Green, "Lasca" (F. Desprez); Oliver Pike, "The Dandy Fifth" (Gassoway); Dudley Bishop, scene from *The Merchant of Venice*. In acting in selections from Shakespearean plays there were two candidates for first-class—Miss Amy English as Rosalind and Miss Fanny Sniders at Celia. The candidates for second-class certificates were the Misses Winifred Cresswell as Nerissa, Marian Ockleston as Portia, Grace Croft as Audrey, Mabel Garrard as Viola, Marjorie Dawes as Lady Macbeth, and Mr. George Uttridge as Macbeth. No fewer than seven of the lady candidates were awarded certificates.

Mr. Cyril Maude, who had listened to the programme from a seat in the body of the hall, addressed a few remarks to the competitors. He warned his youthful hearers not to jump to the conclusion that because they could recite they could therefore act. In his own experience, he said, he had often found quite the opposite to be the truth. People who had come to him at the theatre and recited admirably, and with all possible self-possession, had very often proved after a little rehearsal wretched actors. On the other hand, he had known a fellow come all trembling and choked with nervousness and quite unable to express anything at all, and after a little rehearsal he had got into the spirit of the part and proved altogether excellent. In conclusion, Mr. Cyril Maude said a word or two on the usefulness of the Academy of Dramatic Art, of which he—with Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr Pinero, Mr. Tree, and others—is a director. If only it had existed in his young days, said he, he would certainly have been glad of it, and if his own daughter went on the stage—which he sincerely hoped she would not—he would most certainly send her there. He warned the only too eager audience, however, not to be led by anything he should say to join too hastily a profession which was already very much overcrowded.

Sir Edward Clarke, who distributed the certificates in the absence of Lady Truscott, remarked that they might all congratulate themselves upon having listened to an exceedingly interesting entertainment. Not one of the candidates could be described as bad, whilst many of them might be spoken of as good. In his judgment that school was of very great value, because everyone who had anything to do with public life must know how important rhetoric and the proper use of the voice was. He was glad to learn that the interest in the school was continually increasing.

THE new Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. Charles Aves (musical director of the Crown Theatre, Peckham), gave two concerts last Sunday at the Palace Pier, Brighton, with conspicuous success. Amongst the selections, which were all faultlessly rendered, special mention must be made of the exceedingly fine playing of Tschaikowsky's "Capriccio Italien" (Op. 45), Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite," and Schubert's "Symphony in B Minor" (unfinished).

MR. J. FRED WATSON, the popular manager and licensee of the Victoria Theatre, Broughton (Salford), is to have his first complimentary benefit on Friday, the 21st inst., when special attractions will be presented. Miss Florence Baines (*Miss Lancashire, Ltd.*) and the leading artists at the Manchester theatres and music halls are announced to appear.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. A. H. Hoyle, the popular theatrical manager of the London and South Western Railway, has been the recipient of a handsome gold ring, subscribed for by the guards of that railway in recognition of his kindly services in promoting and arranging the most successful concert last October in aid of the widow and orphans of Guard Lawford.

PRESENTATION.—At the Assembly Rooms Theatre, Normanton, on Saturday, Mr. Fred L. Connyng hame was presented with a gold-mounted silk umbrella by Mr. W. Manning on behalf of the ladies and gentlemen of *A Mother's Love* company.

"TOMMY."

A play, in three acts, adapted by Jerome K. Jerome, from his novel "Tommy and Co.," and produced for the first time in London at the Camden Theatre, on Monday, Dec. 3.

Peter Hope .....MR. EVELYN VERNON
William Clodd .....MR. WILLIAM CALVERT
Flipp .....MR. A. E. BENDICT
Dick Danvers .....MR. RUPERT LISTER
"Mr. Morrison" .....MISS MOYRA CREEGAN
Honour .....MISS IDA RICHARDSON
Tommy .....MISS ANNIE HUGHES

Daringly unconventional in its ending, the new play, *Tommy*, adapted by Mr. Jerome K. Jerome from his own novel, "Tommy and Co.," had a very hearty welcome at the Camden Theatre on Monday from quite a West-end audience, and the calls so insistent at the end of each act made it a certainty that Miss Annie Hughes had scored a great personal triumph in the title-rôle. Cumulative in its interest, the piece is lifted into the regions of high-class melodrama by the powerfully-written scene that comes at the end of the second act; and keen curiosity is aroused as to the course that will be taken by the author with regard to his brave, true-hearted little heroine. How will he bring her back to the arms of the man to whom she had so clearly indicated the path of duty? In vain has been her sacrifice. The creature for which she had made it had cruelly lied to her, and her very soul revolts against the greyness of her future life without her idol. Exclaiming "God, myself, and the world will understand!" she falls into the arms of her lover; and her vows will not in holy church be said. The play is certain to excite considerable controversy, and that is one of the factors that make for success. The play, which has power and brightness, is also distinguished by fine character sketching, and should completely justify the faith of Miss Hughes in its drawing power.

"Tommy," the only child of Peter Hope, the editor of a weekly paper called *Good Humour*—published at 12, Cough-square, E.C., where the action of the piece is laid—has been given the name in memory of a dead brother. Left motherless at an early age, her bringing up has been mostly superintended by her father, an artless old gentleman, quite unfitted to battle with the stress demanded by the carrying on of a struggling journal. Tommy had become his sub-editor, and soon after the opening of the piece he is disquieted by the pointed remarks of Clodd, his manager, concerning the close friendship that had sprung up between the girl and Dick Danvers, who had dropped from the skies as it were into the position of general hack at the modest honorarium of two guineas a week. Clodd, evidently jealous of Danvers, makes Tommy a proposal of marriage on the telephone, but she refuses and accepts the love of Danvers, who tells her that he has put his former life behind him, and that she is the angel who has lifted him from the slough of despond. The interview between the pair is interrupted by the editor-father, who consents to the engagement. Danvers frankly details the history of his past life in New York, where his prospects had been ruined by an entanglement with a married woman. The old love—now a widow—meets the new, and in the name of "Mr. Morrison" offers to invest £2000 in *Good Humour* on one condition—that Tommy shall travel for six months. The proposition is made to Clodd, who declares that Tommy alone can settle it. Tommy leaves the decision to Danvers, who is completely nonplussed when "Mr. Morrison" appeals to him to think of their unborn child!

Fourteen years elapse between the second and third acts. Danvers, who is dwelling at 12, Cough-square—no longer the offices of that highly prosperous journal *Good Humour*—has done the "right thing" by "Mr. Morrison," and the marriage, as anyone may easily surmise, has turned out unhappily. The child—a girl, who has been named Honour—is now thirteen, and the father, deserted by the woman for whom he had given up all that he held dear, has grown prematurely grey through the drink habit and ill-health. Still a struggling journalist, his articles, unknown to him, are revised and touched up by Tommy, who pays surreptitious visits to his rooms twice a week. In her interviews with Honour she has discovered the girl's hatred of her shameless mother, and also finds out from a chance remark dropped by that lady during an angry interview, that Danvers is not the father of Honour, whose existence is due to a liaison previous to that of Danvers. Turning upon the guilty woman, Tommy, in a fit of justifiable rage, calls her a beast. On the departure of his wife, Danvers returns, and in a state of semi-intoxication conjures up visions of Tommy, who, in the gloaming, comes forward at his appeal and is enfolded in his arms.

Miss Annie Hughes never fails to interest us in any part that she is called upon to play, and all will remember her Sweet Nancy as a most perfect realisation of a frank, brave-hearted English girl in her teens. She once more delights us in the opening act by her free, unconventional treatment of a tomboy character, whose womanly nature she emphasises with such an indefinable charm. By her quiet intensity she brings out powerfully the dramatic strength of the well-written scene in the second act. It is another Tommy we meet in the third act. The gentle, dignified woman at last fathoms the depths of iniquity to which one of her own sex will sink, and Miss Hughes in her furious indictment of the wanton rises to heights of passion that bring down the house. Mr. Rupert Lister, who plays Danvers, is an actor of whom much will be heard in the future. He gave a clear indication of the character of the generous-hearted, impressionable young Irishman, who is ruled by heart rather than head, and his love-making is both tender and convincing. He just gives the necessary touch of the brogue, and the note of despair in the last act rings true. Mr. Evelyn Vernon plays the simple-hearted old editor on sound conventional lines, and gives utterance to a very good definition of a pessimist as a person "who pulls down the blinds and then grumbles because it is dark." Mr. William Calvert as the sharp man of business, Clodd, is responsible for an interpretation that quite reaches excellence. Clodd has what one may call the commercial instinct. He is not subtle, but possesses, nevertheless, a nice sense of the importance of diplomacy in business transactions, and his sharpness, shrewdness, and decisiveness are very interesting attributes as presented by the clever actor. Miss Moyra Creegan, as the unpleasant "Mr. Morrison," neither forces the note nor paints the character in lurid colours. She is content with half-tones, and her restraint and self-repression are admirable, especially in the last act. Mr. A. E. Bendict furnishes a good character-study of the office-boy, Flipp; and Miss Ida Richardson, as the half-trained, undisciplined Honour, plays her one scene with a truth to nature and an innate power that are instantly recognised. At the conclusion of the play, after the curtain had been lifted many times in compliment to Miss Hughes, there were loud calls for the author, but Mr. Jerome did not respond.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham's active and alert bearing and expressive and animated delivery of his speech at the Actors' Benevolent Fund Dinner on Wednesday were matters of general comment, and all present were delighted to see the gay veteran of so many theatrical fields in such "fine form." We congratulate Sir Charles, both on the amount of the subscriptions and on his excellent health and spirits.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree, in a lecture on *Antony and Cleopatra* to an audience, partly composed of members of the Salon, held in the upper chamber of His Majesty's Theatre on Thursday, stated that he had rearranged the five acts of the play with thirty-eight scenes, into four acts, or eighteen scenes in all. Before and after the play will be presented a vision of the Sphinx, "emblem of eternity, indifferent to human fate and human will." As a spectacle, Cleopatra's barge will be shown, and at the meeting of Cæsar, Antony, Lepidus, and Pompey, in Pompey's galley, there will be bacchanalian dances, and the emperors will themselves join in the revels. Later on there will be a scenic tableau representing Antony's return and Cleopatra publicly enthroned in the habiliments of the goddess Isis. After the lecture Mr. Tree gave his amusing Hamlet and Falstaff imitations.

Mr. Lewis Waller, who so narrowly escaped injury in a motor collision near Coventry recently, had to answer on the 30th ult. at the local police-court a summons for reckless driving. The police statement was to the effect that the defendant was driving a motor-car of considerable power from Coventry to London at a great speed, which various witnesses estimated at from thirty to forty miles an hour. In endeavouring to avoid another motor-car an accident happened, and defendant's car swerved and turned over on the side of the road.

Mr. Waller was present in court, and said he was thoroughly accustomed to driving in all sorts of places and under all sorts of conditions. He was proceeding at a very moderate pace for a powerful car, and slowed down to ten miles an hour when approaching the by-road out of which the other car came. He made a tremendous swerve to avoid this motor, which, however, struck his car broadside on. Had he been going forty miles an hour he would have missed the other car by several seconds. Evidence confirming Mr. Waller's statements was given, but the Bench decided to convict, and imposed a fine of £5 and costs. An application that the licence should not be endorsed pending consideration as to whether an appeal should be taken was granted.

Mrs. Kendal, looking extremely well, was present in the capacity of patron at the performance given by Mrs. S. Brereton Douglass's pupils at the Queen's (Small) Hall on Monday afternoon. The eminent actress bestowed frequent approval on the young people, with whose efforts she was so well pleased that she has asked Mrs. Douglass to send her several of the most promising.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier's production of *Macbeth*, of which Stratford-on-Avon was permitted the first glimpse, is due at the Garrick on Tuesday. The favour which Mr. and Mrs. Bourchier have won in Manchester has been of so pronounced a character that they have decided upon a three weeks' season in the great manufacturing town, in the course of which a varied selection of their most popular works will be presented.

Miss Delia Mason, the well-known actress, was married at St. James's, Piccadilly, on Wednesday afternoon, to Mr. Wysard, a wealthy young Brazilian. Miss Mason has recently been on tour, and few people knew of her engagement. Many of her friends were, therefore, surprised on receiving invitations to the wedding. After the ceremony a reception was held at Prince's. Mr. and Mrs. Wysard have left London for San Taulo, Brazil, the home of the bridegroom.

A meeting of members of the theatrical profession was held on the stage of the Comedy Theatre on Thursday, when Mr. Cyril Maude occupied the chair, the object being to arrange details in connection with the assembling of a large and representative gathering of actors and actresses at the meeting convened for the purposes of the Irving Memorial, which will take place at the Garrick Theatre on Tuesday, the 18th inst., at 3 o'clock. Mr. John Hare will preside, and several eminent members of the profession have promised to address the meeting.

Mr. Martin Harvey brings his tour to a triumphant close at the Palace Theatre, Belfast, to-night, every bookable seat having been disposed of several days ago. To-morrow Mr. Harvey, Miss de Silva, and company return to town, and will appear next week at the Coronet Theatre, playing *The Breed of the Treshams*, *A Cigarette maker's Romance*, *Boy O'Carroll*, and *The Only Way*.

"Students' Night" was celebrated on Wednesday, when a procession of collegiates, arrayed in fancy costumes, arrived at the theatre shortly after 6 p.m., and took possession of the gallery, where they furnished an excellent programme of songs, &c. The piece presented was *The Only Way*, in which Mr. Harvey achieved a positive triumph in his impersonation of Sydney Carton. Miss de Silva adjudicated upon the costumes worn by the students, and, during an interval, was presented with a handsome bouquet.

A speech was enthusiastically demanded from Mr. Harvey, who in the course of his remarks said he appeared before them in a somewhat novel rôle, for he had generally been associated with the entertainment in a theatre, but to-night they had completely turned the tables upon them, and they had been the entertained. On behalf of his fellow-workers, his wife, and himself, he thanked them—the students of the Queen's College—for their presence there that night. They all considered it a very great honour that the students should come in their official capacity, as it were, and give them that pleasant and memorable night in their lives.

Miss Dorothy Grimston has met with so much encouragement as the erring heroine in that famous old play *East Lynne*, that she will take it on a short tour with a strong company, beginning on Monday at the Kennington Theatre. Miss Grimston's tour will be under the direction of her husband, Mr. B. A. Meyer, who is making arrangements for it to be extended through the spring and autumn of next year.

Mr. Lewis Waller and Mr. Tom B. Davis are shortly to be associated in a philanthropic act, which will enhance the reputation of the profession for kindly deeds. The estimable project is to devote an afternoon at the Lyric between now and Christmas, to the entertainment of some 1,400 of the little crippled children, on whose behalf Sir William Treloar, the Lord Mayor, is now raising a fund, who will be invited to a performance of *Robin Hood*. The delight of the afflicted little ones at meeting so gallant a hero can well be conceived.

We regret to record the death of Miss Lizzie Green, recently a member of the *Sergeant Brue* company on tour, which took place at Burnley on the 29th ult. from typhoid. Miss Green was for many years an assistant in the circle bar at the Northampton Opera House, and then joined one of Mr. Lockwood's operatic companies, touring in England and afterwards in South Africa.

Mr. Bannister Howard has started rehearsals for the coming pantomime *Aladdin* at the Crystal Palace Theatre. Miss Lily Lassah, who will be the Aladdin, is, possibly, a greater favourite in the district than anywhere, having been born in Croydon, where she has lived all her life.

"The Bondman," which finished on Wednesday at Drury-lane, will be interrupted in its successful career by only a few weeks, for it is to be afforded hospitality at the Adelphi on Jan. 5. All the original exponents of the cast, with the important exception of Mrs. Patrick Campbell and Mr. Henry Ainley, will resume their rôles. Mr. Ainley, who goes to *Raffles*, will be replaced by Mr. Walter Hampden, but Mrs. Campbell's successor has yet to be named. *The Prodigal Son*, Old Drury's last year's production, is afterwards to be revived at the Adelphi, and a new play by Mr. Hall Caine is also in contemplation.

Mr. Otho Stuart has also made arrangements of an important nature by which the company of the Komische Oper in Berlin will be seen and heard at the Adelphi about the middle of April. The company has achieved an enviable renown in Germany for its light operatic productions, which are akin to those of the Paris Opèra-Comique, Offenbach's opera, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, the German title of which is *Hoffmann's Erzählungen*, will be their first production at the Adelphi. Mr. Hans Gregor, the director of the company, will bring over a complete orchestra and no fewer than a hundred performers, including three prima donnas.

As announced at the annual dinner on Wednesday evening, the treasurer of the Actors' Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £500 from the executors of the late Mr. J. L. Toole, and the same has been invested in conformity with the rules of the Fund.

Mr. C. Aubrey Smith has forwarded to the secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund a cheque for £37 10s., on account of the cricket matches given in July for the benefit of the Fund, and also of the Orphanage.

Miss Beryl Mercer, who accompanied Miss Lena Ashwell to America to play her original part of the Kaffir girl in *The Shulamite*, has, to use an Americanism, "struck oil." Her original performance in this play has deeply impressed our American cousins, and as a consequence this clever little lady has received many tempting offers to remain in the States.

The Scala has been selected for the eighth season of the German Theatre in London under the direction of Hans Andresen, who will start operations in the spring. The German Ambassador, Count Metternich, has again this year granted the enterprise a handsome subsidy. The management will repeat the experiment of last year, and give another Christmas play prior to the opening of the chief season, the fairy piece *Schneewittchen* (Snow White), by A. Gorner, being selected for production on Boxing Day and following afternoons. Mr. Hans Andresen has secured a series of highly interesting new plays for his spring season, including *Die Condottieri*, by Rudolf Herzog; *Husarenfieber*, by Skovroneck and Kadelburg, and *Die von Hochsattel*, by Heller.

Patrons of the Crystal Palace Theatre will have a delightful choice of plays next week, Mr Bannister Howard having engaged Mr. Norman V. Norman and an excellent company, including Miss Beatrice Wilson, in a répertoire of West End pieces. On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday will be seen the new romantic play *Robin Hood; or, The Outlaw of Sherwood Forest*, by Messrs. Dennis Cleugh and Cecil Duncan Jones. The play has already scored a great success, and will shortly be published in book form. On Thursday and Friday the attraction will be *Nell Gwyn of Drury Lane*. The matinée on Thursday should draw a crowded house, for that delightful play of Anthony Hope's, *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, will be presented, with Mr. Norman as Sir George Sylvester and Miss Wilson as Lady Ursula Barrington.

Mr. Charles E. Machin, of the Avenue Theatre, Sunderland, has patented a new lantern, which it is asserted will be the stage arc light of the future. Among the advantages claimed are a saving in current of from 50 per cent. to 75 per cent. over battens, without taking the cost of incandescent lamps into account. One man, moreover, can control twenty lamps with one leverboard, a great saving of labour being thus effected. By the use of flexible coloured mediums the danger from falling glass is avoided, and the simplicity of construction removes any fear of the lamp getting out of order. The lamps are said to flood the entire stage with a powerful, soft, sunlight effect, and to possess the invaluable advantage of making no shadows or flickering.

Miss Maude Stewart Drewry, who has had a most successful South African tour as leading lady in Mr. Leonard Rayne's répertoire company, is returning to England, and is due to arrive on the 22nd inst.

"The Silver Stick," a new musical play by Alfred England, with the music by Mr. Carl St. Amyas, is announced for production at the Opera House, Northampton, on the 17th inst.

There has just passed away at Belfast, after a few days' illness, a well-known citizen in Mr. John Mantell, proprietor of Eglinton and Winton Hotel, and brother of Mr. R. B. Mantell, an actor of distinction in the United States. His funeral, which took place on Tuesday last, was attended by all classes of the community, including many members of the Masonic Order, of which deceased was so prominent a member, being Past Master of St. John's Masonic Lodge No. 88. Messrs. Fred W. Warden, managing-director Theatre Royal and Palace, Belfast; David Motherwell, manager David Allen and Sons, Ltd., Belfast; Alan Carswell, J.P., and W. T. Braithwaite were among those present. Many beautiful wreaths were forwarded, and the cortége was one of the most imposing ever witnessed in Belfast.

A varied feast of music has been enjoyed by patrons of the autumn season of Italian opera at Covent Garden, which concluded on Saturday last. Out of a total of fifty-three operas given up to and including Dec. 1, the highest number has been secured by a modern work, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, which was sung ten times. Bizet's *Carmen* came next with nine representations; Puccini again scored with seven performances of *La Bohème*; Gounod's *Faust* was given six times; Verdi's *Aïda* appeared five times; Puccini was represented once more with four revivals of *La Tosca*; and the same number was given of Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Giordano's *Fedora* and Verdi's *Traviata* were each given thrice, and the list is completed by Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur*, which was twice performed.

The Hildenborough Village Players, who won the greatly-valued commendation of the late Sir Henry Irving, are entering upon their fifth season. Messrs. John Johnson and Dagney Major have again written the play, which, according to custom, has been designed for male characters only, although the authors are also preparing another version in which female characters will be introduced. All the parts, it may be recalled, are played by working men, the scenery is painted by a resident in Hildenborough, the stage work, including lighting, is done by Hildenborough workmen, and the incidental music is composed by the organist of the little Kentish village.

Miss Annie Hughes has found an admirable outlet for her gifts, both of comedy and dramatic power, in Jerome K. Jerome's play *Tommy*, which created such a marked impression on its production at the Camden this week. Miss Hughes is arranging a tour of the "striking melodrama," as it is termed, with herself, of course, in the title-rôle.

The Irving Memorial Committee held a meeting on the 29th ult., when Mr. Cecil Raleigh, the chairman, was supported by all the members of the committee and the secretary. Mr. John Hare also attended, and several matters in connection with the holding of the meeting of the profession at the Garrick Theatre on Tuesday, the 18th inst., were settled. The meeting adjourned till the following Tuesday, when the secretary received further instructions with regard to the Irving Memorial meeting.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held on Tuesday, when there were present Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy-chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Mesdames Carlotta Addison, Kate Bishop, Kate Phillips, Saba Raleigh, Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Burton Cooke, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, Quinton McPherson, A. B. Tapping, Spencer Trevor, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). The hon. solicitors reported progress in several matters. Questions of alleged insanitation at three provincial theatres were considered, and the secretary received instructions. Four former members were reinstated. Stanley Field was nominated for election.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, when the chair was occupied by Mr. A. E. Drinkwater, supported by Messrs. J. Cooke Beresford, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Several matters were under consideration, and further discussion adjourned.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Dudley (Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Cook) marked the commencement of their official year by inviting Mr. William Greet's *Earl and the Girl* company to tea on Sunday last in the Temperance Institute of the Castle Borough on the arrival of the company in that town. The graceful act was highly appreciated, and creates an agreeable precedent.

Special Christmas and New Year matinées will be given to keep pace with the rapidly-growing popularity of *The Electric Man*, by Mr. Charles Hannan, at the New Royalty Theatre. The extra matinées, which commence on Boxing Day, will be given every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday during the holidays. A large number of children are constantly witnessing the play, and take infinite delight in the weird lighting and effects and in the antics of Mr. Harry Nicholls as the automaton. The usual Wednesday and Saturday matinées of the droll piece, it should be added, will be given every week up to Boxing Day.

The provinces are shortly to be afforded opportunities of making acquaintance with Mr. Charles Hannan's fantastic comedy *The Electric Man*, which will be sent on tour with two companies next year. Although the dual rôle of Walter Everest and the Electric Man was sustained by another actor when the play was first publicly produced at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, Mr. Harry Nicholls was, nevertheless, the original exponent of the part at the copyright performance at the Richmond Theatre some time before—a performance, by the way, which was strongly recommended at the time by Mr. Nicholls, who was the first to read the completed play.

The visit of Mr. J. W. Turner's English Opera Company to Wigan this week was made the occasion between acts of the performance of Benedict's *Lily of Killarney*, on Monday night, of the presentation to Mr. Turner of a beautifully illuminated and framed address on behalf of the citizens of Wigan, expressing their appreciation of his services in the cause of Grand Opera. The address bore the signatures of the Mayor of Wigan (Councillor J. O'Donaghue) and many prominent citizens. In the absence of the Mayor of Wigan, the Deputy-Mayor, Councillor J. M'Quaid, made the presentation, which was acknowledged by Mr. Turner in fitting terms.

Mr. H. Adair Nelson is now the acting-manager at His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen. Mr. H. C. Cavanah, who demitted the post in order to devote the whole of his time to his profession of chartered accountant, will in future act as treasurer of the new house.

On account of the sudden indisposition of Miss Annie Goward during the matinée of *What the Butler Saw*, on the 29th ult., at the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, Miss Julie St. George, who happened to be in the neighbourhood, although not a member of the company was asked to play the part of Mrs. Hake at the evening performance. This she did successfully at two hours' notice, and was forthwith engaged by Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche for their spring tour of the same piece.

Miss Olga Audry, who concludes a successful engagement with Mr. Walter Melville's company at the Standard Theatre, has been engaged to play the title-rôle in *A Wrecker of Men*. Miss Audré, it may be added, has secured the rights of a new drama, written by John F. St. Denton, entitled *Don't Do as She Did*.

The Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, is now under the direction of Messrs. Murray King and Clark, the well-known theatrical *entrepreneurs*, who have in the past sent some of the best companies to the handsome playhouse of the popular watering-place. Prices of admission are to be reduced, and during the coming year the residents and the visitors to Eastbourne are to have the pleasure of seeing some of the London successes.

Mr. Norman V. Norman's company have been indulging a good deal in hockey lately. Last week a very pleasant game was played at Southampton against the Redlodge Club, which resulted in a draw, each side scoring three goals. This week the company are contesting Newport, on the Newport Athletic Ground.

"Lady Kinton's Necklace" finishes to-day its experimental tour at the Empire, Oldham, and will be reproduced next autumn. Meanwhile Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco open on the 17th inst. at the Colysée Royal, Lisbon, Portugal, for an extended season.

The Argonauts, a new society for the production of new plays, gives its initial performance on Friday, Jan. 11, at the Bijou Theatre, Victoria Hall, Archer-street, Bayswater. *A Point of View*, a play in three acts, by Arnold Whiteley, will be its first production.

At the King's Theatre, Gateshead, the pantomime will be *Sindbad the Sailor*, due on the afternoon of Boxing Day. Mr. Arthur W. James will produce, and the Misses Fifie Gordon and Beattie Kent and Tom Collins will be the principals.

We hear that a syndicate, headed by a Belfast gentleman, has been formed for the purpose of establishing a new theatre in Belfast. Ground has been secured, and as far as present arrangements go, Easter ought to see this new temple of drama established.

Mr. William Mollison received an ovation at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, on Monday last, when he appeared in *Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush*, and during the progress of the play theatregoers of "modern Athens" were at times completely carried away by this clever actor's work. It will be good news for playgoers in all parts of the country to learn that Mr. Mollison will shortly embark on a Shakespearean tour in conjunction with Mr. Sidney Cooper, the lessee and manager of the Lyceum Theatre, Newport, in the course of which some of the plays with which the popular actor had such successful London seasons will be presented.

Mr. Charles Carey will produce *Trilby* for a company of amateurs at his Tunbridge Wells Opera House on Friday evening next and the following afternoon. The performance will be given in aid of the local hospitals, and is under the patronage of the Marquis of Abergavenny, K.G., the Marquis Camden, Lord Henry Nevill, Sir David Salomons, Lady Miller of Glencoe, his Worship the Mayor, Mr. A. P. Hedges, M.P., and many other notabilities. Mr. Carey will play Svengali, and the title-rôle will be entrusted to Miss Wix. Selections from Mr. Carey's new musical comedy, *The Pick of the Bunch*, will be played as an overture.

Two new plays will start the next series of Vedrenne-Barker matinées at the Court on Tuesday, Jan. 8. One novelty is called *The Reformer*, a light comedy in three acts, by Cyril Harcourt, the cast of which will include Miss Eva Moore, Mr. Allan Aynesworth, Mr. C. B. Clarence, Mr. Hubert Harben, Mr. Lawrence Grant, Mr. John L. Mackay, and Mr. Edmund Gwenn. The second new piece is entitled *The Campden Wonder*, a drama in three scenes, by John Mansfield, in which Miss Dolores Drummond, Miss Carlotta Addison, Mr. Norman McKinnel, and Mr. H. R. Hignett will have principal parts. *The Doctor's Dilemma* will be put into the evening bill on Monday, Dec. 31, and for Monday, Feb. 11, a new revival of *You Never Can Tell* may be anticipated.

Miss Ward, who has made such a notable success as Honor Symes in *Her Fatal Past*, is opening at Christmas as Marcelle, the part specially written for her by Mr. Walter Howard, in the romantic play *Man and Wife*. She will continue to play Marcelle up to within a few weeks of Easter, and after a short rest will create the leading part in the production *Second to None*, by the same author.

Mr. Clarence Sounes has appointed Mr. E. H. Grime as assistant-acting-manager at the New Prince's Theatre, Poplar. Mr. Grime has already been with Mr. Sounes for many years in other capacities.

Miss Theresa Osborne has been engaged to play the leading part in the new romantic play, *The Tyrant*, which is being produced in Manchester on Dec. 17.

Great interest is being taken by the Princess of Wales, Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck, and many other distinguished personages in the performances in aid of the Kensington General Hospital, which take place at the Scala on Tuesday next and two following evenings, together with a matinée on Wednesday. The entertainment will consist of a new children's play, entitled *Under the Greenwood Tree* and a fantastic fairy comedy, named *Humpty Dumpty*, both produced under the direction of Mr. Leo Trevor.

A sad termination to the visit of M. Auguste Van Biene's company to the Empire, Oldham, last week was made by the sudden death of Mr. Faulkner Cox, who played the character of Mortimer in *The Broken Melody*. On leaving the stage at the end of the second act on the 30th ult., Mr. Cox fell into the arms of one of the assistants, and was carried to his dressing room. A doctor was called, and on his instruction Mr. Cox was removed, in an unconscious condition, to the infirmary, where he died the following morning. At the inquest, held at Oldham Town Hall on Monday afternoon, a verdict of "Death from heart disease" was returned.

The funeral took place at Greenacres Cemetery on Wednesday, the chief mourners being Miss M A. Cox, Miss Jane Cox (sister of the deceased), Master Cox, and Mrs. Barrett. Wreaths were sent by deceased's daughter, the Oldham Branch of the United Irish League, of which the lamented actor was a prominent member, Mr. and Mrs. Byrne (Shakespeare Hotel), and members of *The Broken Melody* company and *The London Fireman* company. Mr. Cox, who had only been with Mr. Van Biene's company for three months, was an experienced actor, and had toured his own companies. He was a widower, and leaves one child.

Mr. J. Grant Allen has with great kindness lent the Criterion Theatre for a matinée on Tuesday and Thursday next, on behalf of the Belgrave Hospital for Children, under the immediate patronage of the Princess Henry of Battenberg. The piece chosen for the occasion is Mr. Leo Trevor's entertaining comedy, *Brother Officers*, which is to be played by a distinguished company of amateurs.

Mr. Joseph Coyne, an American actor who was seen at the Duke of York's in *The Girl from Up There*, will have the leading juvenile part in *Nelly Neil*, which may be expected at the Aldwych before the end of the year. The leading attraction of course, will be Miss Edna May, and other members of the cast will consist of Messrs. E. Dagnall, Herbert Sparling, Gerald Kirby, A. T. Gullifer, Henry Warren, J. J. Dallas, Robb Harwood, Akerman May, and Frank Walsh, and Misses Kitty Gordon, Mollie Lowell, Mary Brough, Gertrude Lester, Jane May, Gertrude Thornton, and Gerty Latchford.

"The Vicar of Wakefield" will be presented by Mr. Frank Curzon at the Prince of Wales's on Wednesday. The opera, which has already had a trial run in Manchester, will have the inestimable advantage of the talents of Miss Isabel Jay and Mr. David Bispham in the principal rôles.

Mr. Albert C. Duncan was the recipient of several valuable presents from staff and friends on Saturday night last, on the occasion of his departure from Cardiff, where he had been resident manager at the King's Theatre. The gift included a handsome dressing case, gold sleeve links, shaving outfit, &c. Mr. Duncan, it may be interesting to relate, had a stage doorkeeper, an old naval pensioner, whose constant allusions to a small fortune which was due to him induced Mr. Duncan to investigate matters, with the happy result that the poor old man turns out to be heir to property near Birmingham of the estimated value of £8,000.

Christmas Eve will mark the production at the Shakespeare of Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett's eleventh annual. The pantomime will be *Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp*, the book being written by Mark Melford and the music composed and arranged by Mr. Sidney Shaw, and the whole produced by Fewlass Llewellyn, under the supervision of Mr. Robert Crossman. One of the strongest casts ever seen at Clapham will include Miss Winifred Hare as Aladdin, Miss Mary Hay as Princess Badroulbadour, Mr. Mark Melford as Widow Twankey, Mr. Arthur Reynolds, Susie and Protti, Miss Ethel Ivimay, Miss Marion Hargrave, the Etharien Brothers, Mr. Dan Lyndon, Mr. Gus Granville, Miss Vere Thompson, Miss Ethel Ford, Mr. T. H. Goldsworthy, and Mr. Josh Collins's troupe of See-saw Girls.

Sir Charles Wyndham followed up the gratifying success of his matinée of *David Garrick* at the New Theatre on the 22nd ult. by a repetition of the performance on behalf of the Actors' Benevolent Fund on Monday, when an overflowing house again enthusiastically greeted the distinguished actor and Miss Mary Moore. An interesting epilogue was contributed to the evening's entertainment by Mr. Harry Nicholls, who came on to the stage and warmly thanked Sir Charles for his kindness in devoting his brilliant art to the good of "those poor souls who have fallen by the way." The proceeds of the matinée amounted to £402 14s.

Mr. T. Arthur Jones produced, for copyright purposes, at the Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield, on Tuesday, a new drama, entitled *When Other Lips*.

Miss Phyllis Broughton will occupy the chair at the Playgoers' Club meeting at the Hotel Cecil to-morrow, when a paper, entitled "The Passing of the Young Person," will be read by Mr. Edgar Jepson. A famous actress has also been secured for the Ladies' Christmas Dinner, over which Mrs. Patrick Campbell will preside, at the Hotel Cecil next Sunday.

The most interesting sale of the week will be that of the Lyceum Theatre, which is to be offered at auction by Messrs. Glasier and Sons, at the Mart, E.C., on Thursday next, at two o'clock. The property, which includes shop and business premises in Exeter-street and Wellington-street, covers a superficial area of over half an acre, and will be disposed of in one lot.

Mr. Luscombe Searelle has been for the past few days suffering from a recurrence of the symptoms which led to the operation that nearly cost him his life in San Francisco some eighteen months ago. He has, however, completely recovered. The arrangements for the production of *Mizpah* at a leading London theatre are now almost completed.

The first Managers' Club smoking concert will take place on Sunday evening. Mr. J. B. Howard will take the chair, and provides the musical entertainment. Among the artists who have kindly consented to appear are Mr. Frank Lawton, Mr. Allen Morris, Mr. Walter Walters, Mr. Harrison Latimer, Mr. Arthur Poole, Mr. John Doran, London Quartette, Messrs. Oxlee, Del Lungo, Henry and Malghan, Mr. Johnny Clegg, Mr. George Robins, Mr. Fred Pedgrift, Mr. A. E. Passmore, Mr. H. V. Cropton, Miss Lillie Lassah, Miss Daisy Lake, Miss Kate Leicester, and Miss Isa Bowman.

The tiny point of light which, in the small hours of Tuesday morning, flickered this way and that at the British end of an Atlantic cable, spelt out yet another message of triumph for Leslie Stuart's musical play, *The Belle of Mayfair* in the United States. Rochester, Syracuse, Washington, Baltimore, and Boston had each in turn succumbed to the charms of the "Belle," but on Monday, in New York, a reception was accorded the play entirely eclipsing the splendid ovations that had gone before.

The numbers in *The Belle of Mayfair* entitled "Why do they call me a Gibson Girl?" and "I know a girl" were each of them six times redemanded by the New York audience; "Come to Saint George's" had to be thrice repeated; and "Hello! come along girls!" "I'll wait for you, little girlie," and "The weeping willow wept" were all encored twice.

English musical comedies, as produced in the States, are frequently riddled through and through with interpolations, but in the case of *The Belle of Mayfair*—as in that of *Florodora*—the composer's original score is preserved intact, the whole of the musical numbers being from the facile pen of Mr. Stuart.

An unsuccessful attempt was made by Mr. Andrew Melville at the special Licensing Sessions at Birmingham on Tuesday to have the restriction as to the sale of intoxicating drink removed from the Metropole licence. Counsel said that the restriction did not prevent drinking—the only result was that the surrounding public-houses benefited. The magistrates, however, decided not to remove the prohibition. The licences of the various theatres were all renewed, and the Chairman of the Bench congratulated the managers upon the manner in which they had endeavoured to meet the wishes of the magistrates. He expressed the wish, on behalf of his brethren on the Bench, that no child who was apparently under the age of fourteen should be admitted to any performance unless accompanied by an adult, cases having occurred in which children had been tempted to steal in order to visit the play.

Probate of the will of the late Stefano Gatti, who died on Oct. 12, was on Wednesday granted to his nephew, Joannes M. A. Gatti. The estate, which amounts in the United Kingdom to £220,414 gross, including personality of the net value of £139,795, is left to Mr. Gatti's nephews and nieces.

The generous feeling which Mr. Harry Battersby cultivated in the minds of the members of his Juvenile Opera Company was manifest in a little incident that occurred last week. Miss Florence Baines and Miss Kitty Jones were formerly children with Mr. Battersby's Juvenile Opera Company. Miss Jones read in Aberdeen of Miss Baines losing her voice, and the probability of the theatre being closed in consequence, whereupon she sent her colleague the following telegram:—"Am coming to Birmingham to help you out of your awful difficulty." On Miss Jones's arrival she was thanked by Miss Baines, and presented with a marquise diamond ring. During the spring Miss Jones will play Eva Lancashire, her original part, Miss Baines of course retaining that of Our Mary Ellen, the Lancashire lass.

Dame Fortune was very gracious to Miss Florence Baines and the *Miss Lancashire, Limited*, company at the Palace Theatre, Bradford, last week. Despite the illness of Miss Baines (who was obliged after the first performance to refrain from singing) the business exceeded anything ever done in the house. On Saturday evening, while thousands were waiting to gain admission, Miss Baines's speaking voice absolutely failed, and Florence de Vere volunteered to go on and read the part. The indulgence of the audience being requested, they treated the plucky little lady most liberally, and she played to the two largest houses ever assembled in the walls of the Palace. At the fall of the curtain, in the presence of the whole company, the manager personally thanked Miss de Vere, presenting her with a £5 note, and permanently engaged her as Miss Baines's understudy. The specialist attending Miss Baines advises a short rest. Miss Baines plays the Christmas season at the Court Theatre, Wigan, and in the new year will be returning to Huddersfield with the Northern Theatres Syndicate.

A pleasing incident took place during the performance of *Tannhäuser* at the Grand Theatre and Opera House, Eccles. Mr. Alderman Schofield, the Mayor, presented the proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines, on behalf of the Humane Society, with a certificate signed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for saving the life of Mabel Robins, who was in imminent danger of drowning in the Thames at Reading on Aug. 25. The Mayor said he felt proud that the playhouse of the town was in the hands of a man of the calibre and grit of Mr. Baines, who, when necessity called upon him, did not hesitate to risk his life for another.

ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND ANNUAL DINNER.

Sir Charles Wyndham presided at the annual dinner of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, held at the Hotel Metropole on Wednesday evening. The last occasion on which Sir Charles officiated in a similar capacity was eight years ago, when his eloquent appeal resulted in a handsome collection. On the present occasion Sir Charles delivered a touching address, in which he called attention in a striking manner to the exigencies of an actor's life, the whole-hearted liberality of members of the theatrical profession in their conduct towards one another, and even the ungrudging support they gave to outside charities. During the evening it was announced that over £3,000 had been subscribed.

There was a good assemblage of notable men belonging to the various professions. The Lord Mayor (Alderman Sir W. P. Treloar) and Mr. Sheriff W. H. Dunn entered, and joined the company while Sir Charles Wyndham was proposing the toast of the evening. The dinner-table list was as follows:—Sir Charles Wyndham, Sir Anderson Critchett, Prince Alexis Dolgorouki, Rear-Admiral Sir Adolphus FitzGeorge, Captain Hon. Ronald H. F. Greville, Sir Samuel Montagu, Bart., Sir Felix Semon, K.C.V.O., Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, K.C.B., Major-General L. N. Swaine, Sir W. Lawrence Young, Mr. Morris Abrahams, Mr. Irving Albery, Mr. Bronson Albery, Mr. Charles Allan, Mr. A. L. Birstingl, Mr. W. H. Brereton, Mr. Matthew Brodie, Mr. J. Finden Brown, Mr. E. H. Bull, Mr. Percy Burton, Mr. W. Clarkson, Mr. H. A. H. Cole, Mr. W. A. Collins, Mr. C. I. Coltson (secretary), Mr. J. Y. F. Cooke, Mr. W. L. Courtney, Mr. Charles Cruikshanks, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. C. J. Davies, Mr. H. H. Davies, Mr. Richard Davis, Mr. George Delacher, Mr. Frank Desprez, Mr. Walter Emden, Mr. Henry Evill, Mr. G. Spencer Edwards, Mr. P. Michael Faraday, Mr. Alfred Farquhar, Mr. Frederick Fenn, Mr. W. F. Fladgate, Mr. H. le Forestier, Mr. Robert Gardiner, Mr. Charles Milne Gay, Mr. W. Gaze, Mr. Herbert Greenwood, L.C.C., Mr. L. A. Harwood, Mr. Max Hecht, Mr. S. Heilbut, Mr. A. F. Henderson, Mr. A. K. Hollands, Mr. Tom Honey, Mr. Wharton P. Hood, Major Lewis H. Isaacs, Mr. S. B. Joel, Mr. C. F. Kearley, Mr. Wilfred Kearton, Mr. Frederick Kerr, Mr. J. H. Leigh, Mr. H. Lowenfeld, Mr. Henry Lucy, Mr. E. W. Maddick, Mr. J. W. Marchant, Mr. Horace Marriott, Mr. Ben Martin, Mr. T. Maskall, Mr. J. H. Maunder, Mr. Akerman May, Mr. George May, Mr. B. B. McKean, Mr. Bertram Mills, Mr. William Millwood, Mr. M. R. Morand, Mr. Fred Mote, Mr. Henry Mote, Mr. Stuart Ogilvie, Mr. A. J. Rice Oxley, M.D., Mr. Cecil Paget, Mr. J. C. Parkinson, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Robert Radford, Mr. Lionel Rignold, Mr. F. A. Roberts, Mr. J. F. Roberts, Mr. Theodore Rosenberg, Mr. Frank Safford, Mr. Arthur Sarjeant, Mr. George Scanell, Sir Charles Scotter, Mr. A. F. M. Spalding, Mr. Henry Stedall, Sir Douglas Straight, Mr. R. Clay Sudlow, Mr. Algernon Syms, Mr. A. B. Tapping, Mr. G. L. Turner, Dr. Horton Villanueva, Mr. Albert Visetti, Mr. Arthur Wagg, Rev. H. Russell Wakefield, Mr. Lionel Walford, Mr. Reginald Walter, Lord Weardale, and the Lord Mayor.

Among the ladies who listened to the speeches from a balcony were to be noticed Lady Wyndham, Miss Mary Moore, and Mrs. George Alexander.

After the toast of "The Royal Family" had been duly honoured,

The CHAIRMAN, rising amid a tremendous ovation to propose "The Actors' Benevolent Fund," said:

My lords, ladies, and gentlemen,—It is my privilege, and, in a sense, my misfortune, to propose the toast of the Actors' Benevolent Fund. When pleading for this excellent and meritorious institution eight years ago from this chair, I did not dream of being called back to it again so soon. Consequently, you see before you a man beset with dangers and surrounded by embarrassments. To begin with, in '98 I complained of the fact that seven predecessors in this chair were treading on my heels. Now there are fifteen of them. Difficult as it was then to clothe my appeal in language that would not be a conscious or unconscious plagiarism of those fearsome seven, how much more perplexing now that the number has increased; and how very disconcerting for me to remember that one of the fifteen was myself. You realise the situation, I hope. There are fifteen ghosts of the past before you, and one revived and sad reality. In the whole of the blazing Sahara of rhetoric, I was the only cool, green oasis of incompetence. Can you wonder, therefore, that those fifteen exercise a weird influence over me, and so capture my senses that I see none of you? I am assured that I shall find you all there, but to me it is merely at present hearsay: I see nothing but those phantoms derisively gibing at me from the depths of their experience of the difficulties of this office. And so demoralised have I become that, whilst you have been regaling yourselves for hours, I have been barely able to swallow the soup; I have but flirted with the fish, and after that have been compelled to send away dish after dish untasted, till at last I began to feel like that great reformer, Martin Luther, who, when he repudiated the Diet of Worms, cried out, "Alas! alas! I can take no other course!" For my trouble is this—I have to speak to you to-night on precisely the same subject I spoke on eight years ago. And you know well that the man who plagiarises from another is a brigand, but that the man who plagiarises from himself is a bore. And I know from personal experience what it is to listen to long official speeches, what an agony boredom can become. There are times when I have felt like crying out for some anæsthetic to help me bear the affliction. And, with this knowledge, I hesitate to operate on you unless, perchance, you are in good enough health to bear it. You look strong, and, judging from your kind and warm reception of me, you sound strong, so I may perhaps console myself with the reflection that if the patient is strong enough to endure the agony, it is not for the operator to disclaim the ability to inflict it. So I take heart of grace. Though I know that I am going to run the risk of repeating myself, and, what is worse, of being found out doing it; though I know that the annals of the fund stand on record against me, like the previous convictions of the hardened offender, I am gradually beginning to do full justice to the beautiful spirit of resignation underlying the statesman's apparently obvious remark, "What I have said, I have said!" And if I do repeat myself, shall I be censured or abused? Are those eight years to count for nothing? Why, in eight years science tells us that the whole physical man is changed, so it must be apparent that to-night I am not myself at all. And it is the same with you. Undeniably, a new man is addressing a new audience on behalf of new clients; so if I cannot repeat myself without detraction, it will be obvious that science is wrong, but I am not prepared to take the responsibility of such a statement. Moreover, there is the great paradoxical truth that the great things in life are most new when most old. The organic processes of physical nature, however oft-repeated, are always fresh. Each dawn, each sunset comes to us as a new thing; the sun itself may be very old, but who shall say it has not still a bright future before it? Certainly not our little earth, which, with unfailing Christian complacency, keeps turning to it first one cheek and then the other to be smitten or caressed. The elemental passions of human nature, old though they be in the abstract, are ever new in each concrete manifestation. What, for instance, more ancient than the love of a man for a maid? And the more ancient the man, or the more ancient the maid, the newer it is, and when both are ancient, newer than ever! Why, there are no more unblushing plagiarists than your amorous couples of all ages and all nations. Look at your young Romeos and Juliets, always pretending to be new and original, and bamboozling each other with the old accents, the old phrases, the old vows, and, oh, dear! oh, dear! the old perjuries, the source of so much amusement to the gods of old and so much "copy" to the newspapers of to-day. To come nearer home, what more ancient since the existence of the stage than the friendly relations between the public and the actor? Relations so friendly, so constant, so binding that I have before now likened the link to that of the nuptial tie itself. You, the public, are the stronger; we, the actors, are the weaker. You, in fact, are the husband; we, the wife. And so deep down in our hearts is this truth embedded that we instinctively recognise our duties to each other. Ours it is to honour and obey you. Yours, of course, to love and cherish and endow us with all your worldly goods. I am obliged to mention this to-night because later on we must discuss the method of your payment. And what is true of these happy states is equally true of others. The poor are always with us, but to the compassionate heart each appeal of poverty brings its own individual pang. Human misery, though old in bulk, is ever new in detail; but, thank God, the anciently-implanted impulse to alleviate and succour, to hold out the hand of good fellowship to the down-trodden is ever fresh and beautiful each time it stirs within the heart of us. It is this unfailing freshness I count on now; on this foundation that I build. And if I can reach your hearts to-night, what does it signify that I do tread the path so often trod before. Rather let me do so. Let me wander into the fields of retrospect and sentiment; retrospect mournful though not unnatural this year; sentiment none the less sincere because postprandial; on the contrary, as genuine as the characters that evoke it, as stirring as the men whose memory I desire to honour. Travellers in Switzerland whilst often admiring the excellence of the roads there, as often notice that, side by side with the new road—sometimes above, sometimes below—runs the discarded old road, stony, tortuous, uneven, uncomfortable, but clothed for the living with the sweetest memories. Such a traveller who has known it in early days, to whom its every stone is familiar, will find himself almost unconsciously crossing the fields that separate him from that now-neglected track. To that his affections will cling tenderly, and none the less so if he is pacing the new road with sad memories of companions who were with him on the old. Two old comrades of mine and favourites of yours—both with us a few months ago—started and travelled with me on that old road—over the boulders that blocked it; by the side of the floods which submerged it; by the avalanches that often swept it away. Together we hoped and failed, and hoped again, and by the light of our own troubles and disappointments learned to think tenderly of the miseries of others. So was founded later in life this Actors' Benevolent Fund. I will not repeat the story I told you in '98. How we three, in conjunction with Bancroft, Hare, Kendal, and a few others, conceived, planned, and developed the Fund, which has done so much, and is called upon to do so much more. But I recall in reverence the names of Irving and of Toole—men whose hearts and souls were in this fund; in life and in death identified therewith, as you will learn later on. You have so many motives for your generosity to-night. Let the memory of those two good men be the crown and coping-stone of them all. It is well that there should be a pause occasionally in the rush and turmoil of existence; that, after ceaselessly jostling each other on life's highway, we at times should have leisure—leisure, if not made by ourselves, provided for us by occasions like these to step aside into the green and under the whispering trees hold converse with misfortune. It has been said that in the chronometry of life there are provided many silent moments. Such moments come to us each year before we meet—moments between the strokes of the ruthless bells that proclaim the great events of life—moments which invite reflection wherein to contemplate the misery that surrounds us. And to the generous heart such contemplation is the forerunner of resolution. Thought is the mother of action. You have been thinking, or would not have been here to-night. Now you are going to act, and I am sure your acts will not fall short of your thoughts; on the contrary, in a fiscal sense, will outrun them; for figures are elastic, and, like all elastic substances, expand under the genial influence of warmth—such warmth as melting charity diffuses. Once a year, in the old days of the state of Rome, the master waited on the slave; once a year, in the later days of the Church of Rome, the Bishop cleansed the soiled and wounded feet of the outcast. Let each of us who have achieved any measure of success make himself to-night the bondman of the bondmen of destiny. For success owes a debt—a heavy debt—to failure. In all the avenues to fame and fortune, the triumph of one means the defeat of others; the higher the altitude attained by the few, the more stony the narrow pathway leading to it. And the more deadly the overcrowding, the longer the list of those who succumb. Let us try to heal their broken lives and assuage their cruel sorrows. For broken are the lives and cruel are the sorrows. Contingencies facing the poorer members of our calling are not generally understood by the outside public. They do not know how precarious is the life. In an engagement to-day, gone to oblivion to-morrow; a play fails, or comes to the end of its run, and new combinations are necessary; so out into the cold many of them go, and out in the cold shiver and starve for many months waiting for fresh possibilities. The stage is not like commerce; commerce must go on; be the bulk large or small, commodities must be exchanged; the world's marts must be kept open, and the poorer followers of commerce, even though they may not have any special adaptability to their duties, can, as a rule, with constant application and ordinary industry, find their fitting reward. Not so the poorer members of our calling. They are but the passengers in the ship of life, who may sometimes beautify, but can never navigate; and, when storms and troubles come, they are the first to be cast adrift, to be left to their unhappy fate to sink, but for the haven it is in your power to find. And I beg you not to let your heart be preached down by prudential saws. Shut your ears to the cold-blooded comment that the artist's poverty is the fitting reward for the artist's improvidence. That is the rock of offence that retards or diverts the stream of benevolence which otherwise would irrigate our desert places. You do not know this people if you think the charge against them true. Only he whose experience is small, or whose brain is dull, or whose heart is cold, fails to recognise Bohemia's quick responsiveness to calls for help one to the other, and to strangers, too. It is this lavish charity in the past that often makes them the object of it in the present. No, gentlemen, no, when detractors tell you that such charity is an idle sacrifice of your money, tell them in return that such were the reflections of Sir Bedivere when the dying Arthur bade him cast into the mere the brand Excalibur. You know the story told by Tennyson in verse of deathless majesty. How the knight gazed on the noble weapon, with its blade of the finest temper, its hilt blazing with jewels, and how the longer he gazed entranced, the more convinced he was of the idleness of the sacrifice, crying—"What good if this were done? What harm undone?" How twice he failed to execute his mission, but the third time, shutting his eyes to the cunning workmanship and priceless jewels, triumphed over himself, flung the weapon into the mere, and went back rejoicing to his dying lord. You will not have forgotten how, as the glorious Excalibur "dipped the surface of the mere," a hand, clothed in bright "samite, mystic, wonderful," drew it down into the depths. And you know the effect of that knightly deed. I ask you to cast your possessions into the mere, beneath whose waves lie shattered and submerged the hopes and lives of our poor brethren. Unlock your treasure-house, don't look too long or lovingly at the gems with which your possessions are laden. Fling each one of you your Excalibur into that vast and bitter sea of human misery which ceaselessly throbs and tosses, and with many voices moans around you. I plead to the soul within you. Beneath the surface-granite of everyone of you lies hidden a golden chamber of romance. I knock at the door of that golden chamber. I exhort you to make with the sunshine of benevolence a glorious rainbow of human tears against the black background of misery's clouds. And beggar that I am for others, I now beg for myself. It is in the very nature of things that I cannot occupy this chair again: it is in the nature of things that a short time hence will see my withdrawal from a career to which I have devoted so many happy years. You responded nobly to me in '98, respond nobly on this my last appearance in this character. I want to delve into your hearts and burrow in your pockets, striking rich veins of goodness in the one and of gold in the other. I want to be your auctioneer to knock down to you so much happiness for so much money, I want you to have such an outburst of generosity that the memory of it will be lived up to and emulated in the distant days to come, when, from this chair other lips than mine shall call and other hearts than yours respond.

Mr STUART OGILVIE, in proposing "The Drama," made a reference to Mr. Bernard Shaw's play *The Doctor's Dilemma*, and remarked that the good doctor in the piece had to make up his mind whether he would save the life of the great artist or of the good man. The public stood in the position of a doctor. They had to make up their mind whether they would save the life of the good showmen or the great actor. There had always been a great actor, but even Roscius found that there was an Ethiopian lion-tamer who seriously interfered with his business. Sir Charles Wyndham's infectious gaiety and vivacity had become a national asset, nor could his wonderful vein of pathos, of which they had had evidence that night, and in the theatre, be lightly regarded. Then it had always been a great shock to those who reverenced the memory of the great one who had departed from amongst them that the house which was associated with his name and his great work in the drama should have been, after all, converted into a common house of varieties. And although another great worker in the cause of the drama whom they all loved—their old and respected friend Mr. Beerbohm Tree—had raised with his own hands a temple in the West where all that was best of our greatest classics was presented, still, there was something in tradition, reverence and love snatched from us when the old Lyceum passed away. Sir Henry Irving had desired to see a municipal theatre founded upon the principle of the great Continental countries, but, seemingly, the time had not yet come for that. They might, however, take heart of grace in the movement which was making itself felt in certain parts of the country—he referred to the work which Mr. Louis N. Parker was carrying out throughout the kingdom. Mr. Parker's pageants at Sherborne and Warwick would be remembered. Next year he (Mr. Parker) proposed to give the country another artistic treat at the ancient and historic town of Bury St. Edmund's. There had been over 3,000 amateurs in the pageants, and every one of them became an ardent supporter of the drama. Let it be also considered what Mr. Pinero had done with *His House in Order*, not to mention the efforts of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones and Mr. Haddon Chambers on the other side of the Channel. So long as they had these veterans and the promising younger ones coming out, like Mr. Alfred Sutro, he (the speaker) did not think there need be any fear for the health of the drama.

Mr. HARRY PAULTON replied for "The Drama" in an amusing speech. He began by stating that he had not attempted to prepare a speech, as he had been dragged into the part only a few minutes previously. He thought that Sir Charles Wyndham and the other speakers had said all that could be said on the subject of the drama. A good deal had been said on the other side of the Atlantic about theatrical affairs in England, but so far as the drama was concerned, he thought they were going on very well indeed. It had been the custom for years to deplore the decadence of the drama, but he could not see the reason of it.

Mr. CHARLES CRUIKSHANKS, in responding on behalf of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, said:—It is my privilege to-night to respond on behalf of the Fund, and to thank you most heartily for your generous response to the eloquent appeal of your chairman. From my position in connection with the various schemes now on foot for the amelioration of the condition of the actor of to-day, it might be supposed that I should, in some measure, refer to those matters, but such, however, is not my intention. I have simply to respond for the Fund, and shall confine my few remarks to that subject, and to that subject only. I take this opportunity of publicly thanking Sir Charles Wyndham for his kindness in accepting the position of President of the Fund. I thank him on my own behalf and on behalf of nearly half of the committee who administer that Fund (which is so generously supplied by the members of the theatrical profession and the general public) who are present to-night. I have no wish to trespass upon the domain of our friend, Lord Weardale, who will presently propose the health of our Chairman, but I feel I should be failing in my duty if I did not take this opportunity of telling you what a good and staunch friend of the Fund Sir Charles Wyndham has always been. His eloquent appeal of to-night will dwell long in our memories, and I venture to assert that in the history of these functions in the future it will never be surpassed. The result of that appeal I will tell you later. I want to draw your attention to a few facts. Some few years ago those who love and revere our Chairman celebrated his coming-of-age as a West End manager by giving two never-to-be-forgotten performances in one day as a complimentary benefit. Those performances realised over £2,500. What did Sir Charles do with the money? Keep it for himself? No—he handed over the *entire* proceeds, including an odd fourpence, to the Actors' Benevolent Fund. Again, too, when some of us, who think we know something, thought it was advisable to annex the Covent Garden Fund for the benefit of the profession, we, with the aid of our hon. solicitor, commenced proceedings to that end; we knew we needed financial assistance, and from whence came that assistance? From Sir Charles Wyndham. On a memorable afternoon, in his own theatre, we raised upwards of £600, and Sir Charles was under pledge to me to supply a similar amount if needed. Luckily it was not required. Here I should like to state that my old friend and manager, Mr. George Conquest, thought so well of the cause that he promised me all the financial assistance which might be further required. With two such friends, Sir Charles on the one side and George Conquest on the other, I was content. We won the fight, with the result that the A.B.F. benefited to the extent of £40,000, and the Royal General Theatrical Fund to the extent of £20,000. Further, Sir Charles recently charmed London with a performance of *David Garrick*, and being well pleased with the result, he repeated the performance for the benefit of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, which resulted in a gain to that institution of upwards of £420. At this late hour I do not propose to weary you, but to close these brief observations by setting before you a simple sum in arithmetic for you to solve at your leisure. Four hundred and twenty pounds—plus a sum of £500 received from the executors of our dear friend and comrade, the late J. L. Toole—plus the splendid collection of to-night, has brought to the Fund the phenomenal sum of nearly £3,000.

LORD WEARWELL, in toasting the Chairman, asked the company to drink to the health of his friend and the friend of everyone, Sir Charles Wyndham. It was difficult to look back, as he (the speaker) could do, for many years without calling to mind in so many characters which have impressed themselves upon the mind the charming impersonation of Sir Charles Wyndham. One of the earliest characters in which he had the pleasure of seeing Sir Charles was when the latter was trifling with the affections of Peg Woffington. He was glad to think that Sir Charles could still claim, with distinction and success, the affection of everybody with whom he came in contact. They had been told that this was the last time that Sir Charles would fulfil the office of chairman at the annual dinner of the Fund, but it was to be sincerely hoped that eight years hence as eight years ago and on this occasion, he would again occupy the chair. In all the successive steps which Sir Charles had made in order to arrive at the great position he held to-day there was nothing in his career upon which he would dwell with so much satisfaction as his connection with this great Fund—a Fund which he had created and helped to sustain. Sir Charles had rightly said that Bohemians had a great heart. He (the speaker) knew of no body of men who were so self-sacrificing in their devotion to their poorer brothers and sisters as the theatrical profession. It was to be hoped that Sir Charles Wyndham would long adorn the theatrical profession; long might he remain the President of the Fund; and long might he remain the friend of all who look to it for help.

The CHAIRMAN gracefully acknowledged the compliment. He had to thank Lord Wearwell and Mr. Cruikshanks for the kind things they had said about him; and he also had to express his gratitude for the generous manner in which the company had responded to his appeal. It was with special gratification that he could mention that he had been notified by the Lord Mayor that since the latter entered the room his Lordship had redoubled his already generous contribution to the Fund. Not only had the Lord Mayor done that, but he had dragged his unfortunate Sheriff into the net. Mr. Beerbohm Tree had sent a handsome donation, along with a note in the form of a poem. Opinions might be divided as to whether this could be called poetry, but in order to make it resemble verse it was necessary to emphasise the last word in each line. The "poem" was as follows:—

Hail! President Sir Charles! May you for years,
Our Prince of Laughter, help to dry the tears
Of the poor player. May the cup that cheers
But not inebriate be ever yours. No fears
Of slumps in Consols, Rand Mines, and De Beers
Disturb you! May you find amid "Hear, hears"
Otium cum dignitate in the Peers!

The CHAIRMAN next proposed a vote of thanks to the artists, to whom they all had been much indebted for the entertainments given during the evening. Mr. J. H. Maunder suitably responded on behalf of the artists.

In the very delightful items of music and song with which the speeches were interspersed Mr. Ben Davies gave his admirable rendering of "Come into the garden, Maud" and "The Flower Song"; Miss Phyllis Lett sang in pleasing style "A summer night"; Mr. Robert Radford entertained his hearers with a couple of performances, one of which was "I'm a roamer"; and the Westminster Singers were heard to advantage in several part-songs, including "O peaceful night" and "Ole Joe." Mr. J. H. Maunder ably officiated as director of the music.

At the conclusion the chairman announced that Mr. Joel had forwarded £25 and that Mr. Honey had collected £77 9s.

For list of donations see another page.

SCALA THEATRE.

The matinée at the Scala Theatre on Monday afternoon in aid of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and allied institutions was extremely well patronised. The programme was an excellent one both as to quantity and quality, the only exception to be noted in regard to "quality" was a long and wearisome duologue by Mrs. A. Bradshaw, entitled *Ladies in Council*. The characters consisted of the president and secretary of a women's club, and the conversation which is carried on between these two worthies is such as would be an insult to the intelligence of the average washerwoman. If what Mrs. Albert Bradshaw gives us is a fair specimen of the twaddle that is spoken at clubs reserved for the fair sex, then we can understand the laments of several ladies of our acquaintance as to the atmosphere of inanity in which feminine club-life is enveloped. It was a pity that so much good delivery as the two ladies—Miss Grace Jean Crocker and Mrs. Bradshaw—proved themselves capable of should have been wasted on such rubbish at *Ladies in Council*.

As to the rest of the programme, Miss Genevieve Ward recited, with that wonderful dramatic fervour to which she has in the past accustomed us, the lines of "The Convict Woman of Port Blair," and Mr. Laurence Irving threw himself with vigour and expression into his recitation of Macaulay's "Battle of Naseby." Both the popular artists had to respond to an encore. Miss Winifred Hart-Dyke, attired in a radiant robe, performed in graceful fashion a dance from *Amasis;* and Miss Margaret Cooper gave a delightful rendering of, among other things, "My heart's at your feet" to her own pianoforte accompaniment.

The most amusing feature of the afternoon's entertainment was furnished by the acting of Mr. Charles Hawtrey and Miss Florence Sinclair in the one-act play, *Time is Money*. This was given in place of Mrs. G. Penn Gaskell's playlet, entitled *Run In*, which was withdrawn. Mr. Hawtrey's characterisation of the wooer who was unable to pay the cabman who had driven him to the house of the lady upon whom he had bestowed his affections caused the audience to be convulsed with merriment, and the part of the girl was enacted in delightful fashion by Miss Sinclair. Miss Nancy Price demonstrated her skill as a tragic actress in a couple of recitations; and Miss Geraldine Ulmar and Mr. Jack Thompson were heard to advantage in the charming love duet, "Won't you buy?" Little Miss Iris Hawkins danced in ever engaging and graceful manner; Mr. Henry Neville brought his well-matured elocutionary talents to bear upon the recitation "Roger and I"; and Miss Lilian Braithwaite agreeably acquitted herself in a like direction. Others who figured on the programme were Miss Angela Hope, Mr. Chas. Angelo, Miss Irene Lyne, Mr. Frederic Dale, Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald, Mr. Walter Kirby, Miss Clara Alexander, Mr. Ernest Shand, Miss Maggie May, Signor Umberto Salvi, Miss Marie Dainton, Madame Cleaver-Simon, Mr. Winifred Shine, Miss Alice Crawford, Mr. Chas. Capper, Miss Vera Le Fleming, and Mr. Baker Wynne. The orchestra was ably directed by Mr. J. H. Alexandra, and Mr. Wilfred H. Simpson acted as stage-manager, while Mr. Sydney Stoeger was the accompanist.

"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM."

Shakespeare's Comedy, revived at the Adelphi Theatre, on Saturday, Dec. 1.

Mortals.

Theseus ..... MR. ALFRED BRYDONE
Egeus ..... MR. CALEB PORTER
Lysander ..... MR. H. R. HIGNETT
Demetrius ..... MR. R. IAN PENNY
Philostrate ..... MR. J. FRITZ RUSSELL
Hippolyta ..... MISS CONSTANCE ROBERTSON
Hermia ..... MISS ROSE HERSEE
Helena ..... MISS LILY BRAYTON

Clowns.

Quince ..... MR. CHARLES ROCK
Snug ..... MR. GORDON HARKER
Bottom ..... MR. OSCAR ASCHE
Flute ..... MR. G. KAY SOUPER
Snout ..... MR. HENNY KITTS
Starveling ..... MR. R. F. ANSON

Immortals.

Oberon ..... MR. WALTER HAMPDEN
Titania ..... MISS THYRZA NORMAN
Puck ..... MISS NITA FAYDON
Singing Fairy ..... MISS ELIZABETH PARKINA
Second Singing Fairy ..... MISS ETHEL JAMES
Third Singing Fairy ..... MISS MOLLIE LAW
Peasblossom ..... MISS ETHEL STREETER
Cobweb ..... MISS DOROTHY MASTERS
Moth ..... MISS MURIEL SYMES
Mustardseed ..... MISS B. KAY
A Fairy ..... MISS VIOLET CAWDREY

Mr. Otho Stuart's management of the Adelphi Theatre does him infinite credit. As far as one can judge from the reports which have reached us of the German and Austrian subsidised houses, Mr. Stuart offers the British public an entertainment planned on much the same lines. His aim is high, his enterprise is artistic. The performances are good all round, the mounting is beautifully adequate without being excessive, and great care is given to the delivery of the text. Yet, with all the advantages of encouraging criticism and admirable acting, *The Virgin Goddess* had to be withdrawn after a brief run, and Mr. Stuart has fallen back upon a reproduction of his fine presentation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which was given at the Adelphi on November 25 of last year.

There are few plays of Shakespeare's of whose dramatic and literary history we know less than of this one. It is only by internal evidence that the date, 1595, can be approximately fixed as that when the play was produced. We have a general belief that *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was one of Shakespeare's earlier works, and that it was in his time and in the first half of the seventeenth century extremely popular. In the eighteenth it fell into the hands of adapters, and was mangled unmercifully. It was probably one of the versions which Pepys, witnessing it in 1662, pronounced to be "the most insipid, ridiculous play" he ever saw in his life. Then, in 1692, the comedy was made into an opera, with music by Purcell. It was the old story of over-lavish outlay in mounting; for we are told that "the expences in setting it out being so great, the Company got very little by it." In 1755 an opera called *The Fairies* was done at Drury Lane; Garrick is supposed to have prepared Shakespeare's work as a libretto. Later on it was cut down into an afterpiece, "Theseus and all the serious characters" being omitted. Another version, by Reynolds, was offered in 1816, with Liston as Bottom and Emery as Quince. Phelps revived the *Dream* at Sadler's Wells; and it was presented, with Mendelssohn's music, by Charles Kean in 1856, Puck being played by Miss Ellen Terry. There is no play of Shakespeare's which needs more judgment to mount than *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. For the essence of the enjoyment which is derived springs from the imagination. In Shakespeare's time a great deal of the old nature-worship still lingered in the instincts, if not in the creed, of the people. The May-pole—the "filthie idole," as the old Puritan called it—symbolised the old faun-ish feeling; and Shakespeare, when he wrote *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, must easily have revived in himself the spell of moonlight and the mysterious solitudes of the Warwickshire woods on a warm night in summer. The task of the modern producer of the play is to kindle in the breasts of jaded Londoners some of this mystery, to make us believe in flimy, fantastic fairydom, to help the wizard playwright to work his charms. The sprites must always be a difficulty. Take juveniles for your Oberon and your Titania, and the "childish treble" injures the idea of adultism which is conveyed in every speech of the King and Queen of the fays. Entrust the parts to grown-up actors and actresses, and their stature contradicts their fairyhood. Of the two, it is better to encounter the latter; and this is what Mr. Stuart has done at the Adelphi. He has again placed the part of Oberon in the hands of Mr. Walter Hampden, whose delivery of the lines has all the limpid clearness and delicate inflexion that could be desired, and who, happy in the possession of a graceful figure, carries himself quite in kingly fashion. Miss Thyrza Norman replaces Miss Roxy Barton as Titania, and does full justice to the quaint supremacy and airy importance of the Fairy Queen. Miss Nita Faydon is delightfully arch and active as Puck, and makes Robin Goodfellow the most mischievous and mocking of imps. It is an easy task for an actress of Miss Lily Brayton's calibre to resume her impersonation of Helena; but even in a simple and agreeable rôle like this Miss Brayton's excellent elocution and complete command of her resources are conspicuous factors of an entirely satisfying and amusing embodiment. There is not much to be done, perhaps, with those two Athenian "walking gentlemen," Lysander and Demetrius, but Mr. Hignett and Mr. Penny fill the parts with all the necessary spirit, and are bold, energetic, and in earnest. Mr. Alfred Brydone once more endows Theseus with a regal urbanity and a richness of tone which are both appropriate and acceptable; and Miss Rose Hersee's Hermia is a very winning impersonation—bright, expressive, and with sufficient firmness and fire. Miss Constance Robertson's Hippolyta is a superb sample of rich exuberance and gentle grandeur, and she speaks her lines with admirable boldness and emphasis; and Mr. Caleb Porter renders valuable service as Egeus, the touches of character introduced being excellent. Mr. J. Fritz Russell deserves warm praise for his remarkably clear and cultured delivery as Philostrate; and Miss Elizabeth Parkina again employs her sweet and well-trained voice with enjoyable results as the Singing Fairy. But, of course, the idol of the evening—the one and irresistible—is Mr. Oscar Asche, the representative of Bottom. The audience applauds him to the echo, and deservedly; for a more complete carrying out of the true conception of the character has, we may venture to aver, seldom, if ever, been seen on the stage. Mr. Asche has good supporters in Mr. Charles Rock, a most characteristic Quince; Mr. George Harker as Snug; Mr. G. Kay Souper as Flute; Mr. Henry Kitts as Snout; and Mr. R. F. Anson as Starveling. Miss Ethel James, Miss Mollie Law, and Miss Ethel Streeter are heard very agreeably as Singing Fairies; and Messrs. Hicks and Harker's scenery is again immensely admired.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA. 1850—1900.

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In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

Swiss Cottage, St. James's, Sept. 15, 1851.
Swiss Express, Princess's, Dec. 26, 1891.
Sword of Damocles, Middlesex County Asylum, Nov. 14, 1889.
Swordsman's Daughter, Adelphi, Aug. 31, 1895.
Sybil, Terry's, Sept. 25, 1889.
Sybil the Hunchback, Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, April 14, 1873.
Sybyle; or, Weary of Bondage, Charing Cross, Oct. 22, 1873.
Sydney Carton, Theatre Royal, Norwich, Jan. 2, 1893.
Sylphide, The, Princess's, April 9, 1860.
Sylvan Statue, Zoo, May 13, 1872.
Sylvia, Grand, Halifax, Oct. 20, 1891.
Sylvia; or, The Forest Flower, New Royalty, Feb. 17, 1866.
Sylvia's Romance, Canterbury, Aug. 8, 1899.
Sympathetic Souls, Kennington, Feb. 26, 1900.
Sympathy, Theatre Royal, Manchester, April 29, 1872.
Syndicate, The, Matinée, June 16, 1897.
Tabitha's Courtship, Comedy, Feb. 18, 1890.
Taboo, The, Leamington, May 22, 1894.
Tact, Avenue, March 14, 1885.
Taffy's Triumph, Theatre Royal, Liverpool, Aug. 10, 1874.
Tailor Makes the Man, Globe, Feb. 21, 1876.
Take Back the Heart, Eastbourne, June 1, 1886.
Take Care of Dowb, Haymarket, Nov. 23, 1857.
Taken by Force, Novelty, March 8, 1897.
Taken for Granted, Esher, May 5, 1898.
Taken from Life, Adelphi, Dec. 31, 1881.
Taken from Memory, Britannia, Nov. 10, 1873.
Take that Girl Away, Lyceum, March 5, 1855.
Taken by Storm, Britannia, Nov. 20, 1889.
Taking by Storm, Lyceum, May 31, 1852.
Taking It Easy, Toole's, Nov., 1882.
Taking the Bull by the Horns, Hammersmith, June 6, 1889.
Taking the Veil, Britannia, July 30, 1870.
Taking the Waters, St. George's Hall, Nov. 1, 1886.
Talbot's Trust, Globe, Sept. 13, 1875.
Tale in a Tub, Ladbroke Hall, Jan. 23, 1893.
Tale of a Coat, Haymarket, Nov. 6, 1858.
Tale of a Comet, Drury Lane, Jan. 13, 1873.
Tale of a Telephone, Drury Lane, Jan. 12, 1879.
Tale of a Tub, Duke's. March 16, 1876.
Tale of Tell, Theatre Royal, Darwen, Feb. 26, 1883.
Tale of the Thames, Surrey, Oct. 28, 1895.
Tale of Troy, Prince's Hall, May 14, 1886.
Tale of Two Cities, Lyceum, Jan. 30, 1860.
Talisman, The, Theatre Royal, Liverpool, Aug. 10, 1874.
Talisman, The (Bur.), Philharmonic, March 29, 1875.
Talk of the Town, Opera House, Cork, Dec. 4, 1896.
Tallow Chandler Bewitched, Greenwich, Nov. 28, 1868.
Tally Ho, St. George's Hall, Nov. 9, 1887.
Tame Cat, Matinée, June 21, 1898.
Tame Cats, Prince of Wales's, Dec. 12, 1868.
Taming of the Shrew, Gaiety, May 29, 1888.
Taming the Shrew, Drury Lane, Oct. 12, 1878.
Taming the Truant, Olympic, March 19, 1863.
Tamlin, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, Nov. 27, 1899.
Tam o' Shanter, Royal Col. Theatre, Glasgow, June 1, 1868.
Tamworth in A.D. 670, Tamworth, Aug. 22, 1894.
Tangle, A, Liverpool, July 26, 1894.
Tangled Skein, Grecian, Aug. 19, 1872.
Tangled Web, Criterion, July 3, 1884.
Tannhauser, Covent Garden, May 6, 1876.
Tantalus, Folly, Oct. 14, 1878.
Taradiddles, Shoreham, July 31, 1896.
Tarantula, Adelphi, Dec. 26, 1850.
Tares, Prince of Wales's, Jan. 31, 1888.
Tattercoat's, Savoy, Feb. 22, 1900.
Tatterley, Southampton, Dec. 12, 1898.
Taunton Vale, Theatre Royal, Manchester, June 12, 1890.
Tawno's Bride, St. George's Hall, Feb. 16, 1892.
Tea, Torquay, Jan. 11, 1887.
Tears, Opera Comique, Feb. 17, 1877.
Tears, Idle Tears, Globe, Dec. 4, 1872.
Tecalco, Terry's, May 24, 1889.
Teddy, Theatre Royal, Eastbourne, April 4, 1896.
Teddy's Wives, Kilburn, Aug. 1, 1896.
Teetotal Family, Alexandra, Liverpool, April 7, 1869.

THE WILLIAM MORGAN JUBILEE.

A remarkable event in the annals of provincial amusements was celebrated on the 30th ult., when a banquet was given at the Grand Hotel, Scarborough, to commemorate the jubilee of Mr. Wm. Morgan, J.P., who had completed a career of fifty years as a theatrical caterer. The dinner, which had been organised by a committee including the Earl of Londesborough, Mr. Edward Terry, and other influential gentlemen, was presided over by Alderman V. Fowler, J.P., and among those present were Messrs. Fras. Goodricke, of Scarborough, Geo. H. Harrop (Blackpool), A. M. Hubner (Bridlington), T. Sergenson (Blackpool), and J. W. Chapman (Doncaster).

After the loyal toasts had been honoured, the Chairman made a presentation to Mr. Morgan, consisting of a silver epergne in Louis XV. style, and two silver candelabra, which are copies of the original Chippendale. The inscription on the former was as follows:—

"Presented to William Morgan, Esq., J.P., thrice Mayor of Scarborough, by a few friends at Scarborough, Blackpool, Bradford, and elsewhere, to show their admiration for him, and to commemorate his fiftieth year of service as a public amusement caterer. Scarborough, Nov. 30, 1906."

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said that no one could fulfil the duty with greater pleasure than himself. He had had the privilege of knowing Mr. Morgan for many years, during which they had been intimately associated in the municipal and political life of that ancient borough. Three times had Mr. Morgan worthily filled the post of Chief Magistrate, and the years of his Mayoralty had been marked not only by Royal Pageant, but by many kindly acts on his part, which included donations to the Hospital, the Charity Organisation Society, and many acts of benevolence to private individuals. By tact, sterling common-sense, and manly uprightness, he had deserved honour from his fellow-townsmen, and it gave him the greatest pleasure to make that presentation as a mark of the esteem in which Mr. Morgan was held by those who had been associated with him.

Mr. Morgan, who spoke with evident emotion, evoked a scene of much enthusiasm when he rose to return thanks for the very handsome presentation. He was sure that if he had been able to make a speech equal to what it ought to have been on that occasion nothing would have given him greater pleasure. But, as they had heard, the doctor had warned him it would be even dangerous to do so, and he had decided, particularly after the doctor's advice, not to trouble them with a long speech, but just to satisfy himself with a few remarks. Fifty years was a long time to go back. Many things had occurred during that time, and he dared say he was expected to say something in connection with the various changes which had taken place in public amusements. Fifty years ago theatrical performances began at half-past six or seven, and concluded just before midnight. There were then about three pieces a night, and he believed he was right in saying that the brilliant actress, Miss Amy Sedgwick, played fifteen parts in one week when she appeared at Bradford. In looking over an old file of play-bills that he had of the old Adelphi in London, he saw—doors open 6.30 p.m., performance commences at 7 p.m., and will conclude before midnight. That was very different to now, when one could get dinner in town at a quarter to eight and see the beginning of the play. Of course in the early days it was all stock company business, and such a thing as a piece running for a number of nights was out of the question. He remembered that the first piece produced in Bradford which ran for a week was *The Tempest*. He remembered the cast, although it was over fifty years ago. Ariel was Miss Julia St. George; Miranda, Miss Nunn; Prospero, Mr. Hamilton; Caliban, Mr. Lysander Thompson; Trinkilo, Mr. Chas. Rice; and Stephano, Mr. Phillips. It would, therefore, be seen that the artists had to study very closely and very hard the parts they had to play. Many things had occurred to change the entire style of entertainments. He remembered the time when there was a Coliseum in Regent-street, where a representation of an eruption of Mount Etna was produced. And he remembered the Polytechnic—now both gone and superseded by what was called more up-to-date entertainment. He had been asked that evening whether he had ever produced an earthquake in Bradford? Well, in 1877 he did produce an earthquake. This was at the Princess's Theatre in the production of *Sardanapalus*. The late Mr. Charles Calvert was the man who produced the earthquake for him, and he did not study a man's pocket when he was doing anything. It was an expensive affair, and although people came knowing what was going to happen, and that there was to be a terrible storm, still, when it came on they were frightened, and some of them made for the door. He remembered that shortly afterwards Mapleson's Royal Italian Opera Company visited the Prince's Theatre, Bradford. The chorus was wholly composed of Italians, none of whom could speak English. At the morning rehearsal he remembered his master carpenter came to him and said, "Guv'nor shall we have a little bit of fun with them? Shall we put on the thunder?" He said, "All right," little dreaming of the sequel. When the thunder was suddenly put on the poor Italians, not understanding what had been done, went frantic with fright. They rushed wildly in all directions, and really thought the place was coming down on them. As they did not understand English, no one could explain to them that it was only a joke. He could have given many interesting anecdotes if he had been in better health. During his long life he had had several very happy days, but that evening's gathering provided him with one of his proudest moments, because it was a tribute to himself personally. He took the banquest and presentation as a big compliment to him personally as William Morgan, and he accepted it as such. That was the proudest day of the several happy days which he had called the proudest day of his life. He was quite sure it would be highly appreciated by Mrs. Morgan. He thanked them all for their valuable presentation, and hoped during the little time he had to live that he would always be able to look at it with pleasure. He would treasure it as long as he lived. Afterwards it would be a memorial of the kindly feeling towards him to which reference had been made.

DEATHS OF THE MONTH.

Nov. 1.—Mrs. E. A. Barsby.
" 4.—Mark Alexander Kinghorne, aged 55.
" 6.—William Matthews, aged 70.
" 6.—Samuel Curtis, aged 23.
" 7.—Mrs. Courte (Cooke), aged 82.
" 11.—Mrs. Rupert Corri, aged 79.
" 14.—Ravul de Dreux Kunz, aged 37.
" 14.—Wybert Reeve, aged 77.
" 15.—Mrs. Martha Norman, aged 78.
" 15.—John Gourlay.
" 15.—Albert Ernest Colmer.
" 16.—Louis Chapuy, aged 41.
" 17.—Henry Humberstone, aged 46.
" 17.—James Henry Jee, aged 57.
" 19.—Alf. George.
" 22.—Charlotte Mead.
" 22.—Tom Pavillio.
" 23.—Horace Butler.
" 23.—Mrs. Seaman, aged 94.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

FUNERAL OF J. T. SHERIDAN.

On Tuesday the funeral of the late Mr. John T. Sheridan, of Vine Cottage, 50, Albert-road, Peckham, electrician of the Waldorf Theatre, took place in Forest Hill Cemetery in the family grave. The Rev. R. F. H. Hingston, of St. Mark's Church, Harder's-road, conducted a special service, the reverend gentleman having been a constant visitor to the bedside of the deceased, as was also Mr. James Petter, the Scripture reader attached to the church.

A sad feature of Mr. Sheridan's demise is that he was only thirty-four years of age, and was married only five months ago, being then, to all appearances, in robust health; some eleven weeks ago he became ill, and rapid consumption developed, and in spite of every effort made to resist this terrible disease and to secure the most expert attention by Mr. Sheridan's family, Mr. Cecil Paget, of the Crown Theatre, Mr. Coltson, Secretary to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, and the committee of the Heads of Departments' Association, all efforts were unavailing, and death ensued on Nov. 27.

A large number of floral and other tributes testified to the respect with which the deceased was regarded and the sympathy felt for his family; among these were a floral heart of violets and hyacinths, "In loving memory of my darling husband Tom, from his heart-broken wife, Alice"; a similar token from "Mother and Janie"; a wreath from "Ruth and Pip" (brother and sister-in-law); floral cross, with "Tom" in violets, from George and Kitty Walker; a large white shamrock, from David and Annie (brother and sister-in-law); large floral Irish harp, with broken strings, from the staffs in the flys, properties, and stage departments, Waldorf Theatre; floral anchor from Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Cartwright; a wreath from "The dear old Dublin Boys" (Messrs. Kerlie Dever, Thomas French, Wm. Nesbitt, Wm. Clarke, M. Murphy, and Arthur Woodworth); floral anchor

Photo by Talma.

MR. J. T. SHERIDAN.

from Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Brett (Crown Theatre); floral cross from Alice and Bob Huertson; floral cross from Ethel and Will Whitaker; floral baskets and bouquets from "Little Ruthsie and Harry" (niece and nephew), and Mons. and Madame Smith. Other beautiful wreaths were sent by the Moore Family, Minnie, Gabriel and Lucien, of Paris; Miss Sissons, Mrs. Maynard and family, Charles and Ada Torkington, John Harpur, the Heads of Stage Departments, "With deepest sympathy and regret for the loss of a good comrade," Jack Mellish and J. Barker, the Crown Theatre Boys, "In loving memory of Tom," Mr. S. Greenboam and others.

The coffin was borne to the grave by four Irishmen, all intimate friends of the deceased—George Walker, Walter Woodworth, William Nesbitt, and Albert Moore. The chief mourners were Mrs. J. T. Sheridan (the widow), Mrs. D. Sheridan (mother), Janie, Philip, and David Sheridan (brothers and sisters), Ruth and Annie Sheridan (sisters-in-law), and Walter Woodworth (cousin). There was a large number of friends at the graveside, among whom were Misses Daisy and Sarah Moore, Mr. Albert Moore, Mrs. Hayward, Mr. Chas. Torkington, Mr. James Potter, Mr. H. J. Breet, Mr. Ed. Wade (Crown Theatre), Mr. T. Wood (Lyric Theatre), Mr. J. Langham (Gaiety Theatre), Messrs. S. Nobbs, A. George, Jas. Marston, and Fred Chappell (Crown Theatre), Messrs. R. Huertson and Wm. Nesbitt (Waldorf Theatre), Mr. William Whitaker, Mons. Gabriel Couillard, and Lucien Lichtilan (Paris), and other friends from London theatres and music halls. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. E. and I. Dunn, of Peckham and Camberwell.

The late Mr. J. T. Sheridan served his apprenticeship to the electrical engineering business in Dublin, and first became connected with this department of theatrical work at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, when that theatre was under the management of the late Mr. Michael Gunn, jun., by whom he was engaged through Mr. E. W. Royce, jun., Mr. Gunn's stage-manager and producer in 1894. Mr. Sheridan relinquished this post to take over a large contract, and was succeeded by his brother, Mr. Philip Sheridan, now electrician at the Crown Theatre, Peckham. Mr. T. Sheridan returned to theatre work in 1897, when he secured the position of electrician at the Royal Theatre, Dublin, where he remained about eighteen months, after which he was engaged as the electrician for the New Theatre Royal, Richmond. He remained there three years, and was then engaged by Mr. J. A. E. Malone, on behalf of Mr. J. C. Williamson, to proceed to Australia on a two years' contract, an engagement that was extended to three years. Mr. Sheridan returned to England last year to visit his father, who was seriously ill, but, unfortunately, his father died a few days before his arrival, a circumstance which Mr. Sheridan deeply lamented, little dreaming he was so soon to follow his father, and be reunited with him in the same grave. Mr. Sheridan travelled all over Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand with Mr. Williamson's companies, and made numerous friends in those countries, who will be sorry to hear of his death. Mrs. Sheridan (Miss Alice Stanlake) was also a member of Mr. Williamson's company, and it was while on tour together that she and her late husband became engaged to be married, and shortly after her arrival in this country they were married, on June 27 last. Mr. Sheridan was an energetic member of this year's Theatrical London Sports, and coached the Waldorf team in the competition for *The Era* tug-of-war shield. He was also hon. secretary for the Theatrical Regatta, and a member of the Committee of the Heads of Departments' Association, so in the world of theatrical sport and associations formed for the welfare of the craft there are many who will miss this genial and manly spirit that has passed away so suddenly and on the verge of anticipated years of happiness.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DER HEIMLICHE KOENIG,"

Romantic Comedy, in Four Acts, by Ludwig Fulda, Produced at the Lessing Theatre, Dec. 1, 1906.

Herzog Urgan ..... Herr Reicher
Jovelin ..... Herr Ziener
Gurmun ..... Herr Marx
Morgant ..... Herr Rickelt
Lanzelot ..... Herr Meinhard
Fetrefiz ..... Herr Waldschutz
Sigune ..... Fraulein Wuest
Elinod ..... Fraulein Gernod
Cynewulf ..... Herr Fuchs
Peredur ..... Herr Marr
Schaffior ..... Herr Forest
Florant ..... Herr Stieler
Frimutel ..... Herr Hellweger
Garel ..... Herr Wassermann
Rohalt ..... Herr Pauli
Ginas ..... Herr Juillerat
Limors ..... Herr Treber
Geraint ..... Herr Borowski

BERLIN, Thursday, Dec. 6.—Dr. Fulda's new work is in his very happiest vein. *The Mysterious King* is in the same style as the successful *Talisman* as regards graceful verse and romantic "milieu," but the author goes even one better this time in good-humoured persiflage and witticisms. It may at once be stated that the reception was an enthusiastic one, Herr Fulda being called before the curtain again and again. That the play will have a long and successful run is a safe prediction. The action passes in Caerlon, the capital of the ancient Britons. King Artus the Tenth is a weak and foolish man, completely under the influence of the Duke Urgan and other Court officials. He is, in fact, only a figure-head, and is only seen by his subjects when he goes out in his Sedan chair. Artus finally dies; there is no heir to the throne, and the Court minions are at their wits' end. Urgan's pretty daughter, Princess Sigune, never seeing a man worthy of the name at Court, has chosen Peredur, a handsome shepherd, for her lover, and Peredur saves the situation. He advises that a dummy Artus be carried about in the Sedan chair, and as the people will never know the difference all complications will be avoided. The advice is followed, but before long the citizens of Caerlon demand the King's marriage, in order that an heir may be born. Sigune declares herself willing to play the part of the Queen to the dummy on condition that she may wed Peredur behind the scenes. So it comes about that while the King is being secretly buried the fresh young face of the Queen smiles beside the dummy in the Sedan chair in answer to the plaudits of the people. I have seldom witnessed a more striking scene of the kind in any play than this. Matters go smoothly for some time; the desired heir is born, and Peredur, with his strong common sense, is a power at Court. Now comes the hated foe of the land, demanding a tribute of 200 youths and maidens, and Peredur rises to the occasion. Putting on the famous golden armour of the King, he leads the people against the enemy, and is victorious. The deception is finally discovered—the dummy tumbling one day out of the Sedan chair, and the people rise in rebellion. Instead of being grateful to Peredur for saving them from danger, they are indignant that they are under an obligation to anyone not possessing the divine right of a King. So they place upon the throne a second figure-head, the weak-minded Lanzelot, and Peredur, with wife and child and a few faithful followers, goes off to find his luck in a more grateful country. The interpretation of the piece was as satisfactory as any author could desire, Herr Marr and Fräulein Wuest being foremost in the first-rate cast. The mounting was in the customary befitting taste of the Lessing Theatre.

The Theatre des Westens made a decided hit with the production of Weinberger's operetta *Der Schmetterling* last Friday. It is not a new work, having been given some years ago at the Metropol, on which stage it was even more suitable, as its character leans towards the vaudeville. The plot is particularly light and flimsy, but the music very melodious and pleasing—much better than we are accustomed to in the so-called Viennese operettas. The scene is laid in Monte Carlo. Jeanette, the daughter of Mme. Millefleur, a "parfumeuse," is about to be married to Pierre Rosefleur, a gay young spark in the same line of business. Mme. Millefleur is the most terrible of mothers-in-law, and Pierre is followed about by Loisette Lalo, a pretty circus rider whom he has once rashly promised to wed. The Mayor unites the lovers, but, after a week's honeymooning, it transpires that the marriage was not legal, owing to the fact that the mayor was no longer in office at the time. Pierre is nearly persuaded to marry Loisette—she having come into a nice little fortune in the meantime—but ultimately his heart turns again to Jeanette, and all ends well. Pierre is the butterfly of the title, and the rôle being taken by the clever comedian Fritz Werner, it made its mark. Fräulein Mary Hagen (Loisette), Fräulein Linda (Jeanette), and Fräulein Gaston in the rôle of the mother-in-law were all capital, and a word of praise must not be omitted to Fräulein Gruenwald's charming singing and acting as hotel boy. The mounting was exceedingly tasteful, and many of the numbers were encored, while enthusiastic calls for the composer ensued, and flowers for the chief artists were handed up. In a word, it was a big success.

Rosmersholm has reached its fiftieth performance at the Lessing Theatre since its successful revival. It is, perhaps, the most popular of Ibsen's works here, being given to better houses than even *Nora* or *Die Wildente*. The success at the Lessing is due in a great measure to the faultless cast, in which Fräulein Irene Triesch (Mrs. Frederic Lamond) is particularly fine as Rebecca West. Notwithstanding the production of several new pieces, *Rosmersholm* triumphantly holds its place in the Lessing bill.

Herr Sigmund Lautenburg, who was for many years lessee and manager of the Residenz Theatre and later on of the Neues, has been lying low for some time resting and biding his opportunity. Now comes the news that he has become director of the Raimund Theatre at Vienna. The Raimund ranks at the first theatre in the Austrian capital after the Imperial Burg.

Die Fiende, Maxim Gorki's new play, has been withdrawn from the Kleines Theatre, owing, it is said, to the dangers and difficulties connected with the complicated apparatus used in the mounting, to which the police authorities are opposed. Whether this be the real reason or not, certain it is that little is lost to the public. Oscar Wilde's popular play *Ein Idealer Gatte* is again filling the bill nightly.

The new Figaro Theatre, which was to be opened in November, will not be ready till Christmas, and the manager has gone on a successful tour in South Germany with his company to fill up the interim.

There is an unusually attractive programme at the Wintergarten Theatre this month, and perhaps the most appreciated feature is the ballet scene of the John Tiller Troupe. This act varies; sometimes it is *In Sunny Spain*, sometimes *The Harvest Home*. Both are equally charming. In *The Harvest Home* ballet the music by Cuthbert Clarke is very melodious, and the graceful dancing and delightful singing of the Sisters Iris are rewarded with deafening applause each night. The costumes are in the most tasteful colours, each set of dances surpassing the last in beauty, while the "pretty Engländerinnen" have won their way to susceptible German hearts.

Miss Ruth St. Denis is still giving her original performance, and the turns of the Millman Trio, O. K. Sato, the Bros. Permané, and Angelo's statuary groups are among the best in the excellent programme.

ON THE ROAD, DEC. 10.

All-of-a-Sudden Peggy.—O. H., Cheltenham.
Assassin.—O. H., Rochdale.
At Cripple Creek.—T. R., Bedford-Leigh.
At Duty's Call.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Beautiful Fiend.—Court T., Bacup.
Belle of Mayfair.—T. R., Brighton.
Benson, F. R. (N.).—St. George's, Kendal.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—Exmouth and Chard.
Bound to Win.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Bred of the Treshams.—O. H., Tunbridge Wells.
Bulmer, Mr.—Lyceum T., Newport.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—T. R., Manchester.
Coal King.—T. R., Chatham.
Christian, The (Croke).—O. H., Southport.
Christian, The (Howard).—Castle T., Richmond.
City of Sin.—O. H., Coventry.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., North Shields.
D'Oyly Carte.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Driven from Home.—Prince's T., Bradford.
East Lynne.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
Eternal City (Howard).—Marlborough Theatre, N.
Face at the Window.—Grand T., Brighton.
For Life and After.—Grand T., Derby.
Freedom of Suzanne.—Prince's T., Bristol.
French Spy.—T. R., Aston.
Golden Ladder.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
Heart's Desire.—Falkirk and Leith.
Held Apart.—T. R., Smethwick.
Her Fatal Past.—Star T., Liverpool.
Her Luck in London.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
Her Lost Self.—Avenue T., Kettering.
Her One Great Sin.—T. R., Stratford.
His House in Order (N.).—T. R., Bradford.
His House in Order (S.).—New T., Oxford.
Honour Thy Father.—Queen's T., Longton.
Hour of Her Triumph.—P. O. W., Salford.
Hutchison Repertoire.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Indian Mutiny.—Royalty T., Chester.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Lyndhurst.
Little Breadwinner.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
London Fireman.—T. R., Barnsley.
Manxman.—Grand T., Southampton.
Midnight Mail.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Midnight Wedding.—Court T., Wigan.
Monte Cristo.—Grand T., Swansea.
Moody-Manners (A.).—Burnley.
My Sweetheart.—T. R., Stockport.
Napoleon the Great.—T. R., Worcester.
Norman V. Norman.—Crystal Palace Theatre.
Otto the Outcast.—T. R., Leicester.
Power of Gold.—King's T., Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Prodigal Parson.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Private Secretary.—Grand T., Leeds.
Proof.—O. H., Kidderminster.
Public Opinion.—O. H., Bournemouth.
Raffles.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Revenge.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Romany's Revenge.—H. M. T., Barrow-in-Furness.
Royal Divorce.—O. H., Leicester.
Sailors of the King.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Saints and Sinners.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Sherlock Holmes.—T. R., Blackburn.
Silver King (Polini) (N.).—P. G. T., Folkestone.
Silver King (Polini) (S.).—Grand T, Islington, N.
Sins of a City.—Grand T., Halifax.
Sin of Her Childhood.—Prince's T., Poplar.
Spider and the Fly.—West London Theatre.
Still Alarm.—Ayr and Kilmarnock.
Throne of Terror.—Motherwell and Coatbridge.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—County T., Reading.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—P. O. W., Salford.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—P.O.W., Grimsby
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—T. R., Blackburn.
Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Bury.
Village Blacksmith.—Elephant and Castle Theatre.
Warner, Miss Grace.—Carlton T., Saltley.
Warning to Women.—T. R., Blyth.
Wearin' o' the Green.—Lyceum T., Eccles.
When London Sleeps.—T. R., Hanley.
When Woman Hates.—Lyceum T., Newport.
White Chrysanthemum (Curzon).—T. R., Hull.
White Chrysanthemum (Macdona).—Carlisle.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Winter Gardens, Blackpool.
Worst Woman in London.—Carlisle.
Youngest of Three.—County T., Kingston.
10.30 Down Express.—T. R., Huddersfield.
£1,000 Reward.—T. R., Darwen.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Robert Overton—Saturday, Dec. 8.
Lily Burnand—Sunday, Dec. 9.
Arthur Williams—Sunday, Dec. 9.
G. W. Cockburn—Sunday, Dec. 9.
George Grossmith—Sunday, Dec. 9.
Fred C. Somerfield—Sunday, Dec. 9.
Alfred Brydone—Sunday, Dec. 9.
Anna Beaumont—Sunday, Dec. 9.
Daisy de Roy—Sunday, Dec. 9.
J. C. Buckstone—Sunday, Dec. 9.
Marie Auckland—Monday, Dec. 10.
Marie Menzies—Monday, Dec. 10.
Vernon Cowper—Monday, Dec. 10.
F. M. Paget—Monday, Dec. 10.
Florrie Gallimore—Monday, Dec. 10.
Kitty Penrose—Monday, Dec. 10.
Decima Moore—Tuesday, Dec. 11.
Archie Selwyn—Tuesday, Dec. 11.
Rita Resdan—Tuesday, Dec. 11.
Frances Earle—Wednesday, Dec. 12.
Ada Branson—Wednesday, Dec. 12.
James Chappell—Thursday, Dec. 13.
Harry Gold—Thursday, Dec. 13.
Ivy Alberto—Thursday, Dec. 13.
Tom Pacey—Thursday, Dec. 13.
Victor Opferman—Thursday, Dec. 13.
Ellen Armor—Thursday, Dec. 13.
G. H. Chirgwin—Friday, Dec. 14
Herbert Hollester—Friday, Dec. 14.
Gladys Rose-Jones—Friday, Dec. 14.
T. E. Conover—Friday, Dec. 14.
Maud Jeffries—Friday, Dec. 14.
Marie Tyler—Friday, Dec. 14.
Alfred Conibear—Friday, Dec. 14.

CASTLE THEATRE, RICHMOND.

On Thursday, Dec. 6, the Musical Comedy, entitled "FLORODORA."

Possessing all the elements that go to spell success, and boasting a past of which it might well be proud, Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company, in *Florodora*, met with a richly-merited enthusiastic reception here; the various "numbers" were redemanded, and everyone worked to win a popular verdict—and succeeded. Mr. Gus Danby scored hugely as Anthony Tweedlepunch; his quaint witticisms and his "business" were alike excellent; his song, "Phrenology," was applauded to the echo. To Miss Daisy Lake fell the onerous rôle of Dolores, and very admirably was it interpreted; her vocalisation is of a very refined and talented order, and she was one of the successes of the evening. Miss Rosa Sullivan made an admirable Lady Holyrood; her fine voice was heard to perfection in "I want to marry a millionaire," and again in "Tact." Quite prettily did Miss Dorothy Dempter play Angela Gilfain; the duet with Arthur, "Galloping," was encored, and her other numbers were equally well rendered. Mr. Howard V. Cropton played unobtrusively, but none the less effectively, as Frank Abercoed, and his song, "Under the palm," met with a vociferous reception. Mr. H. C. Jove did remarkably well as Captain Arthur Donegal; the part does not bristle with opportunities, but he certainly missed none of them; a clever little character-study was the Leandro of Mr. C. A. Road Night; and especial mention may be made of Miss Louie Arnold and Miss Dorothy Dance. In Act II. the singing of Miss Dorothy Dempter, in "My starlight queen," resulted in a torrent of applause. The opera has been admirably rehearsed, and the concerted parts reflect no little credit on Mr. W. E. Brightwell. The acting-manager, Mr. Arthur Howard, is responsible for the arrangements in the front of the house, and does so much to enhance the popularity of the theatre generally.

At the Bijou Theatre, Bayswater, on Tuesday, Dec. 4, were produced for copyright purposes two new and original one-act plays by E. Hamilton-Moore, entitled *A Man's Shirt* and *Love and Hate in Corsica*.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

IN DOUBT.—*No; not necessarily. It is rather a question of fact to be ascertained from all the circumstances, which we do not know. Again, there appears to be no legal consideration for the possible giving up of rights, and the absence of this is in your favour.*

E. BOTTOMLEY.—(1) *A comedy in four acts, entitled* Frocks and Frills, *by Sydney Grundy, founded on Scribe and Légouvé's* Les Doigts de Fée, *was produced at the Haymarket Theatre on Jan. 2, 1902.* (2) Joseph Entangled, *a play in three acts, by H. A. Jones, was produced at the Haymarket on Jan. 19, 1904.* (3) My Lady of Rosedale. (4) Becky Sharp, *a one-act play, adapted by J. M. Barrie, from Thackeray's "Vanity Fair," was produced at Terry's Theatre on June 3, 1893.* (5) *S. French, theatrical publishers, Southampton-street, Strand, would furnish you with list of plays. To your other questions we are unable to give a reply.*

J. B.—(1) *We have no record.* (2) *Mr. Sims Reeves died Oct. 25, 1900.*

E. J. DE ANSELL.—(1) *We believe not; travelling address is not advertised; and we do not know their headquarters.* (2) *We have no knowledge of any other music hall or hippodrome under the management of the lady mentioned.* (3) *You will find the gentleman's travelling address in* The Era, *under Music-Hall Cards heading.*

L. J. B.—*We can find no record.*

E. MURRAY.—*Our Portsmouth correspondent supplies the following information:—The Blue Bell Music Hall (not Old Bell) was destroyed by fire on the morning of Dec. 25, 1890 (the second time; the first occurred under Mr. Hughes' management in 1878). It was never rebuilt as a music hall, the present Empire at Landport taking its place and licence. Therefore, the last time it was opened to the public was on Dec. 23, 1890. On Christmas Eve there was only a rehearsal for the Boxing Day production.*

G. W. F. SHAW.—*George Leybourne died on Sept. 15, 1884, aged 42.*

C. H.—*Madame Adelina Patti made her first appearance in London on May 14, 1861.*

CANADIAN.—The Toreador *was produced at the Gaiety, June 17, 1901;* A Chinese Honeymoon, *Strand, Oct. 5, 1901.*

M. F.—*In the pantomime season 1902-1903 the McNaughtons were playing at the Pavilion, Mile End.*

LESSEE.—*Consult the clerk to the local authority of the town or district in question.*

FRED D.—*Mr. Charles Warner played Ned Drayton in the original cast of* In the Ranks, *which was produced at the Adelphi, Oct. 6, 1883.*

H. S. H.—*The Garrick Theatre opened with Mr. Pinero's play,* The Profligate, *on April 24, 1889.*

W. W.—*The London Hippodrome was opened on Jan. 15, 1900.*

L. H.—*Possibly a letter from a solicitor on your behalf will have the desired effect.*

H. HEWITT.—(1) *Miss Madge Lessing was principal girl in the Drury-lane pantomime of 1900.* (2) *She was not in the cast of* Sergeant Brue *when that piece was produced at the Strand Theatre on June 14, 1904. It was transferred to the Prince of Wales's Theatre on the following July 11.*

G. F. WATERS.—*When* A Pair of Spectacles *was revived at the Garrick Theatre on Jan. 17, 1895, the part of Benjamin Goldfinch was played by Mr. John Hare.*

A. M. LOADER.—*A play, entitled* The Lucky Shilling, *was produced at the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, on Feb. 20, 1888. The other title you mention has not, as far as we know, been used.*

EDWARD FOSTER.—*Apart from any agreement to the contrary, the copyright would be vested in the proprietor of the magazine if he paid for the story. If not, then in the contributor. But anyone may dramatise a story so long as he does not take dialogue from it. The question is fully discussed on p. 22 of Strong's "Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" (price 3s. 6d.), which we advise you to get.*

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Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

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Contains in a handy compass and in a clear style the law relating to theatres and music halls. The book is well up to date.—*Law Times.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. A. A. Strong has compiled an exceedingly useful volume dealing carefully, intelligently, and fully with the law bearing upon things theatrical. As a book of reference this excellent digest will be found invaluable.—*The Era.*

THE well-known firm of Lazarus, of Great Eastern-street, E.C., was responsible for the particularly fine seating of His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, which opened last Monday. The stalls and dress circle are provided with patent automatic tip-up chairs, luxuriously fitted with deep backs of the easy chair kind, and upholstered in bright ruby velvet with gold embroidered number worked in each back. Two hundred and fifty chairs of a similar type, with backs not quite so deep, to correspond, are fixed in the pit-stalls, the whole being en suite, and presenting a very fine effect.

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As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

COOK.—Nov. 28, at 74, Solon-road, Brixton, the wife of Syd. F. Cook (scenic artist), of a fine son. Mother and baby doing well.

DONALDSON.—On Nov. 30, at 10, Norland-square, Holland Park, W., the wife of Fred Donaldson, of a daughter. Both doing well.

SADE.—On Friday, Nov. 30, '06, the wife of George Sade, of Lyndale, Moorend Park-road, Cheltenham, of a son. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

ADAMS—SYDNEY.—On Dec. 3, at St. John's Church, Porth, Herbert Adams (Cyclumina) to Jennie Sydney, of Manchester.

STUDT—DOONER.—At St. Mary's Church, Southampton, on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 1906, by the Rev. W. White, assisted by the Rev. T. Horne (Hon. Chaplain to the Showmen's Guild), Mr. Jacob Studt, jun. (eldest son of Mr. Jacob Studt, Amusement Caterer, of the Victoria Hall, Southampton), to Mary Ann Dooner (eldest daughter of Mr. J. Dooner, Amusement Caterer, of Bristol).

WYSARD—MASON.—Dec. 5, at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, Mr. Wysard to Delia Mason.

DEATHS.

COOPER.—In loving memory of Lina Cooper, of the Coopers, Charlie and Lina, who died suddenly at Wolverhampton Hospital, Dec. 5; interred at Sheffield, Dec. 10. Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh.

COX.—Dec. 1, suddenly, of heart disease, at the Oldham Infirmary, Faulkner Cox, actor.

CRUISE.—Nov. 30, of cancer, at the Bull's Head, Bishopsgate-street, Birmingham, John H. Cruise, aged 45, late of the Ladywood Palace. Interred Wednesday, Dec. 5, at St. Joseph's, Nechells. R.I.P.

GREEN.—Nov. 29, at Burnley, of typhoid fever, Lizzie Green, actress.

KEMBLE.—Oct. 28, in Melbourne, Australia, Miss Myra Kemble (Mrs. James H. White), Australian actress.

LINA.—Dec. 4, at Bilston, suddenly, Madame Lina (Mrs. Cooper), cornet soloist.

LITHO.—On Nov. 28, at East Suffolk Hospital, Doris, dearly beloved and only child of Harry and Clarice Litho (White), aged sixteen months.

NESBITT.—Nov. 17, at his residence, The Nest, Birchington, Kent, the Rev. J. J. Nesbitt, LL.D., elocutionist.

WILSON.—On Monday, Nov. 19, at 223, Parkside-road, Bradford, Ruth, wife of H. F. Wilson (late Wilson and Robinson), tenor vocalist, of Cricklewood, London. Mourned by her children, Helen Wilson, May Fallowfield, and Leo Fallowfield.

IN MEMORIAM.

BARKER.—In loving memory of my dear mother, Charlotte Barker, who departed this life Dec. 3, 1900. Never forgotten by her daughter Charlotte.

JOHNSON.—In loving memory of our darling little daughter, Maudie, who died Dec. 9, 1904. God took the loved one from our home, but never from our hearts.—Mr. and Mrs. WILL JOHNSON.

SCOTT.—In loving memory of my dear husband, John Francis Scott, who died Dec. 7, 1903. Ever remembered by those who loved him.—GEORGINA.

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F. Bishop	1	1
W. J. D. Smith	1	1
W. Schlesinger	1	1
T. E. Honey	1	1
Boy Jonas	1	1
A. Abrahams	1	1
Frank Honey	1	1
Philip Cartwright	1	1
J. Woodhouse	10	6
H. Robey	10	6
	77	9

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A NOTE HAVING BEEN PRESENTED to the Right Hon. the Lords of Council and Session (Lord Johnston, Ordinary, Mr. McCaul, Clerk), by William Daniel Stewart, Chartered Accountant, No. 3, Albany-street, Edinburgh, Official Liquidator of the Grand Theatre, Limited, incorporated under the Companies Acts 1862 to 1900, having its Registered Office at 11, George-street, Edinburgh, craving the Court inter alia to order and ordain all Creditors of the Company to lodge their Claims and grounds of debt with the Liquidator by the 31st day of Dec., 1906, or to be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before said Claims and grounds of debt are lodged.
Lord Johnston, Ordinary, on Nov. 16, 1906 pronounced an Interlocutor inter alia ordering and ordaining all Creditors of the Company to lodge their Claims and grounds of debt with the Liquidator by the 31st day of Dec., 1906, and appointing Notice of said order for Claims to be advertised in the newspapers named in the prayer of said Note, and as therein craved.
Of all which intimation is hereby given.
And all creditors of the said Company are required to lodge with the Liquidator their claims and grounds of debt on or before the 31st day of Dec., 1906, accordingly.
LOCKHART, THOMSON, and STEVENSON, W.S., Agents for the Liquidator.
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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER,
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COPYRIGHT AS OPPOSED TO PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter II.
PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.
Chapter IV.
MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.
Chapter V.
INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as the "Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters, respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman.

Mr. A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes," which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1906.

CHARLES WYNDHAM AND THE A.B.F.

No more conclusive proof could be given of the immense popularity of Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM than the splendid response to the appeal which he made, as chairman, at the Actors' Benevolent Fund dinner at the Hotel Metropole on Wednesday. It was, doubtless, a tribute to Sir CHARLES'S well-known social qualities that so distinguished a gathering supported him at the banquet; but support of a more substantial kind was not wanting, the "record" amount of nearly £3000 being subscribed, including, it should be noticed, over £400 from the special matinée given at the New Theatre on Monday by Sir CHARLES and Miss MARY MOORE, who also contributed £50 to swell the list.

The Actors' Benevolent Fund is, indeed, partly a "creation" of Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM'S. In his speech on Wednesday he referred to the occasion on which he took the chair at the A.B.F. dinner in 1898, and modestly declined to repeat his description of the origin of the Fund. It ran as follows: "On a certain evening some twenty-six years ago, a few actors were seated round the hospitable board of dear, genial JOHN L. TOOLE. The scene of the little drama that we then enacted was the saloon in TOOLE'S theatre, adapted to the convivial purposes of the occasion. The *dramatis personæ* were IRVING, BANCROFT, WILSON BARRETT, HARE, KENDAL, DAVID JAMES, THORNE, myself, and TOOLE, the giver of the feast. And when the repast was over our artful host, with that twinkling eye and peculiar side-smile we all knew so well and loved so much to see, asked us if we really thought that he had given us that magnificent entertainment for nothing. 'Guess,' he went on, 'what you are here for.' And knowing that a certain matter had already been whispered amongst us, knowing that in cases of liberality, friendship, and consideration for others our genial host was ever to the fore, we young men 'guessed the very first time.' That night marked the birth and christening of our Fund." And then Sir CHARLES, on that evening in 1898, went on to describe how, in their sanguine generosity, the enthusiastic committee went on to vote retiring annuities to those whom they considered had reached the age that invited to repose, till the middle-aged heroes and verenable heroines rose in their wrath to tell the committee that their ideas and the committee's as to the retiring age were not the same. So the annuities were dropped, and the Fund turned to the task at which it has worked since with so much assiduity and success—the alleviation of the want and misery that daily, hourly, haunt the ranks of the profession. It was not till the resources of the Fund were found to be far below its necessities that the late Sir HENRY IRVING, from the depths of a compassionate heart, made an important change, and himself took the chair at the first A.B.F. annual dinner.

The sentence in Sir CHARLES'S speech which struck a pensive—we will not admit a melancholy—note was that in which he alluded to his forthcoming withdrawal, "in the nature of things," from the career to which he had devoted so many happy years. Sir CHARLES may prefer to soon enjoy what it is customary to call a "well-earned rest"; but all interested in the drama will be loth to spare him from a stage on which he certainly cannot be said to "lag superfluous." Not only has he recently been playing a harmless Don Juan with all the sensitive vivacity and insinuating tact suitable to such a character; he showed, in selecting *Captain Drew on Leave* for production, a courage of his opinion which has nothing in it of the timidity and uncertainty of age. We were in the minority of critics who saw in that piece a delicacy of feeling and a subtlety of thought which placed it on a level with some of the finer work of the French dramatists. We were glad to hear, however, that the intelligent portion of the public "found out" Mr. DAVIES'S little masterpiece, and that—as in the end usually happens—Sir CHARLES reaped a pecuniary reward for his judgment, as well as the consciousness of having done a fine thing. When an actor-manager displays both strength of mind and spirit to such an extent, his actual age goes for nothing. Sir CHARLES is one of those whose vocation was irresistible. He went on the stage only because he felt that for him no other calling was possible. The drama entranced him, and he fought against his histrionic impulses in vain. When he left England for America to be a surgeon in the Civil War he determined to shake off his love for the drama. But he returned to his destiny; he was not allowed by fate to give up to Medicine what was meant for Mankind. It is hard to imagine CHARLES WYNDHAM amidst the horrible experiences of a surgeon in a murderous war like that between North and South; it is harder still to fancy him, as he described himself to the Twentieth Century Club at Chicago in 1890, "a full-fledged doctor." "No patient," said Sir CHARLES, "darkened my door. In vain I wore stiff white neckties; in vain I prayed for a bald head and a slight rotundity of body—things which I now look forward to with dread every morning. At last, however, came the writing on the wall. My bank account died a calm and peaceful death, leaving no trace behind."

If Sir CHARLES had encountered good instead of bad fortune as a doctor he would have made an excellent one. For there is no tonic to a patient like the magnetism of a bright and happy nature; no drug like natural and spontaneous geniality and unconquerable gaiety and cheerfulness. Whether he was waiting with HENRY IRVING outside a manager's room with "a possible chance of a two-pounds-a-week engagement," or failing to tackle distressingly long speeches in Mrs. JOHN WOOD'S company at the Olympic, New York, we imagine him ever the same buoyant and courageous youth. And with these qualities of his are conjoined a nervous sensitiveness, a consideration for the interests and feelings of others, which gain for CHARLES WYNDHAM the love and confidence of all with whom he comes into contact. The wonderful vitality which is one of his most characteristic qualities has never made him careless of the less fortunate or contemptuous of the less gifted. We trust that it will be many years yet before he deprives us of the pleasure of seeing him on the stage. When at least he does so, one of his most pleasant memories will be the support he has given to every effort to make more tolerable the lot of his less happy fellow-artists.

MYSTERY PLAYS IN BLOOMSBURY.

The perfume of incense pervaded the Bloomsbury Hall on Tuesday afternoon, when, upon a tapestried stage, three of the Chester Whitsun Plays were given under the auspices of the English Drama Society. The Chester Plays are a cycle of twenty-five Mysteries, first produced about 1328, their supposed author being one Don Randall Higginet, a monk of Chester Abbey, who went thrice to Rome before he could obtain leave to have them in the English tongue. They were performed by the City Guilds of Chester upon movable stages on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Whitweek.

The three plays given on Tuesday all deal with the Nativity, the first being called *The Salutation and Nativity*, and described as "the Wryghtes and Sklaters' Plaie." It begins with the appearance of the Angel Gabriel to Mary, followed by the visit of Elizabeth. The Roman Senate is subsequently shown, when Octavian takes counsel of a Sybil, who predicts the birth of the Saviour.

The Play of the Shepherds, which is called "the Paynters' and the Glaisors' Playe," begins with an amusing scene between the shepherds on the mountains. The "Gloria in Excelsis" is sung by the angelic chorus, and the shepherds presently find their way to the crib at Bethlehem, where they offer presents to the Infant. The third, *The Adoration of the Magi*—"the Vintners' and Mercers' Playe"—portrays the advent of the three Kings from the East to Herod, who learns of the coming of Christ, and devises the massacre of the Innocents, the play ending with the visit of the three Kings to the stable at Bethlehem and the bestowal of their gifts.

No names were given on the programme, but the intention of the performers to act the episodes reverently was carried out to the utmost. The various parts were taken with fairly equal merit, but those of Mary, Elizabeth, Herod, and the youth Trowle, the Third King, and the Expositor could be selected for special praise. All appeared to be letter perfect, and delivered the quaint verse with excellent enunciation. The pieces were done with wonderful care, especially in regard to the dressing, which was, in many cases, richly elaborate. The plays, which were given under the direction of Mr. Nugent Monck, secretary of the society, were to be repeated on Tuesday and two following evenings.

MR. CARL LYNN is again coming along to town with his remarkable show of animal mimicry. The peaceful occupants of the English farmyard and the savage denizens of the menagerie are imitated with equal facility, and the animals themselves would be deceived by such apt counterfeiting.

THE Burnells are engaged by Mr. John Hart for the production of *Robinson Crusoe*, at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, Joe and Bert playing Man Friday and Saturday.

THE anniversary of the Hackney Empire will be celebrated at that popular house by two special performances on Tuesday evening next, Dec. 11, which marks the fifth birthday of the house.

THE Tom Davies Trio—*Motoring in Mid-Air*—returned from New York last Saturday per the Lucania. Their performance met with tremendous success at the New York Hippodrome, where they were originally engaged for eight weeks, but, owing to the enormous success, the management re-engaged them for a further month. They open on Monday, Dec. 10, at the Empire, Portsmouth, and return to America in September, 1907.

THE following are the names of artists being sent out to-day per the Kildonan Castle for South Africa by Mr. Sydney Hyman—once more in London—Eugene Stratton, Lil O'Gorman, Baker and De Sales, Sisters Morgan, Ella Shields. Amongst those arriving home per the Carisbrooke Castle are Kitty Loftus, William Gourlay, Cissie Paris, Sisters Crystal, and Les Trombetta.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"JULES CESAR."
By William Shakespeare, French translation by L. de Grammont, produced at the Odéon on Dec. 4.

Calpurnia	MME. BARJAC
Portia	MLLE. DUX
Lucius	MLLE. MARIE AUBRY
Marc Antoine	M. DE MAX
Jules César	M. DUQUESNE
Marcus Brutus	M. DESJARDINS
Caius Cassius	M. PH. GARNIER
Octave César	M. MITRECEY
Lépide	M. SAVERNE
Cicéron	M. DUARD
Publius	M. DEGEORGE
Popilius Lena	M. CHAMBREUIL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Dec. 6.—Well may M. Antoine be proud of the marvellous success he scored with his production of Shakespeare's *Julius Cæsar*. French audiences, as a rule, are not enthusiastic. In fact, it takes a good deal to move the average French playgoer. This time, however, the enthusiasm of the Odéon public was boundless, and they thundered forth their applause in roars such as are seldom heard in a Paris playhouse.

There is a history connected with the French version of this great work. For years past it was M. Antoine's ambition to produce this masterpiece in Paris, and when he joined M. Paul Ginisty in the management of the Odéon he broached the subject to his partner. The latter looked at him horror-stricken. "You must be out of your mind," he said, "to think of giving Shakespeare at the Odéon, a house subventioned by the State! As it is, we are already taken to task for not bringing out more plays by unknown French authors. And if we give the preference to an English playwright, we shall raise a nice storm." M. Antoine never forgave his fellow-manager his absurd attitude in this matter; and it is said that then, for the first time, he conceived the idea of becoming sole manager of the Odéon as soon as an opportunity arose, to carry out his favourite scheme. The two partners had other quarrels, and soon afterwards separated, M. Ginisty retaining the direction of the Odéon and M. Antoine starting the theatre that bears his name. A great admirer of Shakespeare, M. Antoine, as will be remembered, gave us a splendid performance of *King Lear;* but the stage on the Boulevard de Strasbourg was too diminutive to admit of the production of *Julius Cæsar*. And when, on the night of his appointment as manager of the Odéon, M. Antoine dined with his friends, he exclaimed in the fulness of his heart: "Now you will soon have *Julius Cæsar!*"

The highest praise is due to M. Louis de Grammont for the manner in which he overcame the difficulties of supplying a classical translation of the work whilst remaining true to the English text. Voltaire laboured under the same difficulties, and employed blank verse, an example followed by M. de Grammont. For all that, it required prodigious efforts on M. Antoine's part to make the production of this great drama a success, and the time, money, trouble, and care he bestowed on it is only known to his intimate friends. For, M. Antoine, like all true artists, is hard to please, and the actors, M. Jusseaume (the famous scene-painter), in fact everybody connected with the house had a very rough time of it. Those, however, who fared worst were the supers. "Are we going to be turned into actors?" they cried; and, really, it was the very thing this able producer was trying to do. And he drilled them until dissatisfaction broke out in the ranks of those noble Roman warriors; and on one occasion when they had been summoned for nothing, their services not being required on that day, a bubble of mutiny began to swell, but which was promptly pricked by a couple of policemen. All the tableaux are true works of art, and fairly astounded the audience, who had rarely seen such scenery, and certainly never on the Odéon stage.

The interpretation was superb. M. de Max—who won his first laurels some ten years ago at the Renaissance when Mme. Sarah Bernhardt managed that house—gave us a wonderful Mark Antony. His speech over Cæsar's body was admirably delivered, and created a deep impression. Every gesture was perfect, and it would be difficult to render that rôle in better style. The highest praise, too, is due to MM. Duquesne, Garnier, and Desjardins.

The production of *Julius Cæsar* at the Odéon will mark an epoch in French stage-management.

"PAN" is the title of a satirical, comic three-act drama by M. Charles van Lerberghe, brought out by M. Lugne-Poë at the Theatre de l'Œuvre. The author, a Belgian, is well known in theatrical circles here by his *Flaireurs*, a strong work that was very favourably received by the public. As to *Pan*, it created quite a different impression. The audience was positively "flabbergasted," and went home in a state of bewilderment. It was not surprising. The fundamental idea of the work is clever and orginal, but the author has chosen a curious way of developing his theories. Rabelaisian, humoristic, philosophical, we fly from the ridiculous to the sublime, until we no longer know whether we assist at a farce or at a serious production. *Pan* is the glorification of our natural tendencies, of our instinct, free and untrammelled. Pan is the enemy of convention, of dogma; and he derides law and customs as opposed to nature. To the surprise of the good people in a village on the Flemish coast, Pan suddenly appears. Nobody knows whence he comes; but he is among them, and intends to remain there. Paniska, a little shepherdess, at once gives herself to him; and together they travel over the country, Pan converting all he meets to his ideas. His popularity is daily increasing, and even the sexton of the church in one of the places they visit adopts the new faith. The frightened authorities, represented by the parson, the priest, the monk, the burgomaster, the schoolmaster, the rural policeman, and the beadle are trying to stem the rising tide. They want to expel Pan, but it is too late. He has become too strong, and they are compelled to come to terms with him. In fact, they cannot do otherwise than to offer him the citizenship. All they ask from him is to "behave decently and wear clothes." And the authorities, who a moment before called him a demon, now bow before him. Pan is triumphant. As a symbol the work is cleverly thought out; and it is, therefore, the more to be regretted that the author should have treated it in a rather childish manner. Much sensation was caused by the appearance of Mme. Colette Willy in the rôle of the shepherdess Paniska. A little more dress and a little less gesture would have been more à propos. The rest of the cast was satisfactory, but more trouble might have been bestowed upon the mounting.

IT now seems pretty certain that M. Gailhard will not retain the management of the Opera. Of the numerous candidates, M. Schurmann, the impresario, stands no chance whatsoever. Nor does M. Porel; and the same can be said of the Brothers Isola. It was rumoured that M. Carré, from the Opéra-Comique, had offered himself, and, being an able manager, his candidature was well worth considering. But M. Carré has no intention of leaving the Opéra-Comique. It, therefore, would not be surprising if MM. Broussan and Messager were elected. They are a strong combination. M. Messager, an excellent musician, and M. Broussan, a first-class manager, are admirably suited for the post. As things stand to-day, they are the favourites; and the betting is three to one on them.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The trouble at Brixton is fully dealt with in another column. No such direct conflict between artist and proprietor has ever been known in the annals of the variety world. The matter will be in the courts next week, and comment would therefore be injudicious.

It is very regrettable that the London County Council, sitting as a body to consider the recommendations of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, should have refused to confirm the licence of the Finsbury Park Empire, recommended by that committee. The decision adverse to Mr. Stoll's application was carried by 31 votes to 24.

A mass meeting of the members of the Variety Artists' Federation will be held in the large hall of the Horns, Kennington, on Sunday evening at seven o'clock. The object of the meeting is to inform the members fully of the important events that have taken place during the week, and to impress upon them the absolute necessity of carrying out the instructions of the executive.

Mr. George Robey, after a highly enjoyable trip to South Africa, which has not only re-established his health, but extended his great reputation as a comedian to the Rand, will arrive in the old country on Saturday next.

Miss Simeta Marsden has been secured for the rôle of principal boy for the forthcoming production of *Treasure Island* at the London Hippodrome. This engagement will make this popular lady's third consecutive one at the Cranbourn-street house.

Harry Hunter, the famous founder of the Mohawk Minstrels, who died on Oct. 12, left an estate of which the gross value is £11,196 3s. 7d. Probate of the will has been granted to his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Jennings, of Holloway-road.

Mrs. Adney Payne, the charming and popular dame president, recently invited the members of the Herne Bay Primrose League to tea at the Iron Room, William-street. About 280 responded to the invitation. The scene was a most effective one. Bunting draped the walls, strings of flags crossed the room, and evergreens embellished the windows. The four long tables were decorated with flowers, and down the centre on the white cloths lay broad ribbons of red, white and blue. During the entertainment that followed, Miss Grey's ladies' amateur orchestra played popular selections; Miss Lulu Gillespie, the Australian soprano, sang delightfully; Miss Alice Pierce gave clever impressionist sketches of popular footlight favourites; and Messrs. Walter Tilbury and Prior made a hit with their topical songs and political allusions.

Miss Georgina Leno (Mrs. R. Lubbock) is returning to the stage, Mr. Herbert Darnley having offered her an engagement in the new sketch he is producing during this month. The novelty treats of life in the arena, and is entitled *The Freaks*, in which Miss Leno will take the part of Princess Ruby, a circus-rider.

Mr. Ernest Bridgen, manager of the New Cross Empire, had the fright of his life on Tuesday night. His private room is situate at the back of the stage, a few yards from where Carl Ohm's bears are caged. Mr. Bridgen was quietly making out his returns for the night's business when the door of his room opened, and, to his dismay, on looking up he saw a big black bear advancing on his hind legs, but smiling most amiably. "My heart stood still," says Mr. Bridgen; "but I knew I had to do something, and that quickly. So I hurled a book at the brute's head, dodged round him, made for the door, and closed it behind me. When I returned with his keeper Master Bruin was calmly consuming the remainder of the biscuits from a box I keep on the sideboard." In a good-tempered way the shaggy visitor permitted himself to be made captive again, and a quarter of an hour later performed as usual.

At St. George's Hall for one of the Christmas attractions Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant will produce a fairy play in three acts, written by Mrs. Nesbit, with the title of *The Magician's Heart*. Wonderful transformations and disappearances will, of course, predominate, and the two principal parts will be taken by Mr. David Devant and Miss Cassie Bruce. Ghostly illusions sufficient to make the audience quake in their stalls will abound in Mr. Maskelyne's spiritualistic séance, to be entitled "Spiritualism Up-to-date and Beyond It."

Hymack, who was secured by the Empire directorate for the month of December after his first appearance at the Leicester-square house, is another recruit from the legitimate stage. He has been thinking out his present show for many months, and much as it has been embellished by him since he first put it on, he is confident of much additional improvement. In light comedy parts Hymack made his mark, and his Sydney Prince in *Sherlock Holmes* evoked much praise from Mr. William Gillette, who entrusted him with the part at the Duke of York's, and secured him for an American tour. He was also with Mrs. Patrick Campbell on tour as stage-manager. His clever, ingenious act is described in our notice of the Empire.

Mr. Harry Russon, who was entrusted with several important parts in the Coliseum revue, will be remembered especially by his clever scene as the boy who was chased by the monkey in the Zoo. For some years a partner with Mr. H. Corner in the combination known as the Dandies, he is now appearing on his own in the halls, and the fortunate choice of Mr. Harry Day as his agent has assured him of engagements for five years. Mr. Russon's light and agreeable style has already won him much popularity on the variety stage.

The impecuniosity of Mr. Will English, coon comedian, was the subject of an inquiry by the Official Receiver at the Bolton Bankruptcy Court on Wednesday. His liabilities amounted to £212 13s. 5d., and his assets to £10 2s. 6d., leaving a deficiency of £262 10s. 11d. He commenced his stage career about ten years ago in Chicago, and came to England in 1900. He had been engaged by various music hall managers, and had made a considerable sum of money, at times as much as £600 or £700 a year. He had nothing in the world now except twenty pawn tickets. He had to pawn his coat and bag and umbrella to get to the court from London. He would hang about there till he got an engagement. In reply to Mr. Ritson, who represented him, English said he had to pay agents 10 per cent. when he was making £700 a year, as well as travelling expenses and the cost of songs.

Mr. Ara, head of the famous acrobatic combination, Ara, Zebra, and Vora, has the cleverest talking paroquet existing. First acquired thirteen years ago in Paris as a pet, the fortunate owner taught the little beggar to talk as a pastime. Audiences are sceptical about the genuineness of the bird's powers of speech, and provincial quidnuncs have talked glibly about a ventriloquial fake. It is hoped in time to teach "Cuckoo" to sing; and even now he holds conversations with another member of the Psittacus family—a large green parrot. Mr. Ara has often wondered how his pet has survived different climates. He has been on tour with the troupe twice in Central Russia, as far as Moscow, three times round Central Europe—France, Germany, Austria, etc.—and as far as San Francisco. With the changing climates most birds would have pegged out, but "Cuckoo" comes up smiling all the time.

South Shields Empire Palace Theatre opened its doors for the first time last Monday under a new joint proprietorship, Mr. Richard Thornton, hitherto the absolute proprietor, having taken into partnership as co-proprietor of the freehold Mr. Frank Allen, his general-manager. It is a mere coincidence, but a noteworthy one, that only recently Mr. Allen reached his majority in the service of his old employer.

It was in November, 1885, that Thornton's Theatre of Varieties was opened in Union Alley. Its first manager was Mr. Frank Allen, whose name is now writ large over the history and development of the modern variety theatre. It is not too much to say, by way of compliment to Mr. Thornton's first variety theatre, that here again the work of evolution which helped to transform the provincial music hall from its former crude state to the palatial, refined, and popular institution it is to-day. Three years afterwards Mr. Thornton acquired the Theatre Royal, Sunderland, and converted it into one of the most beautiful variety theatres in the provinces in its day.

In the following year he built the Alhambra, West Hartlepool, and then turned his attention to Newcastle, where he became the lessee of the first Empire under Mr. F. M. Laing. It was then that Sir Edward Moss (then Mr.) joined Mr. Thornton—a partnership which carried its enterprise into all parts of the kingdom. Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Hull, Sheffield, and Liverpool were provided with magnificent variety theatres in quick succession; and a little later Mr. Oswald Stoll joined the combine with his group of halls. Thus the greatest aggregation of variety theatres in the world was formed. In all these developments Mr. Allen has been associated with Messrs. Moss, Thornton, and Stoll, and that association has now been still more closely cemented by the admission of the former as co-proprietor of the hall where he began his professional career.

A site at Barnsley, just outside the Midland Station and in the High-street, has been acquired on behalf of a company to be known as The Barnsley Empire Company, for the erection of a permanent variety theatre at a cost of £20,000. The plans have been prepared by Messrs. North and Robin, architects, of the Strand, London, and have been passed by the local authorities, and all other arrangements made. The building is to be started immediately, and will be opened on August Bank Holiday next. It is intended to run a high-class variety entertainment. The managing-director of the company is Mr. Will Smithson, who for many years past has been the popular proprietor of the Theatre Royal and Opera House, Merthyr Tydfil. Mr. Alfred Withers, director of Sites, Ltd., will also be on the board.

Hackenschmidt was to have appeared at the Hull Palace last week, but owing to an attack of influenza and muscular rheumatism was prevented from doing so. On Tuesday he left Hull for Germany. On Monday Hackenschmidt vomited blood, and he went on the stage strongly against the advice of his doctor. The disappointment which his illness caused was considerably minimised by the eleventh-hour engagement of J. W. Rowley, the Yorkshire comedian, who appeared in the place of "the Russian lion" with the greatest success. In picturesque language he fairly "pulled the house down," and his sudden descent upon Hull gave much pleasure during his stay. It is hoped that a period of rest will restore Hackenschmidt to health and vigour.

A policy of amalgamation has been agreed upon between the proprietors of the Wolverhampton Hippodrome and the directors of the Wolverhampton Empire, Limited. After this week the Hippodrome will abandon the variety business and become the home of the legitimate. The announcement is made on the authority of Mr. Walter De Frece. Existing contracts and bookings for the Hippodrome will be transferred to the Empire Palace, including the engagement of Miss Vesta Tilley, who is to appear next week. The two properties will be amalgamated under the style of the Wolverhampton Empire, Limited.

The Queen's Theatre, Leeds, will become a music hall soon after the advent of the new year. It will still, however, be managed by the company now owning it—the Queen's Theatre, Leeds (Limited)—with the addition of Mr. Walter De Frece to the directorate. Mr. William Allen, of Belfast, and Mr. Fred Mouillot remain in the company, and Messrs. Dottridge and Longden, the present lessees, will retain their financial interest.

A meeting of the Committee of Inspection of the London Coliseum (Limited) was held at Cardiff on Monday evening. Messrs. Metcalf and Gillespie, liquidators, reported on the replies of shareholders to the suggested scheme of reconstruction. The replies represented about £20,000, or half the fresh ordinary capital required. In the official report afterwards issued to the Press it was stated that the Committee of Inspection was now taking steps to secure the placing of £65,000 Second Mortgage Six per Cent. Debentures, and expressed the opinion that if the efforts to place this were successful the scheme would proceed.

Our heartiest congratulations to Leoni Clarke, the Cat King, and his charming wife, well-known to the profession as Chrissie Angus, the celebrated burlesque actress, who were married on Dec. 3 twenty-five years ago at Darlington. Since that happy day they have journeyed through many lands, gaining success in Canada, North and South America, North and South Africa, China, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, India, &c., and have now located themselves at the Two Brewers Hotel, Northampton. Although Mr. Clarke is still following his profession, "he always comes home to his tea" on Sundays.

Mr. J. Lacy Lyne, the popular manager of the Palace of Varieties, Attercliffe, was accorded his second annual complimentary benefit on Friday evening, Nov. 30, and crowded houses at each performance testified to the esteem in which he is held. During the evening, Mr. Wright, of Derby, in the absence of Mr. T. Allan Edwardes, presented to Mr. Lyne, on behalf of the proprietor, a timepiece and cheque. An illuminated address and purse of gold came from the staff, band, and a few private friends; also a case of carvers. The address was read by Mr. S. H. Laycock, the assistant-manager. Mr. Lyne feelingly replied.

Mr. Harry Lauder was specially honoured on Saturday evening at the close of his fortnight's engagement at the Palace, Dundee. Mr. E. J. Dexter, the manager, presented him in the name of the proprietors of the Palace with a silver salver and a pair of silver candlesticks. Mr. Lauder made a humorous and appropriate speech in reply, and expressed the hope that next autumn he would be able to return to Dundee.

An interesting event took place on Tuesday at Liverpool, when Mr. John Leopold Weisker, youngest son of Mrs. Weisker, licensed victualler, London-road, was married to Miss Isabella Metcalf, youngest daughter of Mr. John Metcalf, florist, New Brighton. The bridegroom is well-known in the profession, being connected with the firm of Weisker Bros., bioscope proprietors. He is also the secretary of the Liverpool Westminster Music Hall. The marriage took place at the Registrar's Office, Brougham-terrace, the contracting parties, along with several theatrical friends, being driven there in florally-decorated motor-cars.

The Committee of the Music Hall Home will meet in future on *Tuesdays*. This change has been considered necessary in order that the day of meeting may not clash with that of the M.H.A.R.A.

The usual monthly meeting of the Committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held at the York Hotel on Wednesday next, at 2 p.m. As several matters of interest and importance are included in the agenda members of the Committee who are in town are specially invited to attend the meeting.

Mr. Denham Harrison, the well-known composer, has been appointed musical director of Hengler's, and has also been commissioned to write the music for the forthcoming Christmas production there, a children's pantomime entitled *Little Red Riding Hood*.

Messrs. F. and M. Abrahams and Mr. Jack Woolf have been able to carry out arrangements for the complete comfort of their audiences at the Queen's, Poplar, by installing at that popular house a perfect and expensive system of heating by patent hot-water radiators throughout the hall and on the stage. The work has been carried out by the well-known firm of Alexander Ritchie and Co., of 12-13, Upper Thames-street, E.C.

Miss Maud Rochez has scored an emphatic success at the Theatre, Richmond, and has signed contracts in three days amounting to nearly four thousand pounds. Her business agent is Papa Brown.

At the Richmond Theatre on Monday will be produced a new sketch, entitled *The Half-way Kiss*, in which Miss Millie Mills and Mr. Harold Wells will play the chief parts.

Mr. John Lawson will appear on Monday, Feb. 11, in a new episode, entitled *Kissed to Death*. Mrs. Lawson will play the part of a school girl, and Mr. John Lawson will be seen in a new part of special interest. The setting will be a pool (water) and a ladies' school.

Amongst the crowd at Collins's on the evening of the forty-fourth anniversary of the famous "hall on the green," could be seen Will Oliver as blithe, alert, and dapper as a three-year-old. At the age of fifteen Will appeared at the fourth anniversary. Many were the compliments paid him by a host of very old friends, who one and all proclaim him a marvel.

Miss Marion Wills, formerly well known in her big speciality act under another name, was the exponent of a distinctly novel and humorous monologue successfully produced at the Camberwell Empire on Monday. It is entitled *A Musical Comedy Rehearsal*. Miss Wills impersonates seven different characters, with snatches of songs (comical and tragical), well written comedy lines, and extremely funny new "business." The monologue has been written by Mr. W. H. Savile, and the music and songs are by Mr. Cuthbert Clarke, of the Empire.

Mr. David Hart, the popular manager of the Grand Varieties, Gravesend, had his fourth annual benefit on Friday, the 30th ult. The house was crowded, and money was turned away. During the evening he was presented, on the stage, with a cheque for £50, subscribed by the agents. He also received a handsome case of fish knives and forks from Miss Carrie Laurie, a pair of Japanese vases from Miss Blanche Vincent, and a silver egg cruet from the staff. The presentations were made by Mr. Will Oliver. A feature of the entertainment was the assistance given by the London agents in *'Liza Johnson*.

"The Magic Eye" is the title of a new operatic piece which has been produced this week at the Palace, Bristol, by Madame Mellor's company with remarkable success—a success, by the way, that was entirely deserved. *The Magic Eye* appeals by its excellent libretto, its dramatic scheme, and its excellent music to the lovers of grand opera, who will now be found in every part of the modern Empires and Palaces of variety. The house in which good music and singing can always be enjoyed is certainly the music hall of the future. The claims of enterprise have only been recognised by the far-seeing manager; but we are reforming that altogether in the principal programmes of the day.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Moore are suffering from acute influenza. The genial Pony is progressing favourably, but Mrs. Moore is not doing so well, according to Dr. H. J. Macevoy's latest bulletin. It is a great sorrow to the happy pair that they were unable to be with their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Stratton, and wish them bon voyage on their departure for South Africa to-day.

Mrs. John Lawson has been appearing with conspicuous success at the Brixton Hippodrome with *The Devil's Sunday*, playing it in the condensed form of a duologue under the title of *Vanity*. This little sketch has all the excitement of a four-act drama, and last only fifteen minutes. So well was the trifle received on Monday that on Tuesday morning Mrs. Lawson received offers from Messrs. Stoll, Adney Payne, and other big syndicates to open at once. Unfortunately other engagements precluded acceptance. Without a doubt Mrs. Lawson has never been seen to such advantage as in the part of the reckless, vain, and frivolous wife in *Vanity*, in which she seems to hold the audience in the hollow of her hand.

Miss Bertha Stuart, the Scotch lassie, whose agreeable rendering in character of fine old melodies has been such a pleasant feature of the entertainments of several of the chief London halls, is winning much popularity this week at the Oxford and Tivoli. Her rendering of "Caller Herrin'" brings down the house.

Messrs. O'Malley and Brown conclude to-night, at the Empire, Leeds, a successful tour of the principal provincial music halls, in their comedy sketch, entitled *You're Still a Friend of Mine*. They start rehearsing for pantomime on Monday at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, where they have been engaged to play two important parts in *Mother Goose*. At the conclusion of their pantomime engagement they return to the Stoll tour.

The fourteenth anniversary of the opening of the Palace Theatre will be celebrated on Tuesday, when a large number of artists have volunteered their services for the special entertainment to be given on that evening. Amongst these are:—Miss Camille Clifford, Miss Kate Cutler, Miss Marie Dainton, Miss Alexandra Dagmar, Miss Alice Lloyd, Miss Victoria Monks, Mme. Adeline Genée, Chirgwin, Mr. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Alfred Lester, Mr. Herbert Lloyd, Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Leslie Stiles, and Little Tich, who will commence his first engagement at the Palace at Christmas.

Preparations are being made at the Crystal Palace for Sanger's Hippodrome and Menagerie at Christmas. In addition, there are to arrive from Belgium a giantess and lady dwarf, and judging by their photographs, are particularly attractive-looking ladies. If Henri Cot, the giant, and Prince Colibri could only have continued their sojourn at the Palace some interesting marriages might have been arranged. The many other Christmas attractions will include Mr. Ernest E. Noakes and Mr. Stanley H. Bell's entertainment of modern magic and drawing-room entertainments in the Electric Theatre; Miss Kitty Wright's trained animals—ponies, dogs, and monkeys, in the Chinese Court; a monster Christmas tree; and special shows on the Skating Rink.

The members of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild are requested to attend an important meeting on Wednesday next, at one o'clock, at the offices of the Guild, at 69, Primrose-mansions, Prince of Wales's-road, Battersea Park. Contributions have been received:—Albert Egbert, 10s.; Mrs. F. Latone, 5s.; R. H. Douglass, 2s.; Miss Patty Yole, 2s. 6d.; collected by Miss Alice Mayden at N.A.F. meeting, 10s. 6d. Gifts of clothing have also been received from Miss Cissy Jewell and Mrs. Green.

The Terriers gave their third social of the season on Sunday at their Headquarters, the Dover Castle Hotel, Westminster Bridge-road. A most enjoyable evening was spent, about sixty being present. Amongst those who contributed to the entertainment were:—Mr. Tom Packer, Mr. W. L. Murray, Mr. W. Atora, Miss Lawreen, Griff, Baby Atlas, Miss Ada Norman, Mr. G. Jones, and Mr. Charles Marston. Mr. John Charles Moore presided at the piano; Mr. Tom Burnetti was the chairman; Mr. Sid Baker vice-chairman; Mr. Tom Packer, M.C., and the complete arrangements were in the capable hands of the secretary, Harry Lester.

The Magic Circle, an association of modern magicians, held its first annual dinner at the Florence Restaurant on Tuesday evening, with Mr. Nevil Maskelyne in the chair. After a banquet, which included such professional dishes as "hors d'œuvres illusories" and "faisan roti sans deception," the magicians settled down to be mystified by other practisers of what was known in the days of Dr. Dee as the "black art." An excellent entertainment was contributed by the Zancigs and Messrs. David Devant, E. H. Adams, J. H. Collings, Gordon Powell, Leon Spinck, Leslie Lambert, W. R. Minus, Louis Nikola, Arthur Glynn, and Horace Goddard.

The secretary of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund has received the sum of £5 5s. 6d. from Mr. William Payne, collected by him during the past few weeks in his pence box at the South London Palace; also the sum of £4 5s. 6d. from Mr. Robert W. Duce, collected in his book at the Granville Palace of Varieties, Walham-green. The President and Committee tender their sincere thanks to these gentlemen for their kind aid.

Messrs. Walton and Lester have just purchased a clever song from the pen of Mr. Harry F. Greenfield, entitled "Our garden on the roof," which they will stage in their usual humorous fashion. "The World's Worst Wizards" have been engaged by Mr. Walter De Frece for his opening programme at the New Tivoli, Liverpool, next week.

The death of Mr. H. Cruise, which took place at Birmingham on Friday, Nov. 30, revives memories of a once prosperous music hall there, now closed and lying idle—the Steam Clock, to wit—known in its latter stages as the Ladywood Palace, where Leno and many of our present stars were wont to appear. Mr. Cruise, who died from cancer on the liver after protracted suffering, patiently borne, gained considerable local fame in his time as a singer of light comedy and descriptive songs, deriving his inspiration from the late Charles Godfrey, whose funeral he attended as one of his two solitary mourners. Mr. Cruise had good creative powers himself, and produced many original scenas, including *New Year's Eve*, written by Joseph Berry and composed by Felix McGlennon, which was staged at "Day's," now the Empire.

The deceased gentleman made every effort to preserve the Ladywood Palace for the profession, but eventually repaired to the Bell Hotel, Northfield, a rural spot a little way out, where his talents in song and story much impressed the people. Returning to Birmingham, he was seen at the Grand Junction Hotel, whence sprang several of our present stars, and finally took the Bull's Head, Bishopsgate-street, where he died. The funeral of the deceased, who leaves a wife and several children, took place on Wednesday at St. Joseph's, Nechells, whither a large gathering of private and professional friends followed him. Mr. Cruise was forty-five years of age.

"La Milo," who will be at the Holloway Empire next week, is, we are given to understand, likely to take action against certain Cardiff ladies and members of the Cardiff Young Women's Christian Association in connection with the expression, "a perfectly nude woman," alleged to have been made use of in a petition to the Lord Mayor of Cardiff while "La Milo" was performing there last week.

On Saturday last, the occasion of the great match between England and "The Rest," Mr. A. Rand, the manager of the Empire Theatre, Coventry, invited the two teams there, which invitation they accepted, and enjoyed themselves immensely.

Miss Maidie Scott, who, with Miss Marie Lloyd, Miss Jessie Preston, and other artists, was injuncted on Oct. 1 by Mr. Burney, of the London, from appearing at the Paragon, put her case into the hands of the well-known theatrical solicitors, Messrs. Amery Parkes and Co. They have now brought matters to a satisfactory termination, Mr. Burney having decided to withdraw the action which was pending, and himself paying the costs of the injunction.

The 491st meeting of the M.H.A.R.A. Committee was held on Wednesday afternoon, when the following members were present:—Messrs. Fred. W. Millis (vice-president), H. Griff, Fred Neiman, Jeff Vendome, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). Mr. Fred Millis presided. The present agent in Newport (Mon.) having resigned, Mr. W. H. Beer, of the Hare and Greyhound Hotel, Commercial-street, Newport, was elected as agent. Mrs. Lee, the Rochdale agent, having left the Roebuck Hotel, Mr. Ned Kennedy, of the Bishop Blaize Hotel, was appointed as agent in that town. The voting for the positions of chairman and vice-chairman was declared, Mr. Joe O'Gorman being elected as chairman and Mr. Fred Herbert as vice-chairman. A certain member was expelled, in accordance with the rules. The weekly statement of receipts and expenditure was submitted, and was passed as read.

At the Bilston Theatre Royal, during the performance on Tuesday Mme. Lina (otherwise Mrs. Cooper), a cornet soloist, who, with her husband, had appeared in "Comedy and Melody," was seized with illness, which, unhappily, proved fatal. On Monday the deceased lady appeared in her usual health; but about 9.30 on the evening of her seizure she complained of not feeling well, and remarked that she seemed to have no top lip at all, it being numbed. She, however, went through her turn, and, after bowing her acknowledgments, hurried to her dressing-room, where she called for her husband, and said to him, "Charlie, I do feel bad; there is something the matter with my face. Hold me; I am going!" Mr. Cooper immediately called for Mrs. Orchid (of "The Orchids"), who found Mrs. Cooper totally unable to speak. She at once sent for Dr. Kendrick, who ordered the sufferer's immediate removal to the Wolverhampton General Hospital, where she died the following (Wednesday) morning. The Coopers, who are natives of Sheffield, joined the company (Mr. Tom Prichard's) at Oldbury last week, and came on from that town to Bilston. This is the second tragic occurrence at the Bilston Theatre within a couple of months, and recalls the recent case of the late Mr. Frank Bateman, who expired on the stage of the same playhouse whilst in the act of arranging a rehearsal.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

Among the latest novelties secured for publication by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter are Miss Vesta Victoria's "I can't get nobody to love me," by G. A. Stevens; "What more can I do, little Girlie?" by A. E. Sidney Davis and H. E. Darewski, jun.; Frank Harwood's "Every little picture tells a story," by Barnes, Weston, and M. Scott; "She hadn't left the country very long," by St. John Hamond and Ernest Vousden; "The Gallant Greys" (which will be sung by A. H. Gee, the popular Australian baritone), by W. Cooper Lissenden; "I finish 'em off" and "So does father" (both sung by Dan Crawley), by T. W. Connor; and "Join the Navy" (Bert Dansie) and "When mother cooked the pancake," these last being by Charles Osborne.

Last week the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. received an order from a prominent wholesale music-dealer for no less than 12,200 copies of their popular "Sixpenny Successes." The numbers in greatest demand were "Bamboo bungalow," "Remember me to mother dear," "Queen of Old Samara," "Rosie is waiting," "You don't miss de water," and "She didn't come from Borneo." During the present week another principal wholesale placed a further order for 20,000 copies of this famous series with this one-year-old firm.

Miss Millie Hylton has scored an undoubted triumph with Castling and Murphy's dainty Welsh chorus song, "On the Isle of Anglesey," at the Stratford Empire this week. This number is included in the catalogue of the Star Music Publishing Co., Ltd.

Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. have an excellent comedy song in "Seaside Louise," by Burton and Delmar. The words are quaint and the melody ear-haunting, and the number should be in demand with double and single comedians. Band parts can be had arranged by the composer, George Burton, whose reputation for this sort of work is well known.

Yet further acquisitions have just been made by Messrs. Francis and Day for publication, among them being a song by Mr. Leslie Stiles, entitled "Floating." The others include "The bird in the trysting-tree," by A. du Soir and K. Lyle; "Any windows to mend?" (Amber Austa), by Fred D'Albert and Fred Godfrey; "I can't make it out, can you?" (Frank Lynne), by Bert Delmar; "There's a black man coming down the chimney," by Murphy and Lipton; two new Scotch songs, written, composed, and sung by Hector Grant, entitled "Sandy, you're a dandy" and "Lassie, dinna sigh for me"; "Something seems to tell me there'll be no rent to-day" (Will Haines), by Fred Allsopp and the singer; and "Happy little mermaid," by J. F. Lambe and H. E. Pether.

The Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s big topical "winner," "Skyland," by Harrington and Tate, which Mr. Charles McNaughton is still so successfully singing in *The Belle of Mayfair* on tour, has been secured for Mr. John Hart's Manchester pantomime, and will be sung as a duet by Mr. Wilkie Bard and Miss Carrie Moore, with a special production by Mr. Victor Stevens.

The Shapiro, Von Tilzer Publishing Company have this week issued Miss Jessie Preston's highly successful song, "Be advised by your father." This number is free for pantomime, and provincial music hall rights may be had on application to the publishers, Miss Preston having acquired the sole London rights from the author-composer, J. F. Lambe.

Miss Florrie Gallimore has been featuring again this week with great success "Caroline, will you love this gipsy man?" and the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Company, Ltd., have, in consequence, had numerous demands for it from pantomime producers.

The Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Company, Ltd., have this week been successful in placing their two eleventh-hour pantomime songs, "The Wedding of Bluebell" and "Ida-ho," with various important pantomime producers and artists.

Miss Marjorie Lawrence is singing a capital new song, entitled "Miss Rosy Posy," written by Newman Harding, music by W. Snell Robinson.

Mr. Alf. Gibson has purchased and produced a song from the pen of William Hargreaves, entitled "Wait till you hear the chorus," which is a big success.

Charles Wilmott has, in conjunction with H. E. Darewski, jun., who has set the words to a charming melody, published with Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, a pretty song, entitled "Home again, my cherry blossom."

Denmark-street, the headquarters of the "Sixpenny Pops," is just now the scene of unparalleled activity, and even the resources of the now largely amplified premises have been severely taxed owing to the enormous demand for the "Pops." Mr. David Day's manager, Mr. John Smith, has added the following numbers to the extensive catalogue, which now comprises 323 songs and pieces:—"Cleopatra Finnegan" (intermezzo), "Poppies" (Japanese Romance), "Grow, little Mushroom, grow!" "Can't you think of any other name but Baby?" "Arrah Wanna," "The good old Union Jack," "Mamma's boy," "Don't tell the world of your troubles," "Come and make love to me," and "The Galloping Major."

Mr. Herbert Darnley is out and about again after a short but severe illness, at one period of which a bad spell of pneumonia was latent and grave effects feared.

At Chelsea Palace on Tuesday evening Mr. Ernest Shand produced a new song, with which he scored in a most unmistakable manner. It is entitled "Tooral-I-ay," is by Edward Montagu, and has been secured for immediate publication by Messrs. Francis and Day.

The Star Music Publishing Co., Ltd., are to be heartily congratulated upon having scored in the two first pantomimes of the season. Their songs, "Nelson from his monument," in Robert Arthur's Aberdeen production, and "Sailing in my balloon" at the Grand, Glasgow, were both instantaneous successes.

A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott are again well to the fore in pantomimes this year, their song, "By the side of the Zyder Zee," being undoubtedly the hit of the season. They have also got there with their beautiful ballad "Snowflakes."

The same firm has just purchased C. W. Murphy and Dan Lipton's new song, entitled "Gibraltar." So great is the demand for "Zuyder Zee" that Messrs. Feldman have arranged for a special press in order to cope with it.

T. W. Conner, whose name in the song world is something to conjure with, has placed his latest and what he considers his greatest effort with Messrs. Feldman. The song is on the up-to-date "Aeroplane" topic, and author and publishers anticipate it a flyer.

Happy Fanny Fields' new comedy song, by Harrington and Tate, entitled "Then he blow, blow, blow," is now in the press, and will be issued at an early date. This number, which forms No. 53 of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s "Sixpenny Successes," will be specially featured during the run of this favourite Dutch artist's pantomime engagement in Bristol.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE EMPIRE.

There are fewer "dumb show" turns to be noted in the Empire programme than has been customary at that fine house, and, as far as the variety is concerned, this is a decided improvement in the scheme of amusement put forward by Mr. H. Hitchens. A decided novelty, that is presented somewhat too early in the evening to be as heartily appreciated as it ought to be, is the turn of Mr. Hymack, a comedian and entertainer, whose monologue is original, ingenious, and interesting. As an elated and belated Benedict who has been to his club, he commences his entertainment by aposthrophising the village pump, a cleverly constructed property that quite realistically throws cold water on his efforts when he commences to recite "The Charge of the Light Brigade" with interpolations conceived in the eccentric vein. It seems quite an innocent action when Hymack removes a pair of red gloves, and one would scarcely note the incident were it not that his hands are immediately afterwards *ganté* in yellow without any action on his part that is apparent. He throws a stick away, and another is immediately spirited into his hand. He sheds his shirt cuffs, only to find them replaced on the instant; and at the finish of his turn the light frock-coat, waistcoat, and hat are scarcely discarded in his admirably assumed fit of semi-drunken freakishness than he appears in the sombre respectability of black coat and black topper. He then takes his farewell of the audience, leaving it no less puzzled than delighted. Hymack is a decided acquisition to the bill.

An interesting exhibition also is the demonstration by Raku, a Japanese, and an assistant of the same nationality, of the ju-jitsu method of defence against sudden and ruffianly attacks—a method universally taught in the gymnasia of the land of the chrysanthemum. The show becomes even more attractive when a lady pupil of the scientific wrestler displays her prowess and shows how completely equipped for "tackling" one of the gentler sex may become. Early in the evening Chinka Panne, a Tsigane, who owns some amusing dogs, plays the national instrument of Hungary—the czimbalom—choosing as one selection a difficult rhapsody by the Abbé Liszt, himself one of the very few modern composers who showed proficiency on the instrument. A favourite turn with the Empire frequenters is the Brittons, a "cullud" lady and gentleman, who evidently enjoy their work as much as the audience, which is saying a good deal. Mr. Britton is about as grotesque as a coon knows how to be, and his good humour is quite irresistible.

Mr. Herbert Lloyd's eccentricity is evidently of American growth, and you just have to laugh at his dazzling display of diamonds. Of course he removes his bejewelled coat, his gorgeous slippers, and his radiant white hat, and he does this quite deliberately. He is not quite so ceremonious when he "chucks" away about twenty shirt-fronts of various startling colours. We are uncertain about Herbert's line of business, and we rather suspect him of being a juggler, but the comic pomposity of his entry in an extraordinary specimen of a motor-car, and his equally amusing exit in a chariot, are but the heading and tail-piece of a droll chapter of accidents, in which property animals play a conspicuous part.

Arthur Prince's ventriloquism has been recognised as perfect in both hemispheres. He is still the naval lieutenant, infinitely polite to a cheeky cabin boy, who, in view of recent events, is plentifully endowed with gag regarding the "on-the-knee" incident and the proper tone and manner by which discipline should now be maintained, reminding us at times of the Gilbertian satire of *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Mr. Prince has a fine set in which to work his remarkable act, and he has become a great favourite with the Empire. Of the new ballet, *The Débutante*, we spoke at length in a very recent issue. Mlle Genée has since been indisposed, but on the night of our visit enchanted a crowded house with her delightful art. A very fine series of Biograph pictures illustrates a day's hunting; and the comic burlesque of opera, entitled *Burning to Sing*, still retains its place on the bill, which also includes the Daunton-Shaw troupe of clever and daring trick cyclists.

CAMBERWELL EMPIRE.

Mr. Jesse Sparrow and Mr. Harry Bawn are establishing quite a record here for new productions, for nearly every week since its opening some aspirant has bid for public favour. The latest of these is a new sensational dramatic episode, produced here on Monday last, entitled

"A RACE FOR HONOUR."

Geoffrey Thornhill .....MR. NORMAN ASTON
Gaspard Defarge .....MR. FRED NORMAN
Lord Guy .....MR. R. HUGH SHARP
Waiter .....MR. GEO. EDWARDS
Olga Varanoff .....MISS DIANE DORSAY

The scene of the story is laid at the Café Noir, St. Petersburg, where we find Gaspard Defarge—an emissary of the German Secret Service—scheming for the possession of important despatches that have been entrusted to Geoffrey Thornhill, of the British Embassy. To further his ends, Defarge has invited Olga Varanoff to meet him at the café, and by threats to reveal her career to the Russian authorities and get her deported to Siberia, he prevails on her to drug Geoffrey Thornhill, whom he has by a fictitious letter induced to come to the café. On Geoffrey's arrival he finds in Olga the woman he loves, and presses her to be his wife, but she tells him that, although she loves him, she is no fit wife for any honest man, Olga becoming faint with terror at the sight of Gaspard hovering near, Geoffrey orders brandy, and when he turns to greet his friend, Lord Guy, Olga drugs his drink. Geoffrey soon loses his senses, and Gaspard appears and sends Lord Guy for a doctor, and while left alone with Geoffrey steals the despatches and decamps. Lord Guy returns from his fruitless search for a doctor, and Geoffrey, recovering from his stupor, finds his despatches gone. Lord Guy offers him his motor to overtake the villain, Gaspard. Geoffrey gladly accepts, and on the road to the frontier Gaspard, in his eagerness to escape from the pursuing Englishman, dashes his machine into a wall, and is thrown out and killed. Geoffrey regains his despatches and continues his journey to England.

The little piece is played by Mr. Charles H. Barker's company. Mr. Norman Aston as Geoffrey Thornhill is manly and earnest, and contributes a sterling piece of work. Mr. Fred Norman makes the most of the unsatisfactory character of Gaspard Defarge. Mr. Hugh Sharp as the dude, Lord Guy, gives a fine character study full of clever points. As the waiter, Mr. Geo. Edwards does well. Miss Diane Dorsay as Olga Varanoff acts with considerable feeling, and deserves praise for a noteworthy and natural performance.

In direct contrast to the above is the bright little comedy-mélange *The Little Charwoman*, admirably played by Mr. William Holles and Miss Nannie Goldman. Miss Goldman is a clever protean artist, and skilfully delineates a street flower-girl, a newsboy, a Dutch singing and dancing girl, and a chic American soubrette, with a smart song, "Straight away from U.S.A." Mr. William Holles is a typical manager, and works hard, while his clerk is not only a clever acrobat, but assists in no small degree to the general success of this amusing comedy.

Almost on the same lines Miss Marion Wills essays a brisk little humorous monologue, entitled *A Musical Comedy Rehearsal*, which depicts the troubles and trials of a stage-manager at a morning rehearsal, and the frequent interruptions by the stage carpenter, property man, postman, fireman, and the cleaner. Miss Wills assumes all the characters in the comedy in turn. She possesses a fine singing voice, and comes triumphantly through a performance that is a severe tax on her physical energies.

The most popular turn of the evening is that of Vesta Victoria, beloved of the Empire boys, who not only join lustily in the chorus of her songs, but, by their insistent demands, compel the fair and gifted comedienne to double the length of her turn. She creates shrieks of merriment with her songs "A copper, he's no cop," "Waiting at the church," and "The deserted wife," while her grotesque dancing creates enthusiastic approbation. Blarney and Kennard, with their merry cross-talk and conundrums, together with their intelligent and well-trained waltzing poodles, come in for a large share of applause. Tom Packer, tall, and quaintly clad as a female, has two really good comic songs in "Poor me" and "Hush, hush, hush!"; Miss Barbara Babington looks captivating in her gown of shimmering white, and gives due expression to her charming ballad "Will you love me in December as you do in May?" which has a pretty, swinging chorus. Other excellent turns are provided by Harry Sims, a young comedian full of bright promise; Mueller and Coyne, an amusing comedy pair; Rappo and Ella, skilful equilibrists, and the Empire pictures. The Orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. Frank Hurst, does brilliant work, while the good order maintained by the audience is due to the courtesy and care of the acting-manager, Mr. Percy Ford.

THE SURREY.

Mr. Frank Macnaghten finds it difficult to accommodate all his patrons here, even with thirteen performances a week. So to meet the demands of his clientèle he has arranged for a Thursday's matinée, in addition to the usual Monday matinée, while for the children of the neighbourhood he is giving a Children's Animated Picture Matinée every Saturday afternoon during the winter.

The strongest attraction in the current bill is a delightful musical comedy morsel, entitled *A Night in Japan*. Set in one of the prettiest and daintiest of scenes, with charming and tuneful music, and admirably played by Miss Marie Santoi and company, this tale of a Japanese officer's wooing is interpreted in a manner that is sure to win enthusiastic approval wherever presented. As the young officer, Mr. Stephen Haland sings admirably "The Star of Midnight," and joins Miss Lena Franks, as the pretty Princess, in an exquisite duet, "Roses Blooming," while other vocal gems in this dainty morsel are "The Man of Japan," and "Let me be your China boy." The work of the small but most effective chorus with their kaleidoscopic dances, cannot be overpraised. Of strong dramatic interest is the thrilling story of the Boxers' rising in China, told by Mr. Frederick Maxwell, Miss Lois du Cane, and their excellent company in *The Heathen and the Christian*. As the specimen of muscular Christianity, Jack Beresford, the missionary, Mr. Frederick Maxwell acts with a force and sincerity that distinctly raises this interesting sketch to the topmost level of dramatic art. In this direction Miss Lois Du Cane as May Beresford lends invaluable aid, and is most powerful in the scene with the treacherous Boxer Li, where she is fighting for the lives of her child and self. Mr. Charles Levey as Li is excellent, bringing into prominence the fierce hatred of the Heathen for the Christian cloaked under a oily servility. Other characters are delineated with admirable care by Mr. William Clair, as Chang Lu; Miss Enid Grey, as the Beresfords' son, Harry; Mr. Sam Harcourt, as Bob Merriless; and Mr. Gerald Blake, as Lieutenant Villiers. The scenery and general mounting cannot be too highly praised.

With rapt attention the audience follow the exciting incident portrayed by Miss Margaret Parker and company in the dramatic episode, *Under the Seal*, and again an eager and appreciative audience bestow on this clever lady warm approval for her distinctly finished cockney character-study of Bet, the gutter brat. As Father David, the priest, Mr. Herbert Harden imbues his part with a priestly devotional resignation that is powerful and artistic. Mr. George Henry, as the hooligan and murderer of the priest's brother, has fairly got inside his part, and deserves warm praise for a highly finished performance.

Polly Jerome wins unlimited applause for her graceful and daring acrobatic trapeze act; Beattie Kent sings sweetly and dances gracefully, and merits the favours bestowed on her efforts; Charles Sloman is amusing in his song, "The Family Tree," and tells spicy funny stories that are witty, and winds up with a song that is without title, rhyme, or reason; Percy Hannon is the fortunate possessor of a fine baritone voice, and sings with perfect expression "The Admiral's Broom," and a vocal mélange, which introduces "The Shamrock of Ireland," "Auld Lang Syne," and our National Anthem, for which he scores an ovation; Rumbo Austin and his acrobatic kiddies have amused many audiences, but nowhere have the comical efforts of his youthful troupe been more appreciated than here; Mark Merry belies his name, for a more miserable-looking comedian we've never seen, but this is only his effective method of giving point and expression to two excellent comic ditties, "No, no, no, no" and "A piece in the paper to-day"; Kitty Marion, as a principal boy, looks very chic and smart, and is heard to advantage in her songs, "The new brigade" and "That's what our boys are made of." Raymond's animated pictures are amusing, entertaining, and instructive, and the audience keep their seats to the last to see depicted "Following in father's footsteps" and "The registry office." Mr. Charles Craig, the acting-manager, is to be warmly congratulated on the really excellent order maintained in every part of the auditorium; while the Surrey Orchestra under the skilful direction of Mr. W. Hinkinson will bear favourable comparison for efficiency and decision with any in London.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

After the excellent orchestra had opened proceedings with a spirited rendering of Rossini's "Gazza Ladra," under the able direction of Mr. Louis la Rondelle, the first turn on the programme was that of the charming comedienne Miss Winnie Derson, whose songs delighted all present. Next came Harry Anderson—a great favourite in this district—who was very warmly received in "My new pal" and "Women." Miss Teresa da Silva sang very sweetly and tunefully "Mistletoe" and "Thinking of me. The Three Guitanos, eccentric acrobats, amused the onlookers by their marvellous tricks, performed as they were with astonishing agility and precision. The next arrival was Harold Hughman, whose mimicry is wonderfully true to nature, and includes such familiar sounds as a couple of dogs fighting, hens cackling, pigeons cooing, wood-sawing, &c. The Northern Troupe of International Dancers are remarkably clever, and their entertainment was loudly applauded. The Great Alexander, billed as a wonderful trick cyclist, fully justifies the description. His turn includes many novel and clever bits of trick-riding. Wilson and Waring contributed a very smart turn called *A Bit of Nonsense*, consisting of bright comedy dialogue and dancing. Miss Waring's rapid changes of costume are exceptionally clever. Carl and Mary Ohm, who appeared next, created great interest with their trained animals, including bears, monkeys, ponies, and dogs. Last, though by no means least in importance, came Mr. Arthur Roberts, in the sketch by Harry Pleon, entitled *The Importance of Being Another Man's Wife*, in which he was supported by Miss Ruby Celeste and company. Mr. Roberts as Crawford Smith was as quaintly humorous as ever, and his efforts to please were very warmly appreciated by the audience, who greeted his performance with loud laughter and applause. Miss Ruby Celeste was a charming Kitty; Mr. George F. Poison and Miss Jenny Burgwitz were excellent as Mr. and Mrs. Thunder; Miss Evie Reed was good as Martha Jane; Miss Florence Darley was pleasing as Mrs. Green; and Mr. Chris Van Bern an amusing Sammy Thunder The production was most favourably received.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

The near approach of the Christmas holidays has a perceptible effect upon the attendance at the various places of amusement, but the Islington Empire management has little reason to complain of diminished patronage. One of the leading attractions this week is the comic military pantomime production in four scenes, entitled *The Skirmishers*, played by Mr. Herbert Darnley's company. Into this is introduced a great deal of bustling business of a humorous description, the first scene representing Hyde Park. Here an alfresco performance is given by a supposed strong man, who bends iron rods, breaks chains, and accomplishes other wonderful feats, while a little crowd, consisting of soldiers and others, look on. There is, of course, the inevitable policeman, who gets mixed up in a general scuffle amongst the loafers, and "runs in" a middle-aged lady, probably, judging from her violent behaviour, one of the suffragettes who have been so much before the public of late. The second scene is the recruiting office, where the measuring is carried out amid much comical confusion and noise. Then follows the leave-taking at the railway station; and, lastly, at a mountain pass in a foreign land some skirmishing takes place, and is hailed with delight by the gallery. The production is smartly played, and there is not a dull moment throughout the performance, all those appearing in the piece working hard in the cause of merriment and good humour. The pantomime business is quite appropriate to the season of the year.

Mr. Albert Whelan is a clever versatile entertainer, and an artist whose stage work shows evidence of careful study and finish. Quite excellent are his imitations of Alf. Gibson, Chirgwin, and Harry Lauder. His whistling solos—one being from *The Belle of New York*—are excellently rendered; and he also scores with a capital song delivered in a racy style. Then Mr. Whelan puts on his overcoat, picks up his hat, bids his audience good-night, and quietly disappears. The artist known as Primavesi is a juggler with a neat, easy style of performing his tricks. To a jacket he attaches several pockets; then, taking a billiard cue, he strikes a ball, causing it to rebound from the end of the table and cleverly catching it in one of the pockets. With this and similarly clever tricks Primavesi wins the attention and the applause of the audience. Alexander and Russell appear in a comedy duet, entitled "The Professor and the Maid." The gentleman sings some songs in good style, and the lady, representing a pert servant-maid, who boasts she has once been on the stage, also distinguishes herself as a vocalist. Miss Claire Romaine, the popular musical comedy artist, opens with a ditty, the burden of which is "There's one boot less to clean." She sings it well, but it is hardly worthy of her abilities as a first-class comedienne. In her second song Miss Romaine represents a youth of seventeen, who calls attention to the fact that he "is getting a big boy now." Cruikshank, on a return visit here, repeats his usual success, both with patter and song. He can be pathetic, as in a ballad in which a little boy objects to his father bringing home another mamma, and he can be funny, as evidenced by his rendering of a well-written parody on "Beneath the shade of the old apple-tree." Mr. Charles Norton cleverly mimics variety stars, including Gus Elen, R. G. Knowles, Eugene Stratton, Wilkie Bard, and Joe Elvin. He is deservedly greeted with loud applause. So, too, is Mr. Dan Crawley, whose ditties, "So does father" and "I finish them off," meet with much acceptance. Mr. Charles Penrose, comedian, scores with "It's a wonder what music will do," and Miss Flo Cecil, comedienne, sings of the joys of ballooning, followed by a neat dance. The Sisters Warner meet with success as acrobatic dancers; and this week the Bioscope shows picturesque views of the wonders of Canada. The overture, "Irish ballads," arranged by Mr. A. Petersen, the musical conductor here, is a feature of the programme; and mention should be made of the valuable services rendered by Mr. George L. Wilson as manager, and Mr. Harry Blight as acting-manager.

THE EMPRESS.

A remarkable ringing of the changes occurred in Brixton on Saturday, when those who hastened to the Hippodrome to assist at the gala performance to celebrate the opening were met with the news that in consequence of the County Council restricting the new hall to one performance a night the management had transferred their staff and artists to the Empress across the road, while the personnel of that popular hall had taken possession of the Hippodrome, where the programme that had been given throughout the week at the Empress was presented. The decision was only arrived at on the evening previous, but both halls were nevertheless in full working order, and did very well under the circumstances.

Prior to the close of the performance at the Empress, Mr. Walter Gibbons, the managing-director of the hall, came forward and said he thought it was necessary on behalf of his colleagues and himself to give some explanation as to the drastic change which had taken place that evening. When they made the application for a licence for the Hippodrome some six or eight weeks ago to the committee of the County Council it was recommended by that body. The change was made on account of the Brixton Theatre not being sufficiently remunerative for the holders to recover adequate interest. On the recommendation of the committee all arrangements were made for the opening of the Brixton Hippodrome, and when the application came before the full Council, it would have passed but for one man—Mr. Hubbard. That gentleman was a member of the Borough Council which opposed the application, and as he is still a member of the County Council he was not only their accuser but their judge. Suppose a man, continued Mr. Gibbons, were to be tried by three judges, who made arrangements with one another beforehand to decide against the prisoner, would not that be decidedly unfair? Mr. Hubbard knew that he had sufficient majority to say that they should not run the Brixton Hippodrome as a two-houses-a-night hall, and acted accordingly. They had no restriction on the Empress, so they had had it fitted up for two-houses-a-night, while the original Empress staff and artists had gone to the Hippodrome. He trusted they would give them the same support at the Brixton Hippodrome, and if they favoured the system of two-houses-a-night they would also support them at the Empress. The action of their opponents had been the means of throwing a large number of people out of employment, and thereby causing considerable misery and hardship. After such an act as that he did not think Mr. Hubbard was fit to hold the position on the Council that he held at the present time. He was thrown ignominiously out of the Borough Council some weeks ago. He would ask them to remember that fact at the polls next March, and not to forget their friend Mr. Hubbard.

The stage was occupied on Saturday by a numerous programme of artists, supplemented by many "extra turns." The dramatic sketch, entitled *The Amber Heart*, was played by Mr. Fred Eustace and company to a constant succession of cheers and laughter. Mr. Albert Le Fre appeared in his eccentric get-up to sing, patter, and dance in inimitable fashion, and the Abdullah Arabs went through their exhilarating performance of tumbling and pyramid building to the keen satisfaction of all. Datas displayed his wonderful expertness in memory. Mr. George Antill created hearty laughter by his eccentricities, and among others who appeared at the first house were Yager and Yager, Alec Kennedy, Mamie Iris, Webb and Branstone, Morny Cash, Donald Hall and company, Dorothy Drew, Espinosa and Neilson, Dot Hardy, the Wright Trio, the Two Whites, and Ruffell's Bioscope.

Another fine array of talent awaited the audience at the second house, at which there appeared Victoria Monks, Alice Lloyd, Florrie Forde, Lillie Farrer, the Five Staleys, Athas and Collins, Gilbert Girard, Nina Martino, Tom Leo, Lillian Elfreda, Arthur Pearl, Sisters Hall, Sinclair and Parr, Billie Barlow, Jackley Wonders, Claire Romaine, Silvertone Quartet, Minnie Mace, Mathews and Cowper company in *When the Clock Went Wrong*, Walter Stanley, Maude and Sidney Wood, Lloyd Morgan, Harry Rogerson, and Ruffell's Bioscope.

The stage was under the direction of Mr. Charles F. Read, Mr. Gibbons's smart general manager, by whom the entertainment was organised. Mr. Walter R. Draper, the manager of the hall, it should be added, worked energetically to override the difficulties of the situation so suddenly presented.

GRAND, CLAPHAM.

The bright particular star of the Clapham programme is Miss Victoria Monks, who has been here several times lately, and cannot come too often. She is giving two numbers with the customary success—viz., "There's one little spot that beats all the lot" and "Leaving home." In both of these she appears to the greatest advantage, and the choruses are most heartily taken up. At the conclusion of her turn the applause is deafening, and it is some time before the audience will allow the performance to proceed. Another excellent turn is that of the Three Laurels in their interesting item, *Fun on the Ping-Pong Table*. Many new items have recently been added to this entertaining turn, all of which are performed with an ease that is surprising. The turn is further improved by the antics of the comical member of the party, roars upon roars of laughter greeting his efforts. George Collins is scoring with a song about "The girls all call me Jam," the effect of which is much improved by his unique costume. C. St. John Denton and George Rowland's company are presenting the sketch, entitled *Mixed Bathing*, which is now much improved. The dude Sebastian is certainly the life and soul of the piece. His antics all through are very funny, and he is largely responsible for the success achieved. Miss Freda Chalmers has a fine stage presence, and does what little is required of her in a most satisfactory manner, and the singing and dancing are tuneful and neat.

Herbert Darnley and company are again presenting their sketch *Muscles*. This has on two or three previous occasions been reported upon in these columns, and does not call for further detailed comment. As a laughter-maker, it is a great success, and it therefore fulfils the purpose for which it was written. Walton and Lester are here again with their amusing concoction, entitled *Conjuring and Comedy*, and hearty laughter greets their efforts to amuse. Dan Conroy has an amusing song, entitled "It is glorious," and the applause he gets is of the right sort. It is a pity that time does not permit of his giving another. Lily Langtry, as sprightly as ever, is giving her old success, "'Ampstead 'Eath"; and Childie Stuart, a charming comedienne, is giving a number entitled "Whoa, whoa, whoa." Clarissa Talbot and Albert Pearce are presenting their song-scena, *The Spider and the Fly*, which is quite the prettiest item on the programme. This is followed by *Sweet Eileen*. The Two Bostons are here with their "Walk Up" show, which has of late been considerably improved.

Quite a feature of the bill is the bioscope, introducing pictures of Port Sunlight Soap Works, which are followed with the greatest interest. Mr. Harry Ketteman, the manager, discharges his duties in the front of the house in an able manner, and derives every assistance from his acting-manager, Mr. Charles Lurring.

STANDARD.

One of the most agreeable turns in a fine programme is that of Miss Lilian Lea, a lady of considerable vocal attainments and a most pleasing personal appearance. Miss Lea's rendering of "Sing me to sleep" and "Il Bacio" is characterised by a fine delivery, a high vocal range, and expression and feeling. The praise which is showered upon her by way of applause is vociferous, and as an encore she still further delighted her audience on the night of our visit by singing "Killarney." Mr. T. E. Dunville has a host of comical ideas to offer in his songs. His description of a cricket match and the part he played in it, as well as his attempt to swim the Channel, cannot fail to arouse the mirthfulness even of a misanthrope. His facial contortions and his quaint movements accentuate the humour of his lines. Miss Lily Kirton is a pleasing and accomplished comedienne; and an amusing "juvenile comedian" is to be found in Mr. Mike Asher. Mr. Phil Bransby is extremely entertaining in his coster business, and his song, "It don't suit your tall hat, John," finds much favour with the audience. The Smythsons have a laughter-raiser in a small sketch, entitled *Love Germs*, which tells the story of a scientist's concoction, and what effect it has upon his wife and servant. Mr. Geo. H. Smythson as the scientist, Miss Louie Smythson as the wife, and Miss Ciss Smythson as the domestic, contrive to make the trifle go with a fine swing and any amount of merriment. Mr. Walter Wallis's boxing song proves an amusing item, and his eccentricities are much appreciated.

Miss Mabel Bright and company are presenting what they call an original vocal mélange, called *Girls will be Girls*. There are two scenes, one depicting a pretty English forest glade, and the other a picturesque fastness of North America. The six ladies comprising the troupe sing and dance in most vivacious fashion, and their efforts are to be highly commended. In the first scena the delights of a hammock are the burden of their ditty, and in the second they appear attired in the fantastic garb of Red Indians. In the latter it is, of course, a case of exceedingly young ladies pretending to be Redskins, but the pretence furnishes much enjoyment to the spectators of the merry frolics. The names of the girls who take part in the number are Misses Mabel Bright, Dolly Lorne, Mina Trew, Gwen Zalska, Nina Mascot, and Lottie Thorne. Park's Eton Boys, "the champion juvenile singers of the world," are once more welcomed, and Milli May and Theresa are seen and heard to advantage in a bright and smart quick-change and vocal act. Mr. Ernest Rees dilates in a droll way on woman's dress and other subjects; and Harding and Preston distinguish themselves as a comedy duo. Miss Lucy Coventry, a sprightly comedienne and dancer, sings in good style a couple of character songs, "Oh, Dinah!" and "Gay Paree"; and from the Edisonograph we get several series of capital pictures, one of which, an anticipation of the time "when woman commands," is particularly humorous.

EALING HIPPODROME.

A melodramatic sketch of the first order, *The Mystery of the Cliff*, continues to gain in popularity. A happy idea is realised in the combination of the bioscope with the action of the sketch, which gains strength by the association, and, as thus presented, the clever playlet of Messrs. Will Evans and Tom Craven never ceases to enchain attention. Love is pathetically portrayed by Mr. Ernest Leicester and Miss Cissy Farrell; comedy is equally safe in the hands of Mr. Sid Craven and Miss Jessica Lait, and villainy, as interpreted by Miss Violet Fulton, leaves nothing to be desired. Catering, as he does, for all, Mr. E. W. James is wise in his presentation of Duncan's collies. It is a real pleasure to watch the youngsters' expressions of delight as these beautiful and wonderfully trained animals run, leap, and almost laugh through the items of their programme. There is much that is novel in this performance, and whether as musicians with their "Blue Bells of Scotland," as skippers and somersaulters, or as a fire brigade they are equally expert and admirable.

The Eight English Roses, vocalists and speciality dancers, are graceful and sprightly representatives of the national emblem, notwithstanding that their dresses are blue. In their ensemble song and march, "The Glory of War," their evolutions are well timed, while their pretty dance, "Poppies," has many happy combinations. Connie Morie, comedienne and dancer, makes a dainty figure in a particularly becoming Chinese costume. Her song, "Below," is of the sweetest, and her dancing excellent.

The comedy vaudeville, *A Bit of String*, artistically tied by Leslie Bell and Lilly Pearl's company, proves to be a cord upon which many brisk and sparkling episodes may be strung. A young lady, persecuted by the attentions of an obnoxious foreigner, is about to quit her apartments when the advent of a handsome son of the sea brings a considerable amount of breeze into the *affaire*. This son of Neptune proposes to smooth matters by posing as the lady's husband, but after the key has been turned in the lock by the maidservant the situation takes a compromising turn. Of course, all turns out in the best possible manner in the end, and the husband *in posse* is to become husband *in esse*.

Mr. Arthur Aldridge has undoubtedly a fine baritone voice, and in his two songs, "Oft Times" and "My Dreams," present one of the most finished examples of vocalisation yet heard upon the Hippodrome stage. Such a turn as that of Mr. Aldridge is a treat for all lovers of music, and a thunder of applause rewards his skill and talent. Regan and Ryan provide the usual cross-talk comedy act, which always evokes roars of laughter, and the "Rag-time" millionaire is responsible for many side aches in the front of the house. In his souvenirs of "Wilfred Denver," Mr. V. L. Granville, actor-mimic, is most successful, while his portraiture of Svengali is repulsively perfect. "The troubles of a chauffeur," as depicted by the Bioscope, are many and varied. Here the "road hog" is seen at his worst, but is well punished in the end. Kelly and Gillette appear in their "Billiard-room Antics," the side-splitting comicality of which is well appreciated, and Mr. James Kurry has a witty number in his song, "Philosophy," and is most popular. In a selection from *The Country Girl* and in the rendering of the incidental music of the various turns, Mr. W. Neale's band is in every way admirable.

RICHMOND THEATRE.

A capital bill is presented here this week. Miss Dot Hardy sings her allotted ditties with considerable vigour, and wins approval and applause. The Haytors give an amusing sketch, in which a lady who has lost her reason is consigned to the care of a new keeper; the fun waxes fast and furious when the lady appears—with apologies to Ophelia—and betrays evidence of her sanity in a marked form. Everybody in the sketch works hard to win favour, and the sketch is provocative of peals of merriment. Mr. Harry Mountford discussed the meteorological eccentricities of the weather, and thence veered on to ladies and kindred topics; his patter appeared to amuse everyone immensely, and his turn is a good one. Sibb and Sibb display marvellous agility in a double trapeze act, and are quite at home in mid-air, where they go through a variety of daring evolutions that meet with unstinted applause. Always favourites here, the Mayvilles again score heavily in their human marionette show. As an amorous policeman and a dainty damsel from the realms of Kitchen Land they are very diverting. They were equally amusing as a contingent of the Salvation Army, and followed their success by a clever Scotch impersonation. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Norfolk Megone contributes a tuneful selection from *The Girl Behind the Counter*.

Mr. R. A. Beaton's company appear in a farcical sketch, *Poor Phil Garlic*, and win considerable favour. The plot deals with an irascible old gentleman who has lost a son, Lieut Phil Garlic, in South Africa; but a certain Chandler, who bears a strong resemblance to the son reported dead, resolves to make money out of the parent by presenting himself at the dead lieutenant. When, however, Chandler is confronted with a baby and a wife he excuses himself on the score of absent-mindedness. Anon, the real lieutenant turns up—he having only been wounded, though reported dead, and is confronted by a blackmailing female, Sarah, who is also in possession of an offspring of doubtful origin rejoicing in the name of Arabella. Plot and counter-plot follow in rapid succession; of course, the inevitable explanation follows, and the troubles of Phil Garlic come to an end. The plot needs compression.

Miss Maud Walsh appears in male attire, but explains that this is by force of circumstances, having eluded somewhat injudiciously a husband who returned home late; Maud Rochez presents a variety theatre run entirely by monkeys, and wonderful they are; the orchestra is composed entirely of Darwinian species, the scene-shifters and supers are of the same type, and the "artists" are also monkeys. Their programme, too, is quite clever. They conjure, juggle, wrestle, motor, dance, steeplechase, play musical instruments, and, in short, their versatility is amazing; the *chef d'orchestre* would put Sousa to the blush. Nothing funnier than this has been seen for a long time, and Miss Maud Rochez must have spent much time and patience in teaching her pupils. Shang Hai, a Chinese juggler, performs his tricks with singular dexterity, and leaves everyone wondering how it is done; and the bioscope scenes, "The Cab," go to prove how happy the lady might have been "with either were the other dear charmer away."

"THE DEVIL'S SUNDAY."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—About three years ago I wrote a one-act tragedy, and produced the same at the West London theatre, which I called *A Jury of One*. This play I sold to Mr. Jno. Lawson. The next time it appears I find it rechristened *A Bride for a Living*.

The Devil's Sunday is but another variant of the same theme, and, furthermore, I find that it is to be played next week under the title of *Vanity*. And why not?

I think it was Dion Boucicault who said that one plot was enough to make fourteen plays out of.—Faithfully yours,

DAN FITZGERALD.

28, Charing Cross-road, W.C.
Dec. 2, '06.

MISS LIL HAWTHORNE received quite an ovation on her appearance at the Empire, Nottingham, on Monday after her recent indisposition.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LABOLA" preserves the skin from the effects of the sun, winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at All Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING and REFRESHING after walking, golfing, cycling, motoring, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM and SON, CHELTENHAM.—[ADVT.]

PICKETS AND PERFORMERS.

ACTION OF THE V.A.F.

A brief announcement in our columns last week stated that the L.C.C. had granted a music hall licence to Mr. Walter Gibbons for the Brixton Hippodrome, with the condition—imposed for the first time in the history of licensing—that only one performance nightly should be given. As contracts had been made for artists to appear twice nightly at the converted theatre, it was determined by its directorate on Friday afternoon to inaugurate the twice-nightly plan at the Empress, and make a complete transposition of management, staff, artists, and entertainment from one house to the other.

This solution of the difficulty in which Mr. Walter Gibbons had been placed by the unexpected decision of the Council did not commend itself to the executive of the Variety Artists' Federation, and at an emergency meeting held on the Saturday it was decided that a telegram should be sent to all members, instructing them to stick closely to their contracts, and insist on performing at the place stated therein. It was further decided that a sub-committee be appointed to wait in the vicinity of the two halls on Monday, and give the instructions sent on the Saturday to members who might commence their engagements on that evening or to deputies. A certain number of performers followed the suggestions of the Federation both on Monday and Tuesday, when the directors of the two halls obtained, from Mr. Justice Bray, an interim injunction against Mr. Frank Gerald, the general secretary of the V.A.F., Mr. Albert Schafer, and Mr. C. C. Bartram in restraint of intimidation—*i.e.*, of "watching and besetting artists engaged at the Brixton Hippodrome and the Brixton Empress, and inciting them not to appear thereat; also, from doing anything to cause a disturbance in the neighbourhood, or do injury to the licensee of both halls."

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Federation on Tuesday the following resolution was passed :—

"That on and after Dec. 4, 1906, any member acting contrary to instructions from the Executive Committee be summoned before the Committee, and if their explanations are not satisfactory, they be expelled from the Federation."

The following letter has also been issued; and from its context may be gleaned the case of the Federationists :—

"DEAR SIR OR MADAM,—We are desirous of helping artists to fulfil to the letter the terms of their contracts for this establishment. Those artists that have contracts for the Hippodrome, Brixton, are to play only at the Hippodrome, and not at the Empress, while those who have contracts at the Empress must not play at the Hippodrome. The Variety Artists' Federation hereby give you notice that in deputising for artists you are helping the management to break the terms of their contracts, and are hereby requested not to perform. If, however, you have to-day entered into contract to perform at either of the before-mentioned halls, most assuredly you are to fulfil that contract.—Yours faithfully,

MR. WALTER GIBBONS' STATEMENT.

"FRANK GERALD, General Secretary."

Speaking to our interviewer about the dispute, Mr. Walter Gibbons complained of the comments of the cheap press on matters of a rather unpleasant character which had nothing whatever to do with him. For instance, an evening journal published a conversation between its representative and an official of the V.A.F., in which the latter stated that a couple of music hall artists were paid at the rate of 15s. each, and that they were compelled to pay for a brougham out of this sum because the management desired them to keep up appearances. Such a statement scarcely calls for serious comment; but Mr. Gibbons has given us an opportunity of inspecting his books to prove that he has never paid "starvation salaries." He tells us that he has never given less than £4 10s. a week even to the most insignificant artist.

In respect to the picketing proceedings of last Monday Mr. Gibbons applied for and obtained an interim injunction on Tuesday, and a decision in connection with the injunction will be given on Tuesday next. He has also commenced an action for damages against the Federation and certain of its officials for the interference with his entertainments at Brixton this week. He informs us that on Saturday night, when he asked the artists who were engaged to appear at the Empress if they would go over to the Brixton Hippodrome, the only dissentients were Atlas and Vulcana, and their objection was a perfectly reasonable one—because they could not move their appliances from the one hall to the other in the time. "All the others," said Mr. Gibbons, "appreciated the position, and rendered us every assistance in their power. Mr. Herbert Shelley, who had a great mass of scenery for his sketch, *A Dandy Outlaw*, not only did not grumble, but said he was only too pleased to help us out of our difficulty. At the gala performance we gave at the Empress, in lieu and in celebration of the opening of the Hippodrome, forty-one artists appeared, including some of the most prominent members of the profession. On Monday ten artists were booked for the Brixton Hippodrome. Six of them expressed themselves as perfectly willing to be transferred to the Empress, but four objected, and did not go on.

"I wish to contradict the statement made by a newspaper to the effect that a deputation from the Federation waited upon me, and wish to say," continued Mr. Gibbons, "that I have always refused to meet any of the paid officials of the Federation. I met several artists and discussed matters with them, but I did not converse with them as a deputation from the V.A.F. I am, and always have been, willing to see artists at any time, and to discuss any little grievances that may arise between them and myself. I have no ill-feeling whatever against the artists, for the majority of whom I have a most friendly regard—an attitude which they reciprocate. In my opinion, those artists who refused to appear were misled by certain officials of the Federation.

On Wednesday evening Mr. Gibbons sent to all the artists who held contracts for the Brixton Hippodrome a letter, a copy of which we here give.

The Empress Theatre of Varieties, Brixton.
1, Durham House-street, W.C., Dec. 5, 1906.

BRIXTON HIPPODROME.

DEAR SIR,—Owing to the decision of the London County Council on Nov. 30 last to attach a condition to the licence of the above hall, prohibiting two performances nightly, it would be contrary to law for your contract to be carried out at that hall.

The company does not wish, unless compelled to do so, to declare your contract as at an end (as the company is advised it has power to do), and I am glad to inform you that arrangements have been made whereby artists will be enabled to fulfil their contracts at the Empress Theatre of Varieties, Brixton, where two performances nightly will be given. Under the circumstances, I hope you will find it convenient to fulfil your contract there, instead of at the Hippodrome. If you are agreeable, kindly sign and return at once the enclosed form; if you do not agree, please fill in form accordingly.—Yours faithfully,

———, Director

The form for the artist's signature is as follows :—

To the Secretary,
Empress Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.,
December, 1906.

Strike out accordingly { I agree to perform at the Empress Theatre / I do not agree } of varieties instead of the Brixton Hippodrome under the Contracts made by me.

A similarly-worded letter was also sent to artists previously engaged to open at the Empress, who were asked to transfer to the Hippodrome. A few hours after the letters were posted Mr. Gibbons received several communications in which the writers expressed their willingness to agree to the change. One of these was Mr. Bert Coote, who wrote, "Yes, certainly; I agree to whatever suits your convenience."

STRATFORD EMPIRE.

Mr. John Leopold's company in *The House Boat*, a most mirthful concoction, provides the chief attraction in this week's bill. The story, which is rather subservient to clever knockabout business and tumbling feats, tells of a certain gay Lothario with the apt patronymic of Scorcher, who invites a couple of "saucy serios" to an up-the-river picnic. Through the Colonel's carelessness, his better half gets wind of the arrangement and decides to go also, taking with her the maid-of-all-work, Maria. As the Colonel's friend, who would make the fourth of the house-boat party, disappoints, he takes with him his servant Lively, and as Lively happens to be Maria's "intended" there are breakers ahead for the revellers. They do indeed have anything but the blissful time anticipated, for the irate Mrs. Scorcher and her ally Maria enlist the aid of a couple of agile tramps, and their combined efforts to spoil the pleasure of the party on the house-boat are so successful that undoubtedly Colonel Scorcher decides to reform. Mr. Watson Hume portrays the Colonel capitally, and Lively (who is passed off as a self-made millionaire) is played in just the right vein by Mr. Willie Leopold. The two free-and-easy tramps have amusing exponents in Mr. John Leopold, jun., and Mr. Ernest Leopold. The police constables are well represented by Mr. Tom Leopold and Mr. Charles Gough; Blobbs, the innkeeper, is played by Mr. Wilfred Vaughan; and Tipit, a remarkably active and ubiquitous waiter, is portrayed by Mr. Barry Lupino. Miss Kathleen Cavanagh depicts the irate Mrs. Scorcher very well, and a droll impersonation of Maria comes from Miss Gertie Winter; Dolly Damper and Daisy Damper being appropriately played by Miss Amy Hall and Miss Queenie Bronte. Mr. William Howarth, Mr. Harry Oates, Miss May Gordon, and Miss Zillah Fair lend valuable assistance in minor parts.

Miss Millie Hylton is always a favourite in Stratford, and there is plenty of applause when she appears in a smart "principal boy" dress and sings "My Irish Daisy," in which she is accompanied by pretty and graceful little Decima Brooke. Her next item, "By the side of the Zuyder Zee," is in high favour, and her juvenile assistant's clever clog dance is much admired. The Matweef-Hugoston Troupe of Russian singers and dancers contribute an expert display of balancing and jumping which is watched with keen interest, and their characteristic songs are applauded. The "Land of the Leek" is well represented by Mr. Tom Owen, who renders a Welsh dame song very acceptably, and his amusing patter compels laughter. The Saphos, in a comedy bar act, show the possession of much skill, and their clever turn is advantageously interspersed with bright comedy business Miss Sybil St. Elmo creates a very favourable impression, and her artistic vocalism is warmly applauded. *Aunt Matilda*, played by Mr. Frank Elliston and company, is an old theme, but served up in bright and exhilarating style. A gay young spark has "expectations" from an elderly spinster aunt, and, expecting a visit from her, he determines to be on his best behaviour. He learns, however, that his young friend is going to have some fun and personate the visitor, and he vows for "Auntie" a warm time. The joke, however, is not carried out, and the real aunt appears, and the brutal treatment she receives at the hands of her dutiful nephew would appear to spoil his "expectations" for ever, but fortunately explanations ensue, and he is forgiven. The Aunt and Nephew are played with a keen sense of humour by their respective exponents, and the inquisitive friend is well portrayed.

Mr. Fred Elton submits a refined and pleasing turn. He appears as a naval officer, and, seated at the piano, he accompanies himself in some most interesting songs, which his excellent voice enables him to do full justice to. Miss Rose Hamilton secures plenty of applause for her songs, and has to contribute numerous encore verses. Speedwell paints portraits of celebrities with remarkable facility, the easily distinguished features of Lord Kitchener, Sir Henry Irving, and General Buller being loudly cheered. The current programme opens with the overture, "Victory March," arranged by the musical director of the Stratford Empire, Mr Augustus Greco. Mr. T. S. Mayne, the popular acting manager, discharges his onerous duties to the general satisfaction, and he has an able lieutenant in Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.

MR. ROBERT ARTHUR'S pantomime at Aberdeen was, as is usual with his "annuals," noteworthy for the superlative excellence of the company and the lavish splendour of the production. A gigantic success was scored with Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's song "There's a man in Manitoba," and other numbers published by that firm which evoked delighted encomiums and demands for repetition were "I can see red roses blooming," "Snowflakes," "Under the umbrella, Ella," "Any time you're passing by," "The shade of the old apple tree," and "Humorous history."

FEW waltzes have had the vogue enjoyed by the one named "The Choristers," by Bernard Phelps; but the same gifted composer has just published with Mr. David Day what looks like being as successful a dance as its forerunner, one which will be known as "The Convent Girl's Waltz."

No. 52 of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s "Sixpenny Successes" takes the form of Herr Julian Kandt's famous "Queen of the West" march, which has had the distinguished honour of being performed before their Majesties the King and Queen.

Two new songs, specially written and composed by Messrs. Harrington and Tate for Miss Vesta Victoria, entitled "I've told his missus all about it" and "I'm looking for a Don Juan," which will be produced both in England (this year) and America (next), as soon as this talented artist opens there, have been secured for publication by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.

ON Monday, at the Manchester Hippodrome, Mr. Dennis Drew, assisted by Stedman's boys and the fine choir of the establishment, will present his Kiplingesque military scena, *Back to Barracks*. In the first scene, Outside the Gates, he will introduce his new song, "The beat of the drum," by Kenneth Lyle, and in the second, the Barrack Square, the popular recruiting song, by Leslie Stiles and Ralph Nairn, "Come and be a soldier." Both songs are published by Francis and Day.

OWING to his success in Cork, Dublin, and Belfast, the management of each of these places have booked Mr. Frank Coyle to return in Dec., 1907.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER,

The World's Song Providers.

SEVEN GREAT SUCCESSES

In the first Pantomime of the Season, produced at Aberdeen, by ROBERT ARTHURS, Esq.

"THERE'S A MAN IN MANITOBA."
"SNOWFLAKES."
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING."
"UNDER THE UMBRELLA."
"ANY TIME YOU ARE PASSING BY."
"IN THE SHADE OF THE OLD APPLE TREE."
"HUMOROUS HISTORY."

SEVEN GREAT SUCCESSES

In the first Glasgow Pantomime, produced at the Grand Theatre by FRED KARNO, Esq., on Wednesday last. The absolute hit of the show was

"I WANT MOLLY AND SHE WANTS ME."

FIVE GREAT SUCCESSES

At Theatre Royal, Glasgow, Panto., produced by F. W. WYNDHAM, Esq., on Thursday last.

"IT'S A DIFFERENT GIRL AGAIN."
"ARRAH WANNA."
"SNOWFLAKES."
"THERE'S A MAN IN MANITOBA."
"WAITING AT THE CHURCH."

FIVE GREAT SUCCESSES

Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER,

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY, OCT. 30.—*The Christian* was revived by Mr. J. C. Williamson at Her Majesty's on the 27th with absolutely the best cast yet seen in Australia. The company, headed by Mr. Charles Waldron and Miss Ola J. Humphreys, had previously appeared in an American drama of the backwoods (*The Squaw Man*), and its new departure was looked forward to with considerable curiosity. But the result was satisfactory. Miss Ola J. Humphreys was an ideal Glory Quayle, handsome, wilful, winning, and refined. Mr. Charles Waldron devoted much earnestness to the portrayal of John Storm. The scene in Glory's apartments was strongly yet delicately handled. Lord Robert Ure was admirably embodied by Mr. Cyril Mackay, who was the cynical man of the world to the life. Mr. Harry Plimmer played Francis Drake in polished style. Mrs. G. B. W. Lewis gave an excellent account of bluff, outspoken Mrs. Callender; and Miss Florence Gleeson did all that was possible in the part of Polly Love. The garrulous Mrs. Morgan was humorously portrayed by Miss Katie Towers; and Miss Beatrice Usher (Tilly Deane) and Miss Mary Bancroft (Betty Belmont) were also excellent. Mr. Hardie Kirkland was sufficiently stern as Lord Storm, and Mr. George Chalmers did well as Parson Quayle. The hospital matron was in the capable hands of Miss Ada Stirling, and a good low-comedy parson was the Canon Wealthy of Mr. Fred Cambourne.

"THE FATAL WEDDING" has given way at the Criterion to *The Rake's Wife*, which included the company already here, also Miss Roland Watts Phillips and a newcomer, Mr. Conway Wingfield, each being an element of strength. Miss May Congden is the Midge of the cast, and Mr. Charles Vane the Tom Birch. Miss Madeline Meredith's Maude Sullivan was unquestionably good, and Miss Ida Gresham also joined the company to play Nance Birch, a part cleverly acted; and Mr. C. R. Stanford presented a homely picture of David Barnett, the wheelwright; Mr. Herbert Leigh scored as the villainous Philip Kennedy; Mr. Tom Cannam was a funny Christopher Crawl, and Mr. E. M. Beresford a careful Isaac Hermann. Miss Roland Watts Phillips brightened up the play with her hearty comedy.

MR. HARRY RICKARDS returned on the 25th Oct. with glowing accounts of the kindness shown him at home. He comes back with a list of important engagements running into several years yet to come. The bicycle accident which happened to Mr. Rickards just before leaving London gave him a severe shaking, and the doctor has ordered him a "good holiday." Meanwhile, Mr. Edward Maas controls the Tivoli, and the current bill includes Alf Chester, Harry Tate's company, Cassy Walmer, Minnie Duncan, and Arthur Godfrey, Augustin and Harkey, Casselei and James, the Musical Ibsons, Victor Kelly, Phillips Brothers, Brightie Smith, Olive Lenton, Tim Howard, and others. Next Saturday Harry Jervis, Violet Stockdale, and the Alaskas, comedy acrobats, will make their Australasian début.

MISS MYRA KEMBLE, long and favourably known on the Australian stage, died in Melbourne on Oct. 28. Miss Kemble was a clever actress. Her chief successes were in *The Woman in White*, with Mr. Wybert Reeve, and Puck with William Creswick. In private life she was Mrs. James H. White, and for years Miss Kemble has been a great sufferer. She was a native of Ireland.

MELBOURNE, OCT. 30.—PRINCESS THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Allan Hamilton.—*The Little Stranger* is attracting large houses, and bids fair to run for some time to come. Master Leslie Park, as the precocious young imp, creates much amusement, and is ably supported by Messrs. Meynell and Gunn's clever company.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. Tallis.—After a lapse of some years, *The Shop Girl* was revived on Saturday evening by the Royal Comic Opera Company, and served to attract a large audience. Miss Florence Young was breezy and charming as the Shop Girl, and sang in excellent style, her best number being "Over the hills." Mr. George Lauri made a most diverting Shop Walker, and caused roars of laughter. Mr. Fred Leslie, as a foreign count, had ample opportunity of displaying his talent, and contributed a couple of eccentric dances which won well-deserved applause. The rest of the company lent able assistance to the performance.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon.—La Moto Girl is at present the star attraction at this theatre, and on Saturday evening the doll-like figure completely mystified a large audience. Stewart and Lorraine made their first appearance in a musical act, which met with approval. Les Cabiacs and the Alaskas repeated their clever acrobatic feats; Larry Lewis rendered some quaint songs; Violet Stockelle is an established favourite, while numerous other artists supply interesting turns. Mr. Harry Rickards returned to Melbourne last week after his trip to London in search of novelties for his various Australian theatres. It is understood his engagements include some startling turns, which are being awaited with interest.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The concert on Wednesday evening was more interesting from an instrumental than vocal point of view. It commenced with a carefully-executed violoncello solo by Miss Florence Simpkins, who played De Munck's "Pensée Elégiaque" and "Arlequin," by Popper. In Beethoven's duet for violin and pianoforte, "Andante piu tosto, Allegretto and Allegro piacevole," Miss L. Ayton and Miss M. Ayton were fairly successful, although at times somewhat faulty in intonation. A very young performer, Miss Beryl Crèmes, was heartily greeted by the audience for her promising mandoline solo on popular "Scotch Airs." Miss Crèmes is a pupil of Madame Waldahoff. A pianoforte solo of Chopin's "Three Preludes" was neatly performed by Miss Florence Nightingale, an associate of the Guildhall School, and Mr. Arthur Jones deserves much praise for his painstaking playing of John Thomas's harp solo, "Melody in F." The last instrumental piece was a piano solo, "Expansion," by Moszkowski, executed by Miss Katie Deslandes. The vocal items included Sullivan's song, "Thou are passing hence," carefully sung by Mr. Ernest Muriel; and Mr. Herbert Barnett was heard in two of Findon's songs, "Allah be with us" and "Far across the desert sands." Miss Annie Osborne gained applause for "The four leaf clover," by Willeby, although the music was in too low a key for her voice. Miss E. F. Gaunt was not well advised in choosing so difficult a piece as Allitsen's "A song of thanksgiving," and Mr. Charles Reddick, who sang "A life that lives for you," by Sullivan, will do justice to his good voice by paying more attention to clear enunciation. Miss Christobel Daniel (a pupil of Miss Kate Rorke) recited "The strange case of Mr. Fogg's Baby," one of Max Adeler's amusing short stories. The accompanist was Miss Jenny Hyman, and Mrs. Charles P. Smith superintended the young ladies who appeared on the platform.

A FLYING matinée in aid of the Lilley Testimonial Fund took place on Wednesday at the Birmingham Empire. Mr. Matcham, the resident-manager, had voluntary assistance from artists from all the local theatres and music halls.

MR. JAMES DE VOYE is unable to perform through severe indisposition, and is at present an inmate of Leeds Infirmary. We hope soon to hear of Mr. De Voye's convalescence, and to see again his clever horse Billy.

PARIS ECHOES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Paulus, the famous French singer, who was the great star of the Parisian music halls some fifteen or twenty years ago, and who will still be remembered by the London public, as he appeared both at the Trocadero and the Empire, is in a very destitute condition. A group of sympathisers have organised a benefit for him which is to take place on Tuesday next, at the Théâtre de la Gaîté, which has been kindly lent for the purpose by Messrs. Isola and Coquelin. The greatest artists are to appear at this performance, and it is hoped with the proceeds to be able to save the very popular singer from a penurious existence. Amongst his many most successful songs was the celebrated "En revenant de la Revue," which made General Boulanger famous.

Paulus was born at Marseilles, and was the very incarnation of the spirit and dash which characterises the "Meridionaux," as they are called here. He was not alone a great artist, but a most energetic and enterprising business man. At one time, he possessed rather important vineyards, and used to sell his own wines and cognac. In reality he was too generous, and no artist ever appealed to him in vain. If all the money that he lent with such a free hand was returned to him, it would certainly not be necessary to organise a benefit in his behalf. At one time he drove the finest horses in Paris, and lived like a prince in the Avenue de Neuilly. He is still very active, and does not appear old at all, though his voice unfortunately has failed him, and he can only sing songs which he illustrates by pantomimic action.

Any subscriptions that might be sent him by his old admirers, would be gratefully received at *The Era*, Parisian Office, 60, rue de Caumartin, Paris (C. M. Ercole, representative).

Wrestling is on the wane in the Parisian music halls. Padoubny, the Russian, remains the victor of the most serious and important contest—that is to say, the World's Championship, which has been disputed at the Folies-Bergères.

The Alhambra has, as usual, a very fine programme—most varied and interesting. Mme. Henriette de Serris presents some marvellous tableaux and bas-reliefs. Mme. Anna Thibaud, the popular French singer, has reappeared, and was covered with flowers on the evening of her début. Le Sallandri plays a very pretty pantomime, *Le Vertige*; Eugénie Fougere has reappeared with her usual success; Radford and Valentine cause the house to be convulsed with laughter by their most comical act; the Baltus Troupe, in their strange act, are very pleasing; and amongst others, we may mention the Four Jumels, in their acrobatic act; Cornier, the Sisters Trentanovi, Amiel, the New York Comedy Four, &c. Altogether a most interesting and artistic programme.

The Hippodrome, under the joint management of Messrs. Houcke and Bostock, since the production of the gorgeous spectacular pantomime, *India*, is turning crowds away nightly. The magnificence of the show must be seen to be realised. It is this same spectacle which was the hit of the season at Circus Busch in Berlin. Five hundred people take part, and there are over a hundred animals.

A stampede occurred the other morning whilst the elephants were rehearsing their fight. Breaking through several gates, they were finally stopped by the energy of their keeper, as they were trying to force their way into the Place Clichy. One of their attendants was seriously hurt, and had to be taken to the hospital. Had they succeeded in getting through, things would have been serious.

Not content with the magnificence of their spectacle, Messrs. Houcke and Bostock have added thereto a most interesting programme, including Les Perez in their ladder act, Rossow's midgets, Walter's sea lions, a very clever shooting act by Rupper and Knoops, &c.

The Cirque Métropole, which has been doing very good business with the wrestling, has just added a new and sensational act to their very varied programme. Mlle. Walkirie, on her horse Wotan, is attached underneath a balloon, which rises to the cupola of the circus. When at the highest point of her ascension, there is a display of fireworks around the horse, the well-trained animal not moving under these most trying circumstances. This is a very sensational and effective act.

The Olympia presents a new and very interesting programme, amongst which we have a distinct novelty, "Little Red Riding Hood," with her pack of trained wolves. These animals are presented by the Comtesse de X., at one time a masked dompteuse, who appeared at the Westminster Aquarium some years since.

The Casino de Paris has introduced a new and so-called sensational attraction. It is called "The Human Brake." A large automobile carrying six passengers, is stopped by the sheer strength of a gentleman in evening dress, who prevents its going across the stage. Unfortunately, the show does not appear genuine, and has not created the sensation anticipated.

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY.

On Thursday evening, Nov. 29, the Royal Choral Society at the Albert Hall, in the presence of a large audience, gave Mr. Coleridge-Taylor's *Hiawatha*. It is now some eight years since Mr. Coleridge-Taylor, then a student at the Royal College of Music, produced "Hiawatha's Wedding," a setting of Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha," and the composition brought the young composer success; in the following year "The Death of Minnehaha" was written, and after another six months "Hiawatha's Departure" was added to the work, the complete composition, which is set to music for soprano, tenor, and baritone solos, with chorus and orchestra, being performed by the Royal Choral Society at the Albert Hall in 1900. Many works by the younger composers, after achieving a certain measure of success, have passed into oblivion, but this is not the case with *Hiawatha*, which has firmly established the fame of Mr. Coleridge-Taylor with the musical public, and with good reason, as the music is imaginative and clever, containing good opportunities both for soloists and choir. The performance on Thursday by the Royal Choral Society left little room for adverse criticism, even if the chorus did not at times give all the delicacy required. Mr. Ben Davies was the tenor, and sang the beautiful air, "Onaway, awake, beloved" superbly, being rewarded with loud and long continued applause. Madame Emily Squire sang the soprano music with purity of intonation, but was somewhat lacking in dramatic power, her solo, "Spring has come with all its splendour" in the second part being well received; and Mr. Dalton Baker sang the baritone music with artistic feeling. Sir Frederick Bridge conducted, and the analytical notes on the programme were by Mr. Joseph Bennett and Mr. A. J. Jaeger.

MR. HARRY S. HART has secured Mr. Charles Dixton's comedy sketch, called *Uncle Obadiah*, which met with much success at the Standard and Middlesex last July, and which, we understand, is being rapidly booked up for 1907.

WEATHERSBY'S AGENCY is sending a complete vaudeville company, headed by Fred W. Millis, the Australian ventriloquist, to the Artillery Theatre, Woolwich, next week.

"LORD" GEORGE ANTOUN, that old-established variety agent, is, owing to increasing business, removing to larger offices, and from Monday next, Dec. 10, his address will be 120, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

THE BRIXTON HIPPODROME.

Much tribulation has attended the transformation of the Brixton Theatre into a music-hall. Difficulties with the County Council arose in October last, and the opening was consequenlty postponed. Opposition at the Licensing Committee's session was successfully overcome, and the inauguration was fixed for Saturday last, but owing ot the unwarrantable action of the Council at the eleventh hour, it was prevented from opening except for one performance a night. Saturday accordingly saw the new hall opened, not with the company intended, but with that which had been doing duty all the week at the Empress opposite, the management and stall of that hall having been transferred in its entirety across the road.

The theatre, the foundation-stone of which was laid by the late Sir Henry Irving in May, 1894, has been thoroughly redecorated, and presents a pleasing interior. The scheme of colouring is cream and gold on terra-cotta. The wall-paper is of a crimson hue, and handsome plush curtains and hangings of maroon complete the agreeable effect. A number of electric lamps hanging round the balcony and gallery brilliantly illuminate the auditorium, and the ceiling bears a floreated design in gold on a tinted ground. Entirely new scenery has been provided, an elaborate scene-drop depicting a Venetian palace being tastefully painted. Further improvements, including the renewal of the seating, are also in hand.

Unforeseen circumstances prevented the presentation of this week's programme exactly as it was intended, but the audiences during the week have been regaled with a long and varied show. One of the chief features of the bill as presented on the night of our visit was the episode *Vanity*, a condensed version of the sketch *The Devil's Sunday*, which was produced at the Metropolitan last week. The parts are now practically confined to two, that of the heartless wife and her deluded husband. Mrs. Lawson plays the former rôle with the same elaboration and skill as before to seems to revel in the baseness of the frankly criminal Fay Faber, and moves the audience to laughter in the lighter passages, and electrifies them with the tigrish ferocity of the baffled woman. The part of the unfortunate husband now falls to Mr. A. Royston, who gives a remarkable impersonation instinct with dramatic intensity, and depicting by vivid facial play the passion which animates the character. The audience derived great satisfaction from the sketch, and the artists were enthusiastically recalled.

Sensation is imported into the bill by the feats of Mr. A. Kenny, who does surpassing wonders with the bicycle. He is able to ride round the stage on the back wheel without holding, and to jump sideways up two steps at a time, thence on to a bench, and over the prone body of his assistant. The thrilling moment, however, comes at the end, when, by the same method, he ascends a high staircase, leaps a couple of gaps a yard apart, and comes down the other side on to a mattress. The cheers bestowed upon his intrepid feats throughout are well deserved. Excitement also comes of the introduction of Ivy Valescoe's Australian Stage Circus. There is a small poodle who does somersaults in a skipping-rope, and there are dog and monkey jockeys, who jump through hoops in the regulation style. Later, the smallest pony in the world is to be seen within a revolving wheel, while a small dog keeps step on the top.

A new farce-comedietta, entitled *Lord Bill's Bills*, in which an impecunious lordling gets relieved of his debts to a moneylender by impersonating a lady causes laughter. Mr. T. W. Volt is funny in the dual part, and is capably assisted by Mr. Louis Edmonde and Miss Nellie Bouverie. My Fancy, who well maintains her claim to be "queen of sand-dancers," takes her dainty way through a maze of complicated steps, and the novelty and excellence of her rapid footplay is recognised by many recalls. Miss Maud Esmond who rises high in popular favour with the lilting song "Sailing in my balloon," also makes a captivating colleen in her song "Hold yer blarney."

A well-filled budget of comicalities was supplied by Mr. Harry Pleon, who presented *The Merchant of Venice* and *Hamlet* as they would be acted with various star comedians in the chief rôles, and a travesty of Mr. John Lawson in his "Only a Jew" song also excited great merriment. Carrie Laurie and her Juveniles supply a diverting item of the bill; the Ten Loonies cause uproarious mirth with their eccentric musical production *Dotty;* and contributions to the entertainment are also made by Harvey and Holt, Keith and Merson, Harry Maynard, Sam Mayo, J. Haigh (comedy acrobat), Evelyn Taylor (serio), and Hayman and Franklyn in *A Matrimonial Agency*. Mr. Nelson Francis, the manager, smiles serenely through the difficulties with which he has been beset, and Mr. Francis Winchcombe gives him loyal assistance.

MUSIC PUBLISHERS' AND CONCERT ASSISTANTS' PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

The second annual dinner and concert in connection with the above society was held at the Crown Hotel, Hippodrome, Charing Cross-road, last Saturday, with Mr. David Day in the chair. An excellent dinner was served by Mr. A. R. Welton, and was followed by an interesting Bohemian concert, the arrangements for which were in the capable hands of Mr. John Smith (manager to Messrs. Francis and Day), who was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Alfred Bishop as stage-manager and Mr. H. E. Pether as pianist.

Mr. Charles West sang in rollicking style "Don't tell the world your troubles" and "See-Saw"; Mr. Charles Osborne gave two songs of his own composition, "Leave her alone with them" and "Mother"; Mr. Will Randall submitted "If the world were ruled by girls"; Mr. Fred Wilson gave "Who am I?" and "The Cheese"; and Mr. James Hillier contributed in admirable style two good patter songs, "Susan, the slavey," and "The butcher-boy." Miss Rosa Dallow sang very sweetly "With my guitar" and "Love is meant to make us glad," and, in response to an enthusiastic encore, gave "An ould plaid shawl." Mr. Frank Lynne, in a new song, facetiously asked "How do you like my new hat?" which obtained a gratifying reception. Miss Kate Willey's charming voice captivated the audience in "Angel of my dreams" (accompanied by the composer) and "If I built a world for you"; Mr. A. H. Gee, the Australian baritone, was heard to great advantage in "The Gallant Greys" and "Vanity"; Mr. Charles Wood was a humorous exponent of Chevalier's song "What for do 'ee luv oi?"; Miss Kittie Oxford sang excellently "Dear heart" and "The mellow autumntide"; Mr. Harry Briden supplied "Bargains"; Mr. Bernard Russell was in great form with "Musical neighbours" and "I wonder if that was a sign"; Mr. George Thatcher rendered "I looked out of the window" and "Wire in, my lads"; Mr. W. Bailey, who has a fine tenor voice, gave "Believe me, if all those endearing charms"; Miss Alice Braunstein, who possesses a rich soprano, delighted her hearers with "Rose of my heart" and "Never mind the weather"; Mr. Fred Rains was dramatic in a musical monologue, "Devil may care," and "The waif and the wizard"; Miss Amy Brooks was charmingly piquant at the piano in "Proposals"; and Mr. John Bird, in a most natural manner, explained that he was "Fou the noo."

The arrangements reflected great credit on the committee and all concerned in the management, and a most enjoyable evening was brought to a conclusion by speeches from Mr. J. Jennings, Mr. David Day, Mr. C. J. Smith, Mr. J. A. Hammond, and Mr. E. J. Goodman.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

MR. JOHN P. HARRINGTON INTERVIEWED.

Born some forty-one years ago, in Kingsgate-street, Holborn (since swept away by Kingsway), Mr. John P. Harrington early evinced a taste for song-writing, as is evidenced by the fact that as long ago as 1880 Mr. Harry Rickards (then performing at the old London Pavilion) accepted a song on the subject of the first Boer war from the enthusiastic young fifteen-year-old aspirant, entitled "May God protect our soldiers in the Transvaal War," which he never "put on."

Having published close on a couple of thousand songs—by far the greatest number for which any lyric writer has ever been responsible—and his songs being famous the world over at the time when the present generation of song-writers were going to school, Mr. Harrington may be accepted as something of an authority as to "what's what" in the song-writing and song-publishing world.

"The thing that first convinced me," he says, "that there was a big future for the 'free' song, if properly handled and 'placed,' was the enormous popularity and resultant huge sale of copies obtained in this country by comparatively second-rate American songs, which, being American, were pushed for all they were worth by English publishers who had acquired the British copyrights; while very excellent English songs (far better ones, in fact, than many of the American variety) went to the wall.

"After many consultations with my present song-writing partner, Mr. Jas. W. Tate, we decided, in conjunction with Mr. Tom McNaughton (one of the finest 'hustlers' the world produces) and Mr. Joseph Kandt, to form the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. for the express purpose of doing for English-made songs what other English firms were doing for the American ones.

MR. JOHN P. HARRINGTON.

"The results of our enterprise have far exceeded our most sanguine expectations. From the start we were successful. Last year we only issued six songs for pantomime, out of which four were extensively sung, and three were big 'winners,' viz., 'Remember me to mother dear,' 'Good-bye, Mr. Williams,' and 'His country, king, and girl.' This is, perhaps, a record for a young firm.

"I believe No. 7 is popularly supposed to be lucky. Well, our greatest song success, 'I've built a bamboo bungalow for you,' by Mellor and Lawrance, was our No. 7. This was not through any superstition or design on our parts, the fact being that, at the time, we had no No. 8. We were the fortunate possessors of this song a month before pantomime time; but we wisely kept the song 'up our sleeves,' realising that we were 'up against' 'The little wooden hut' song, and that the big success was ure to eclipse the unknown song to the point of extinction. The result of our waiting policy is that there is hardly a pantomime (if any) throughout the length and breadth of the kingdom in which 'Bamboo bungalow' will not be specially 'featured' this year. The sales have already run into thousands of copies, and we confidently anticipate disposing of at least a quarter of a million copies before the trade demands are exhausted.

"'Placing' songs with artists," rejoined Mr. Harrington, in answer to a query, "is distinctly an art. Mr. Tate and I, as the two 'pluggers' (as our American cousins term song-placers) of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co., perhaps enjoy a somewhat unique position in the professional eye, as compared with the representatives of most other publishers. Being songwriters who may, without egotism, claim to have won their spurs, artists naturally are prone to believe in our judgment. Having so often supplied them with the wares from our own pens which have tended to make them successful, they confidently consider us the right people to select for them the best and most suitable material from other pens in our fast-growing catalogue.

"At the present season my colleague and I are kept busy by professional callers, from 'early morn till dewy eve,' and we never fail to fit all applicants, for should we have nothing in our published répertoire or in MSS. form that exactly meet their requirements, Mr. Tate and I sat down and write them something. This facility of supply to meet demand is one of the principal factors in our present success.

"When we first started 'placing' our songs we had to 'hustle' pretty considerably. Many letters were written, many personal appointments made. Now our songs themselves do the 'hustling' for us! The success on the music-hall stage of such songs as 'Rosie is waiting' (already popular all over the country), 'Queen of Old Samara,' 'Tiny Firefly,' 'Widow Doolin,' 'Old Calabar,' and other equally popular songs issued by our firm, has had the pleasing effect of causing principal boys and principal girls by the hundred to call on us for their pantomime specialities; while we have also had such distinguished callers recently as Mr. F. W. Wyndham, Mr. J. F. Graham, Mr. Frederick Renad, and many other proprietors and producers of pantomime. Furthermore, we have been absolutely inundated with epistolary applications from practically every manager in the land, asking for our complete Pantomime Budget.

"In addition to our already-issued Pantomime Budget, however, we are this week issuing four 'dark horses' in the shape of special songs for pantomimes, viz., 'There's a big ship sailing in the morning," by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford; 'Britannia's School,' by Sam Rickards; 'She didn't come from Borneo,' by Pelham, Butts, and Rule; and 'You don't miss de water,' by Tate and myself. These four songs are, to our way of thinking, the finest eleventh-hour songs ever offered to a pantomime manager."

At our request Mr. Harrington supplied us with the titles and singers of a few of his greatest successes, past and present. They include "Masks and faces" (Jenny Hill), "Seven ages of man" (Charles Godfrey), "The Idler" (Stratton), "As in a looking-glass" (Millie Hylton), "I'll give him ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay" (Beauchamp), "India's reply" (Dryden), "My gal has not eyes like diamonds" (Bessie Wentworth), "Boys together" (Pat Rafferty), "Good-bye, and God bless you, Jack," "All the girls are lovely," "Oh, isn't it singular!" "Remember me to mother dear," "Oh, dearly-beloved brethren," "You're a thing of the past, old dear," and last, but not least, "Rosie is waiting." Truly Mr. Harrington has been a busy song-writer in his time.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE ANNIVERSARY.

Seven years since the Holloway Empire opened its doors to the public, and tapped a new audience in the pleasant northern suburb, which up to that time had been without a variety theatre conducted on modern lines. Much opposition was excited by the announcement of two houses a night; and the idea seemed to obtain that the new Empire would be a centre of disturbance, in which would be focussed all the elements of disorder in the neighbourhood. But the Hollowaysiders did not know their Oswald Stoll. They did not realise that he, one of the chief apostles of rational amusement for the wage-earner, had resolutely abolished the word "gaff" by destroying its significance and replacing its chief characteristics—dirt, drink, and degradation—by daintiness, diversity, and delight. Prejudice vanished like a morning mist before the sun of prosperity; the inhabitants of Holloway soon found their local Empire a place to spend a happy evening; and commercial astuteness, and a constant and increasing care in the choice of artists did the rest.

On Tuesday, the gala night, two crowded houses testified heartily to the popularity of the numerous artists doing duty from the early hour of six until close upon the witching hour. At the close of the first house the festival character of the function was emphasised in quite a Christmassy fashion by the whole of the entertainers—led by those two light baritones, Mr. Will Bennet, of the Moss and Stoll Press Bureau, and Mr. Will Collins, the London district manager—joining in the chorus of "Auld Lang Syne." Mr. Tom Costello, who occupied the position of honour, had just previously been struggling with "Stage Suffragettes," and in the most comic fashion imaginable bringing to the bar of public opinion as expressed by gods and pit the burning question of woman's rights. Shouts of merriment greeted the humorous treatment of the subject, and when the representatives of sister woman gave the comedian a warm time of it, and filched parts of his coat from his back, the house roared again. Mr. Albert Le Fre told some amusing stories as a prelude to some excellent dancing; Mr. George Ridgwell sang in his customary artistic style; Miss Edith Courtney gave a song of domestic sentiment founded on "Home, sweet home"; Miss Lottie Lennox, with a chorus song, touched a chord of low comedy; Mr. Tom Collins introduced cleverly a number of topics into his well-rendered song; Mr. Russel Brandon, a gentleman of colour, proved himself to be an acrobatic dancer of remarkable alertness and vigour; Young and De Voie were responsible for a dancing turn in which there was a spice of comedy; and an extra turn—a lady in red—looking not unlike Camille Clifford, cooed softly of Norah of Norwood, who bore no resemblance in character and attainments apparently to the other Norah—she of Kildare. The Sisters May sang a coon melody; the Five Casino Girls played a medley on brass instruments; Lucia and Viata were responsible for an interesting wire performance; Frobel and Ruge astonished by a remarkable pole performance; Datas roused enthusiasm by the remarkable character of his memory; and other turns included the Welsh Wanderers, Marie Collins, Jeannie Mackay, James Brady, Melich, Dick Williams, Karr and Koe, the Brothers Avalone, Hester Leamore, and others. The contributors to the second entertainment were the Three Ramoniers, Tom Lytton, Leslie and Anson, Kate Carney, Charles Coverdale, Nina Martino, Lucy Weston, Athas and Collins, Lottie Lennox, Marguerite Broadfoote, Chas. Fisher Opera Company, Chirgwin, Nellie Coleman, Joe Cheevers, Tom Costello, Thorpe and Coe, W. Donovan, Grigoriews Troupe, Frank Wood, Tan Kwai Troupe, Tom Collins, Sisters May, Marie Collins. Mr. C. W. Adams worked assiduously for the comfort of two very large houses.

Among those present who were welcomed by Mr. Will Collins and Mr. Will Bennet, both most assiduous hosts, were Mr. Sam Getting, the Moss and Stoll district manager for Scotland; Mr. Gerald Morton, district manager for Yorkshire; Mr. Hatton W. Larton, of the Lancashire district; Messrs. Wieland, Sydney Hyman, Ernest Golestin, Ted Volta, Anger, Aplin, and others represented agency.

"DOWN AMONG THE COALS."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—I don't know what construction Mr. Harry Dacre wishes readers of *The Era* to place on the word "drivel" (it has several sloppy meanings) in his reference to the above-named song. It was sung by "the artist comique," the late Henri Clark, trained in Miss Louisa Pyne's opera company—truly an artist who never uttered a word that would not bear scrutiny. Few choruses of comic songs in cold print convey any idea of what they were in the hands of such a capable man as Clark. It was written and composed by the late George "Jingo" Hunt, the pioneer of writers of words and music to comic songs. I had the pleasure of hearing the song played by twenty-five or thirty massed bands at Sydenham, at the Drury Lane Pantomime, and by many military bands, in 1872. As a comic song or a grand march I think it one of the best I ever heard in my life. "Mouse-trap man," by H. J. Whymark and R. Hughes, was sung by the never-to-be-forgotten Geo. Leybourne; is still played and admired as a waltz. It is forty-two years old It was the stamping as a star of J. H. Milburn. The last title-page I saw was the 120th edition—*verb. sap.* "Up in a balloon," by Hunt, and sung by the peerless Leybourne, was very highly eulogised in *The Era* recently. It is thirty-eight years old, and still alive. "Ornaments for your fire stoves," by Hunt, sung by the lion comique, Geordie, was a song with a pretty three-four time Swiss melody—a clever song that had a great run in 1865 and for a long time afterwards. As young Dacre remembers it so well as to class it among the drivel, why not copy the whole sentence, and say "the drivel of the dregs" instead?—Yours faithfully, A BACK NUMBER.

"THE SLEEPING CAR."

SIR,—In fairness to Miss Ethel King, who holds the rights in the above, allow me, in reply to Mr. George Thorne jun.'s letter in your last issue, to state that the plot of *The Sleeping Car* is in every detail totally different to that of Mr. Dawson's piece, the only possible similarity being that the action of both pieces takes place in a railway train.

Here, again, the special scenery and effects of *The Sleeping Car* and the stage setting differ entirely from that of Mr. Dawson's piece. *The Sleeping Car* was submitted to Miss King, and accepted by her early in June, and first tried in public at Hull on Oct. 19 last.—Yours faithfully,

MAURICE H. HOFFMAN.

The South London, Dec. 3.

HORACE WHEATLEY
AT THE PALACE, GLASGOW.

There is a treat in store for Mr. Waldon's patrons at the Palace this week. Always a great favourite in Glasgow, Horace Wheatley, who heads the company, provides what is known in music-hall phraseology as the "star turn." His voice is as good as ever, and his patter as amusing, with the result that "the genial Irishman," as he is described on the bill, has difficulty on leaving the stage at the conclusion of his performance. Last night he had a very cordial reception at both houses, which, by the way, were largely attended.—*Glasgow News*, Dec. 4, 1906.

CHAT WITH MR JOSEPH WILSON.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

"It is always a pleasant task," says Mr. Joseph Wilson, the manager of the Tivoli, "to speak of success, whether of individuals or of places of amusement, and during the last year at the Tivoli things have been successful all along the line. Under the managing-directorship of Mr. George Adney Payne, who undoubtedly may be described as the Napoleon of the variety business, the 'cosy little hall in the Strand' flourishes like a green bay-tree.

"During the past twelve months much fresh blood has been infused into the entertainments, chiefly from the theatrical side of the profession, some of the most important engagements being those of Ada Reeve, Fragson, Arthur Playfair, Florence Sinclair, and Russell Wallett; while old favourites, including Harry Lauder, Marie Lloyd, Little Tich, Wilkie Bard, the Follies, Victoria Monks, Vesta Victoria, and Clark and Hamilton, still hold their own with the public."

One is inclined to agree with Mr. Wilson when he says that such innovations as *La Main*, that charming wordless play in which Miss Camille D'Alberg achieved a great success, proves the foresight of the management of the Tivoli. "This is a turn," he goes on to say, "which sets one reflecting upon the enormous alteration in the personnel of music-hall audiences during the last decade. It is not too much to say that fifteen years ago such a delightful piece of acting would not have been appreciated by the then patrons of the variety theatre. Single turns, mostly of comedians, who regaled their audiences with songs in

Photo by Hana.

MR. JOSEPH WILSON.

praise of alcoholic excess, the discomfiture of the mother-in-law, &c., followed one another with monotonous dulness. Now all is changed. The Tivoli audience listens to and enjoys first-rate vocalists, such as Alice Hollander, Edith Helena, Ada Colley, the last-named raising enthusiasm with Bishop's 'Lo, here the gentle lark'—certainly a classic—and John Radcliffe, the great flautist, at his best in the obbligato; while the orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. de Reeder, proves by varied, and, in some cases, quite classical, selections, that the public taste has become elevated to a striking degree.

"There can be no doubt that the renaissance of the music hall is with us, and the first manager to trim his sails to the altering breeze should be, and is, first round the buoy. Carefully-selected turns to give variety—that absolute necessity in a music-hall programme—have constantly appeared, sketches (which have been well within the limit), acrobats, jugglers, and musical acts, have all contributed to success."

Mr. Joseph Wilson's life has been made up by a variety of experiences in different professions. Though for the greater part of it he has been mainly connected with the stage in a very active manner, yet previous to his association with the footlights he was for some time in the Army, and had interested himself in more than one profession. But it is with his theatrical career that we are most concerned. His first engagement was with Miss Mary Anderson in 1884-85, when he sang songs in *As You Like It*, and played several parts in that lady's Shakespearean répertoire and classical pieces. He took, for instance, small parts in, among others, *Romeo and Juliet*, and in *Pygmalion and Galatea*. Speaking of Miss Anderson, Mr. Wilson says that her charm of manner won its way into the hearts not only of her audience, but into the affections of every member of her company, and of everybody with whom she had dealings. Mr. Wilson next joined the Conway-Farren-Vaughan company, and had a long experience of touring. He played Tony in *My Sweetheart* over six hundred times, in this country and in Berlin. Later he was seen and admired as the Squire in *Dorothy*, the touring production of which he stage-managed. Following this engagement, he acted as manager for Mr. Daniel Mayer, the concert director, and, among other artists, brought out Stavenhagen, the pianist, and Jean Gerardy, the boy 'cellist. Mr. Wilson also arranged a great number of big concert parties. The subject of this sketch has appeared in no fewer than thirteen pantomimes, four of which he produced himself. Two of his most successful pantomime parts were the Cannibal King and Abanaar. Going away from the subject of Christmas "annuals," it is worthy of mention that Mr. Wilson was the first to play the part of the Vizier in *Morocco Bound* in the provinces, and he represented the character for a couple of years. He was also the Sir Reddan Tapeleigh in *Go Bang* for a couple of tours, and at the conclusion of the last run of that piece he appeared in sketches on the music halls. After a year and a half of this kind of work, he was engaged to appear as the sailor in *The French Maid*, for tour and in London, subsequently again going into the halls with a playlet called *The Test Match*, specially written for him by Mr. Fred Bowyer. Then Mr. Wilson travelled in Australasia for two years, chiefly playing Old Cattermole in *The Private Secretary*, Sir Francis in *Charley's Aunt*, Geoffrey Wedderburn in *Sweet Lavender*, the detective in *The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown*, and a similar character in *Facing the Music*. As a curtain-raiser to these plays, Mr. Wilson invariably played *The Test Match*, and, in point of fact, he was specially engaged to do this all through Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania. On returning from Australia he went into management at the Queen's Hall, and was also manager for Mr. Frank Curzon at the Avenue Theatre and for that gentleman's tour of *The Marriage of Kitty*. A couple of years ago the directors of the Tivoli offered Mr. Wilson the managerial chair at that establishment, and there he has remained ever since.

CHIRGWIN sent a wire to Her Majesty the Queen on her birthday on Saturday last, and received a telegram of thanks in reply, so considers himself lucky in getting the answer.

"CRYSTAL GAZING."

A new Sketch, by Fredrick Bowyer, produced at the Hackney Empire, on Monday, Dec. 3.

Tom ..... MR. WILLIAM H. DAY
Bessie ..... MISS LAURA DYSON

Mr. Frederick Bowyer is no novice in the art of sketch writing, and the little piece produced at the Hackney Empire on Monday evening affords further evidence of his possession of those qualities which are required in the author who attempts to successfully write for the variety stage. The verdict of Monday night's audience was never for a moment in doubt, and *Crystal Gazing* was received with those unmistakable demonstrations of approval so welcome alike to the author, the artists engaged in the representation, and the management.

The scene represents the interior of a pretty little cottage in the country, and here we make the acquaintance of the heroine of the story. Bessie, the charming little village maiden, is expecting somebody. Who should it be but her sweetheart, Tom, a sailor lad of the hearty, honest English type that has been a favourite with audiences ever since the drama came into fashion. Tom makes manifest his deep love for the girl in his own simple, manly style, and produces an engagement ring. But the wedding is not to take place until Tom had been for another voyage, and after that he will make pretty Bessie his bride. They will take possession of one of the snug village cottages, and, like the Prince and Princess in the fairy tales, will live happy ever after. His vessel is about to start on her voyage, and Tom, ere bidding his sweetheart good-bye, hands her a crystal with a request that she will take care of it until his return. While in India he purchased it of an old woman, and, according to her account, it will, if consulted, reveal the future. The girl tests the truth of the old woman's statement by gazing steadily into the crystal, and is startled by the result of her experiment, for she sees a vision of the future. At her earnest invitation Tom also becomes a crystal-gazer. The stage is darkened, and when the lights are again turned up we see a dame who is awaiting the return of her husband. It is Christmas time, and outside the snow is falling fast. An aged man enters; and we realise that the two people are Tom and Bessie grown old and feeble. But the years have not robbed them of the love which rendered them happy in their youth. From outside the cottage comes the joyous sound of a Christmas carol; and, after a brief interval of darkness, we again behold the young couple gazing into the magic crystal, but confident of the wedded happiness that awaits them in the future. Mr. William H. Day is a manly young sailor, and also plays well as Tom grown old. Miss Laura Dyson, formerly a member of the Surrey stock company and a niece of the late Mr. George Conquest, puts brightness and charm into her embodiment of Bessie, and is excellent, too, as the old lady of the vision.

Another big attraction in the current bill is the engagement of Mr. R. A. Roberts in his well-known sketch *Dick Turpin*, his quick changes winning the admiration and the applause of the audience. "Buddha's Blackboard," a mystery that was first seen in London at the Hippodrome a few months ago, is also an interesting item. Holden's Marionettes have a prominent place in the bill, and are very cleverly manipulated. Other attractive turns include the Mascotte Trio, Hurley and Cole, Theo. Hardeen, Miss Rale Walters, Mr. Charles Robinson, and the Bioscope.

"THE PROFLIGATE KING."

A Romantic Sketch, in Three Scenes, by Albert Ward, produced at the Queen's, Poplar, on Monday, Dec. 3.

Leandro Caselli ..... MR. ALBERT WARD
King of Lavadia ..... MR. H. W. HATCHON
Duke Lucio Castrana .... MR. HORACE HUNTER
Antonio Zanella ..... MR. HARRY J. CRANE
Valentine ..... MR. FRED BESLEY
Donna Silvia Zanella .... MISS AGNES PAULTON
Duchess of Pellitsa ..... MISS FRANCES ALLEYNE

Mr. Ward, the author of *The Profligate King*, has laid the scenes of this, his latest dramatic "episode," in a country called Lavadia, wherever it may be. The costumes, however, indicate a mediæval period, and there is an Italian sound about the names of the different characters. But as we have a very interesting story, there is really no need to worry ourselves as to the nationality of the *dramatis personæ*.

Leandro Caselli, officer of the guard at the Court of King Ferdinand of Lavadia, is in love with one Donna Silvia Zanella, whose grandfather is the King's messenger. There is a traitorous conspirator in the person of one of his Majesty's Ministers, Duke Lucio Castrana, whose desire it is to have Donna Silvia in marriage. To this end he arranges with the King to send Leandro on a special mission, and to place that young officer's sweetheart in the charge of the Duchess of Pellitsa. Leandro goes off, but it is not long before he returns with the story that he was waylaid, his despatches stolen, and an attempt made upon his life. He comes just in time to see Castrana murder Antonio. Finding his plans not succeeding as well as he anticipated, Castrana confides in Leandro his scheme for the destruction of the King, hoping to obtain the younger man's assistance. But Leandro is true to his sovereign, the plot is frustrated, and all ends well. It is a pleasure to be able to say that the little piece is well staged and capably acted. Mr. Albert Ward, who, by the way, created the part of Jack Mowbray in *The Never, Never Land*, and recently concluded a stock season at the Elephant and Castle, possesses a good style of delivery and acts forcefully in the rôle of Leandro. Mr. Horace Hunter is another vigorous exponent of a vigorous part; and in the rôle of the Duke he plays with conspicuous ability, as does Mr. H. W. Hatchon in the part of the King. Miss Frances Alleyne was womanly and graceful as the Duchess of Pellitsa; and Miss Agnes Paulton sweet and engaging as Donna Silvia. Mr. Harry J. Crane gave a commendable character-study of an old man as Antonio Zanella, and Mr. Fred Besley adequately fulfilled the requirements of his rôle of Valentine.

COPYRIGHT CONVICTIONS.

Clifford Jones, 24, a canvasser, of 28, Ruby-road, Walthamstow, was charged at Stratford on Monday with being in the possession and selling a copy of pirated music.

On Saturday evening defendant was in charge of a music-stall in High-street, Walthamstow, and a constable who was "out for the purpose," asked for a copy of "Down the Vale." Jones at first said that he had not got the copy, but when told that it was wanted particularly that evening, he remarked, "All right, I'll get one." He then went into a shop close by and brought out a pirated copy of the song. This he handed to the constable, charging 6d. for it, and he was then arrested.

Jones pleaded guilty, and urged that the music was a copy that he had purchased before the Copyright Act came into force.

A fine of 20s. and costs was imposed.

MISS FLO BANKS has returned to town after a successful tour of thirteen weeks in the provinces, opening at Barnard's, Woolwich, on Monday.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

THE shows and other concerns at Richmond (Yorks) were—Monti Bros.' cinematograph, Storey's fine art gallery, Crowe's steam horses, Jeffrey's big boats, shooting gallery, emma sheets and cokers, Conror's Winchester range and bottle battery, Testo's rifle saloon and bottle smasher, and other varieties by Hall, Crowe, and Snowden.

THE pleasure fair at Malton attracted some of the best concerns on the North Yorkshire round. Amongst these were—Mander's waxworks and cinematograph, Professor Colina, expert marksman, with trained wolves, James Buckley's show, Goldthorpe Marshall's motor cars, Alf Payne's galloping horses, Doubtfire's juvenile motors, H. Stevens' swings and shooters; the other caterers included Warrington, Payne, and Duck, with shooting concerns, and Doubtfire, Tarvill, Swales, Storier, and Duck, with varieties.

AT Mountain Ash, Wales, the principal concerns were Wadbrooke's cinematograph, Scarrott's boxing booth, John Studt's gondolas and motors, Bowen's shooting range and varieties.

IN Wales for private business, Dooner's show is at Ebbw Vale, Hagger's at Merthyr Vale, Danter at Ferndale, and J. Hill at Haverfordwest.

HOLLOWAY'S theatre is expected to pay a two months' visit to Henley-in-Arden, and our correspondent on this round informs us that there is a good opening at Astwood Bank for a portable theatre or a marionette show.

KNOWING how anxious our Cheshire and Lancashire readers will be to have the latest news of the negotiations between the Guild and the Town Clerk to the Cheshire County Council, we give the last letter received on this important question.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

Byelaws for Good Rule and Government of this County.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of yesterday's date you are quite right in assuming that the byelaws made by this Council with reference to organs, and music near houses, churches, and hospitals, will come into operation unless disallowed by the Secretary of State at the expiration of forty days after a sealed copy thereof has been forwarded to the Secretary of State.

A sealed copy of the Byelaws was transmitted to the Secretary of State in accordance with the Statute, on the 9th ult., so that unless they are disallowed by him within 40 days from that date they will become operative, and this was my reason for suggesting in my letter of the 1st inst. that you had better submit the suggestions contained in yours of the 30th ult. direct to the Secretary of State, who will no doubt forward same to me for the observations of the County Council thereon, and assuming that such is done they will be in the ordinary course submitted to the committee of the County Council who suggested the making of the byelaws, and probably some arrangement can be arrived at for them to receive such a deputation as is suggested in the last paragraph of your letter.—I am, Yours truly,

REGINALD POTTS,
Clerk of the County Council.

Cheshire County Council, Clerk's Offices, Chester.
Dec. 4, 1906.

Rev. T. Horne, c/o "The Era," Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C.

As we have already intimated, a petition from the Showmen's Guild is in preparation, and will be forwarded to the Home Secretary. Our readers will be glad to notice that the letter given above still leaves an open door for consideration of the matters in dispute between showmen and the Chester County Council, and we still have considerable hopes that the matter will be amicably settled on the same lines as that secured in the similar circumstances with the Lancashire County Council.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Showmen's Guild.—Per Mr. W. H. Marshall: A. Morley, 1905 and 6, £1; W. H. Marshall, 1905 and 6, £3; C. Barker, 1905 and 6, 10s.; C. Burgess, 1905, 5s.; A. Barker, 1905, 5s.; D. Johnson, 1905, 5s.; S. Waddington, 1905, 10s.; C. Brookes, 1906, 5s. Per Mr. Frank Turner: Mrs. Bishop, 5s.; A Special Subscription, 11s. 6d. Per Rev. T. Horne: James Pettigrove and Son, £2 2s.

THE Guild Secretary would be glad to receive all outstanding subscriptions for the present year. Will committee men make up their accounts and forward names of subscribers enrolled by them as soon as possible?

THE death took place on Monday, Dec. 3, of Mrs. John Ridley, at her residence, Battersea. The deceased lady was a well-known metropolitan traveller, and attended the fairs in the London district. The funeral cortège will leave Battersea on Monday next, Dec. 10, 12 o'clock noon, for Manor Park, where the interment will take place.

P. COLLINS is continuing his successful Birmingham round of fancy fairs.

THE aggregation of novelties on this circuit includes the No. 2 Coliseum of living pictures and varieties, the set of motor cars, Cullis's school of boxers, and varieties. The attendant providers of all the fun of the fair were Dobson, Young, Stokes, and Humphries.

MR. ARTHUR DASHWOOD, late business agent, Bostock and Wombwell's No. 1 Royal Menagerie, has been specially engaged as acting manager by the International World's Fair Co., Olympia, London, for their forthcoming World's Fair. Mr. Dashwood has been piloting Messrs. Sedgwick's menagerie all through South Wales this summer, with great success.

A SHOWMAN eye witness sends us the following interesting account of a touching incident in a cinematograph show. The picture being shown was the well-known film the Sailor's Wedding. At one part of the story in picture there is the burning vessel at sea, and on the shore is depicted the wife watching the heroic efforts of the rescue party to reach the burning vessel. Her face depicted the agony of her feelings, and she is seen to beg her father to kneel down with her and to pray to the Great All Father for help. They kneel together and offer their prayer for "those in peril on the sea." At this point in the development of the picture the lecturer made an effective pause in the story; but the solemn silence was broken by a clear treble voice from the audience. A dear child three years old, carried away with the realism of the picture, clasped her hands together, and kneeling upon her mother's knee, seen of the audience, she prayed, "Our Father which art in Heaven." Petition after petition, until the well-known prayer was ended, the audience and the showmen listened spellbound to the voice of the praying child. Then the audience burst into a furore of applause, and thus again was verified the divine truth "That a little child shall lead them."

THE New Tivoli, Liverpool, opens its doors on Monday. Public interest in the latest addition to the places of amusement in the city on the Mersey is great, and when viewed next week the general opinion will be that it is one of the prettiest and most convenient resorts that could be desired. Miss Vesta Victoria tops the opening bill.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

WELL-KNOWN SHOWMAN'S ESTATE.

The estate of the late Mr. James Anthony Bailey, partner With Mr. Barnum in the "greatest show on earth," was mentioned in an application made by Mr. Barnard, K.C. (with him Mr. le Bas), on behalf of the widow, Mrs. Ruth Louisa Bailey.

Counsel said the lady had commenced an action propounding the last will of her husband, who died in April last. The will was dated April, 1885, and had a codicil of May 29, 1894. When the concern was turned into a limited company Mr. Bailey held nearly one-half of the shares out of a capital of £400,000 in £1 shares. The company was registered in London, Mr. Bailey being managing director down to the time of his death. The deceased was domiciled in America, where there was litigation in refernce to whether the will and codicil were entitled to be proved there. Application had been made by Mrs. Bailey to be appointed administrator of the estate *pendente lite*. The lady was appointed. After the death of Mr. Bailey other directors were required. They were appointed, and a meeting would have to be held during the present month to confirm, or otherwise, the appointments. Mrs. Bailey would have the largest interest in that meeting, and it was necessary that an administrator should be named, so that the registered holder of the shares should be able to vote. There was a further claim of £25,000 by the estate of the deceased against the company with refernce to 10 per cent. of the profits made in America on the show. The only point against the application appeared to be that the other parties, who were in America, had not been served, but as it was essential something should be done at once, the present application was made to the Court to appoint an administrator notwithstanding. It was open to the other side to apply.

His lordship thought the plaintiff had better take a grant, and ordered security up to £60,000 on an affidavit of Mrs. Bailey that the property was of that amount.

MARRIAGE OF JACOB STUDT, JUN., TO MISS DOONER.

The event of the past week in the showman world was the wedding of Jacob Studt, jun., eldest son of Jacob Studt, to Miss M. A. Dooner, daughter of James Dooner. The town of Southampton, where the wedding took place, is the winter quarters of Mr. Studt and his many fairground enterprises. Great interest was shown in the happy event by the people of Southampton, and the grand old church of St. Mary was thronged at noon on Wednesday by the hosts of friends of both families concerned The Rev. W. White, senior curate of the church, assisted by the Rev. T. Horne, hon. chaplain to the Showmen's Guild, took the service, which was fully choral. The bride was given away by her father, and the principal bridesmaids were the Misses Studt, Miss Dooner, and Miss A. Hancock. Mr. J. Johnson was the best man. At the end of the service the Rev. T. Horne delivered an appropriate address. The wedding luncheon was held in the Victoria Rooms.

Amongst the prominent guests at the wedding and the festivities after were (in addition to principal members of both families):—Mr. and Mrs. Haggar, Mr. and Mrs. Chiappa, Miss Hancock, Mrs. Henry Studt, Miss L. Studt, Mr. Hibbert, Mr. J. Johnson, Mr. Nesbitt, Mr. Wentworth, Mr. R. Dooner, Mr. Bert Davies, and Mrs. Panton..

Amid many expressions of good will and best wishes, the happy pair left Southampton in the afternoon en route for London, then on to Paris for the honeymoon.

We hope to give a more detailed account of the marriage, with full lists of guests and wedding presents, in our next issue.

ANSWERS TO SHOWMEN.

LEO (Whitehaven).—*Both your communications to hand. With reference to your first letter, we hope to do something this week. Kindly forward your itinerary for next few days. Yes, always glad to do what we can.*

MRS. W. H. M. (Bradford).—*Very glad to have your letter; there will be no mistake now as to your address.*

ENQUIRER.—*The Parliamentary Defence Fund is an entirely independent organisation, and has no connection with any other showman trade society. Parliamentary work protects the interests of all classes and sections of showpeople who travel the fairs, and its existence and well-being is just as important to the man with a twelve-foot stall as it is to a riding-master or show proprietor. It has only one work and one policy—to defend the business interests of all who travel the fairs.*

E. W. (Glasgow).—*Your exceedingly appreciated letter was one amongst others acknowledging the good work done by the executive officials of the Guild at Burslem. It is a great satisfaction to us to know that on all hands there is a growing sense of the importance of the Guild work. Hope to write you next week.*

G. W. (Glasgow).—*We are sending you a more detailed answer as soon as we have made an inquiry or two; we believe that all the concerns and side shows you name exist in Canada, but, according to our information, they are old-fashioned and out-of-date concerns.*

LEO (en route).—*We have not forgotten your request, but pressure of urgent work has prevented us giving it our personal attention. Will let you know results as soon as possible.*

ANXIOUS INQUIRER.—*The Mitcham dispute is still pending, and it is contrary to our practice to comment on a case when once it is on the list for hearing in the higher Courts. We do not expect that the case will be heard until the New Year.*

E. W. (Glasgow).—*Your very encouraging letter with regard to the work of defending British Fairs has very much pleased us. We hope to still further justify your praise.*

THE following additional subscriptions to the Fred Locke Fund have been received by Mr. J. G. Crichton, 9, Bridge-street, Glasgow:—Willie Downs, of Downs and Langford (second subscription), 10s. 6d.; Mrs. J. G. Crichton, 10s. 6d.; Miss Jenny M. Crichton, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Thos. Hill, 10s. 6d.

MR. KARL KAPS has contributed yet another important item to the already long list of enjoyable numbers from his pen. The latest is called "Her Royal Highness," a waltz cotillon. The numerous enquiries for this piece—Christmas being imminent—have caused the publishers, Messrs. Francis and Day, to accelerate its appearance.

GREAT DRAW.

GRAHAM,

The Human Marionette.

"A Sure Top."

Agent,

GEORGE BARCLAY.

SHOWMEN OF TO-DAY.

ROBERT DIXON.
(Lessee of the Trinity Market Ground, Salford, Manchester.)

When the story is fully written of the trade defence movement and organisation of the amusement caterers of the British Empire, a very high and honoured position must be accorded to the subject of our present biography. Himself a showman, born of show parents, cradled and reared on the road, he has that expert experience and technical education that has qualified him to undertake almost every branch of the active life and work of a travelling showman. "I was born at Chester," he says, "in the month of September, 1849, the youngest son of a family of six. My mother was left a widow a fortnight before my birth."

We can well imagine, knowing, as we do, the closeness of the family ties amongst the bohemians of the road, that as the widow's small family grew in years, their helpfulness to their widowed mother would also increase. As a boy, with his family he travelled the fairs in Cheshire, Shropshire, and North Wales, working for his mother with a small pannum stall.

"In the days of my youth," he says, "I came under the jurisdiction of the late James Dean, the famous president and founder of the Van Dwellers' Society, and association with such a grand, noble-hearted man as that impressed upon me, by word and precept, lessons of high integrity and devotion to the interests of my brother showmen that I shall never forget." Mr. Dixon changed the rôle of disciple and admirer of James Dean for that of son-in-law, for he married the eldest daughter of the celebrated showman. This, he tells us, happened thirty-eight years ago.

He travelled the whole of the United Kingdom with various amusements, and was a well-known figure upon the great fair-grounds throughout the

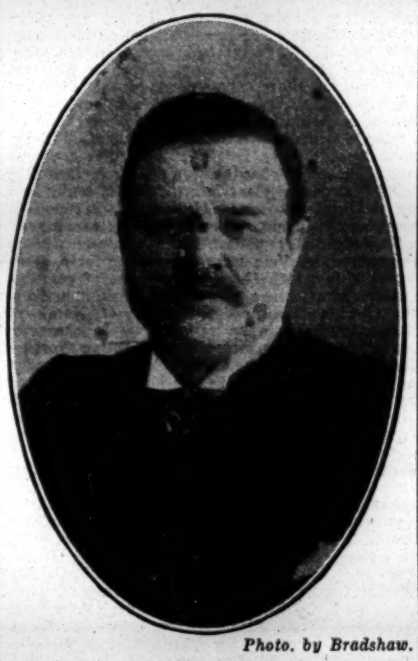

Photo. by Bradshaw.
ROBERT DIXON.

country, making Manchester his centre and Salford his home. Twenty-five years back he undertook for the late Robert Hancock, sen., the management of the well-known Trinity Market, locally known as "the Flat Iron," and continued this work until the death of Robert Hancock, when the owner of the show-ground would not accept, in spite of many offers, any other tenant than Robert Dixon. This determination of the owner was based upon his personal observation and knowledge of Mr. Dixon's high business ability and moral worth, strengthened by the recommendation of the authorities. It must never be forgotten that a showman's life has to be lived in the open light of day, and subject to the constant criticism of an observant, sometimes carping, but always in the end appreciative, public opinion, and to finish this important part of Mr. Dixon's labours, to his credit it is to be recorded that he has held the lease from the first moment of his penalty down to the present time, without the slightest complaint or serious objection.

To Manchester showmen who know "the Flat Iron" ground, and the difficulty of maintaining such an admirable site for private business in the heart of a great city, this constitutes an undoubted record; but to showmen throughout the country, without the local knowledge, it is also a remarkable experience for one lessee to hold a position of this importance so long and so worthily. In public life, though this may seem a paradox, it is not always for the individual a good thing to be the son of a great man; the greatness of the sire in the public eye overshadows the personal worth and ability of the members of the family, however talented they may be. This, in a measure, was true of Robert Dixon in the very prime and vigour of his life's work.

To be the son-in-law of James Dean, and to work shoulder to shoulder in the splendid enterprise for the good of the showman world, of such a man, whilst it carried with it the constant satisfaction of being a fellow-worker with a great leader. It bore also the inevitable difficulty of feeling himself at times obscured or utterly absorbed in the stronger personality of his leader and father-in-law. As might have been expected, amongst the very first "enthusiasts" to answer the call of arms for the crying necessity of showman defence, and in vindication of the domestic and business life of amusement caterers, was Robert Dixon. To his credit also it must be recorded that, in the day of "small things," before the Society could employ paid officials, Robert Dixon acted as the first hon. sec. of the organisation.

No man has a keener memory of those early and absorbing days of strenuous effort for the betterment and uplifting in the eyes of the general public of the men and women of the road. Robert Dixon is honorary vice-president of the Guild, and occupied for many, many years, the onerous and responsible position of treasurer and trustee. For a great number of years, and with great distinction and much local respect, Robert Dixon was business-manager for Mr. John Whiting, of roundabout fame, and the principal Manchester local lessee of wakes. Some three years ago he left Mr. Whiting's service, and entered upon other undertakings. It is not to be wondered at that such a man, and with such unique business experience, should be frequently consulted by his fellow travellers upon matters affecting the business of the fair-ground. His ready response to the necessities of his fellow travellers, and shrewd advice in their time of difficulty and trouble, has endeared him to the heart of showland, and it is a fact that there is not a better-known or more highly-respected showman in the Manchester district than Robert Dixon.

In treating of Mr. Dixon's life work it would be obviously unfair to complete the story without a full acknowledgment of the estimable lady—Mrs. Dixon—who has been, in a true sense, the helpmeet for him, and "right-hand man" in all his many business enterprises.

Mr. and Mrs. Dixon have sons and daughters following in their footsteps, and actively engaged in fair-ground business.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS, ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
Feb 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, April 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
Feb. 11, March 25, May 6, 13, 20, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Jan. 7, Feb. 4, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 25, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Jan. 7, 28, Feb. 11, March 4, 25, April 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Feb. 18, 25, March 4, 25, April 1, 8, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
March 25, April 1, 29, May 6, 13, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Jan. 7 (three nights), Feb. 18, March 11, 18, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, May 6, onwards.
METROPOLE T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE, April 22 May 6, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE, Dec. 17, Jan. 14, Feb. 4, 11, 18, and March 4 on.
Address, SIDNEY BACON, Metropole T., Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.
Jan. 7, 28, Feb. 4, 11, March 11, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, April 8, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Dec. 17, 31, Feb. 4, 18, March 4 (three nights only), onwards.
Add., E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

LYRIC THEATRE,
BROMLEY.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, Three Nights, Dec. 20,
Six Nights, Jan. 7, 21, Feb. 11,
And a Really Good Pantomime,
Six Nights, Feb. 18.
Address, F. W. PURCELL,
"Lingwood," Yerbury-rd., Tufnell Park, London, N.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
WANTED Good Musical Companies, Feb. 4, Easter week, and on.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Derry.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, through obliging Mr. Dance, First-Class Star or Musical Attraction, Feb. 25 and March 4. Could entertain good Pantomime one week. Also Attractions May 6, and onwards.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
Elegant and Commodious Theatre.
WANTED, High-class Companies, for Jan. 21, Feb. 7, 8, 9, and 14, 15, 16, also 2 weeks in March. Last week, "Country Girl"; next week, "Proof." Address communications, JAMES P. MOORE.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED Good Attractions, Dec. 24, 31, Easter, and Whit.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager, Dec. 10
Queen's Theatre, Gateshead.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, Feb. 11, 18, March 4, and various onwards.
WILLIAM MARTIN, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, London.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Comic Opera, Musical Comedies, &c., April, onwards. Address, HERBERT VERE.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Drama, or other Big Attraction, Jan. 14, March 4, 11, and 25.
E. H. PAGE.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies, March 4, 18, April 1, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, Good Dramatic Company, or Variety Combination, complete in itself, for Dec. 17.
Dec. 17.
Wire or write,
THOS. SWINTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, DUMFRIES.
WANTED, Good Company, Dec. 24, 25, 26 (holiday), only vacancy before Easter.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Opera House, Londonderry.

THEATRE ROYAL, EXETER.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for Jan. 28 and Feb. 11, unexpectedly vacant owing to touring manager repudiating Contracts. Apply, MANAGING-DIRECTOR, T. R., Exeter.

WANTED for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-Class Companies, for Jan. 7, 21, Feb. 25, and onward. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, for Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool, March 25, April 1, 29, May 6, important attractions only. FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

GRAND THEATRE, DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for the following dates in the season of 1907:—May 20 (Whit week), July 1, 8, and 22, Sept. 9, 16, and 23. Address (during Mr. Alfred Hemming's absence in America), SECRETARY, c/o Pilling and Co., Chartered Accountants, 30, Brown-street, Manchester.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Jan. 7 and 14. Good Panto. Write for first in.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for T. R., Chatham, April 8 and 29, and May 13; T. R., Aston and Smethwick, March 25, April 15 and 22, May 6. BARNARD, Chislett-road, West Hampstead.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Good Companies, Jan. 10 (3 nights), Jan. 28, March 18, April 1. Apply, SHERWOOD and Co.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Jan. 28 (?), Feb. 25, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE METROPOLE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant April 22, onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Dec. 31, Jan. 17, 28, onward, with exceptions.
(Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Dec. 10, Feb. 4, onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant Dec. 17, 31, Jan. 7, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant Dec. 10, 17, 31, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD."
Vacant April 8, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE."
Vacant Jan. 21, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S."
Vacant Dec. 31, Jan. 14, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA."
Vacant Feb. 11, onward, with exceptions.

Companies "Farmed" through Fit-ups.
To Let, on Royalty, "THE PRAIRIE FLOWER" and "OUR BRITISH EMPIRE."
Excellent plants printing.
All communications to
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.
Holds £90 at Ordinary Prices.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for March 18 (?), April 1 (?) and 15, May 6, on, with exceptions.

The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring.

All Applications for Dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, High-class Musical Comedy or London Successes for the following dates, 1907:

Feb. 11,	April 22,
Feb. 18,	April 29,
March 4,	May 6,
March 11,	May 13,
March 18,	May 20
March 25,	and onwards.

Address, CHAS. E. MACHIN.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-Class Companies, for vacant Spring dates,
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
Feb. 25, March 11, 18, 25, April 8, May 6, June and July.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
April 29 (Drama), May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22.
Easter vacant through disappointment at Hastings and Folkestone. Big Musical Comedies wanted; Whit Week also vacant, both Theatres; Must be big Shows or not entertained.
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES
WANTED, Strong Attractions, Dec. 17, Dec. 17, Dec. 24, Dec. 24, Wire, Wire, Wire.
R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Good Attraction, for Jan. 14, also February dates.
Address, J. H. OAKDEN, as above.

WANTED, Attractions, Dec. 17 and Feb. 18 (one night Benefit), for T. R., Darwen.
F. J. ROBINSON.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Dec. 27 and 28, Jan. 7, 14 (three nights). Wire, PHILLIPS.

P. O. W., NUNEATON.
WANTED, Musical Shows, Jan. 14 (to oblige a Manager), March 18, June 3, Aug. 19, Sept. 9, 16, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, 18, Dec. 2, 16. A. F. CROSS.

KILBURN EMPIRE.
WANTED, Pantomime Company, to open Boxing Night; also Musical Burlesque and Sketch Artists. By letter, E. GOULD, Kilburn Empire, Kilburn.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, HORWICH.
WANTED, good Companies, Dec. 31, onward, with exceptions; also Sacred Shows, Sunday nights. Day bill, particulars to F. LEWIS.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for Xmas, Clacton, also good Fit-up Companies from Xmas onward; also Attractions for Colchester, Jan. 7, 28, Feb. 11, and onward. Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Companies, Prince's T., Llandudno; Queen's P., Rhyl; P. H., Colwyn Bay. Special Attractions, Dec. 24, on, with exceptions.
CHAS. CHAPLIN, Sea View, Colwyn Bay.

WANTED, Strong Attraction, Dec. 17 (owing to transfer). Address,
McLEOD LOADER, Theatre Royal, St. Helens.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, March 25 (suitable attraction for Holy Week), April 8, 15, 22, May 6 and 13 (Spring Season), Whit, and August Bank Holiday.
CHARLES CAREY.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, Powerful Attraction for Jan. 21, to oblige Mr. George Dance, who has cancelled "Duchess of Dantzic" Tour. Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Jan. 21 and 28, Feb. 11 and 25.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions,
QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH,
March 18, 25, April 1 (?), 22, 29;
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE,
Musical Attractions, three nights, Feb. 25, 28, March 14, March 18, April 1, 8, 15.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

CASTLE THEATRE, RICHMOND.
WANTED, Good Pantomime, Dec. 26, ten days.
WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 7, 20.
Apply, JAMES KIERNAN, Owner and Manager.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, Companies, Dec. 17, 24, Jan. 14, 21 (latter dates can be booked in conjunction with Opera House, Perth). W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, Panto., or Good Dramas, for Borough Theatre, Heywood, Jan. 7, 14, and 21. Stage takes 18ft. flats. W. F. SYKES, 11, City-road, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Dec. 26, 27, Town Hall, Maidenhead, Fit-up Company. Shares, Panto., Musical Comedy, Drama. Wire, LEONEZ, Park-st., Maidenhead.

CASINO, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-Class Fit-up Companies, Musical Comedy preferred; Share or Rent.
Apply, THORNELL, Casino, Bexhill-on-Sea.

COMPANIES WANTED.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.

The Leading Theatre of the Town.
The only Theatre in the Town Lighted by Electricity.
Stage capable of any Production.
Can Fly any size Cloth.
This week, Mr. Charles Harrington's Co., "The Sailors of the King."
To be followed by "The Shulamite,"
Miss Minnie Palmer in "My Sweetheart,"
"Sherlock Holmes," "His House in Order," &c.

None but the Best Companies Booked at this Theatre.

WANTED, Feb. 4 and 25.
Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Inverness, Attractions for Feb. and March. Vacant dates apply, CAMERON BURGESS.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Magnificent New Town Hall, moderate rental, permanent stage, excellent accommodation. F. W. WESTERN, Sandy, Beds.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards. Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, Feb. 18 and March 11.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11 and March 11.
Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 24, March 11, April 1.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE,"
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, 25, April 1.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 21.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 25, March 4.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 14, May 20.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, April 15, 22, 29.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, Jan. 14.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of Jan. 7 and 14, Scala Production.
Wire or write, W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, Jan. 7. CHARLES HARRINGTON, P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby. "Sailors of the King," 380 performances.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Feb. 11 (through transferring), March 4 (probably), and Easter.
Only Vacant Dates.
His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness.
Aut., 1907, Grand Production, "Rollicking Rory."

Mr. NORMAN V. NORMAN'S TOURS.
WANTED, Feb. 4 and 11, March 18, and April 1, "Robin Hood," &c.
See Companies' Advertisement.
W. HOWARD ASHLEY,
Crystal Palace Theatre, S.E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Jan. 21, March 11.
Easter week vacant.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Prince of Wales Theatre, Mexboro'.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED Jan. 7,
Feb. 4,
March 4, 11, 18.
Address, J. W. CORDINER,
Theatre Royal, North Shields.
See Companies' advertisements, page 2.

FRANK BERTRAM'S TOURS.
"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS,"
by arrangement with Mr. Martin Harvey.
WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4.
EUGENE BERTRAM,
O. H., Tunbridge Wells.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
Sixty-seventh week of present Tour.
Booked and re-booked into Oct., 1907.
WANTED, Whit Week Midlands
March 25 (follow Jarrow), April 15.
FRANK AYRTON, King's, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Xmas, Jan. 7, 21, 28, onward, with exceptions, for the above Attraction.
Address, F. BROOKE WARREN,
Grand Theatre, Brighton.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, Jan. 14, 21
Feb. 4, 11,
April 29,
on, with exceptions.
T. R., Darwen, Dec. 10.

EDWARD MARRIS' COMPANIES.
WANTED, for "Robinson Crusoe,"
Feb. 4,
Feb. 4,
Between Liverpool and South Shields.
EDWARD MARRIS, Theatre Royal, Grantham.

"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND." Enormous Success.
Miss V. ST. LAWRENCE as FIEND.
WANTED, New Year, Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 18, 25, March 18, April 15, 22, June 3, 10, July 1, July 22, 29.
MONTAGUE BEAUDYN, Court, Bacup.

"THE TRAITOR." E. Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg's Magnificent Production.
WANTED, Jan. 7, 28, Feb. 4. E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Prince's Theatre, Accrington.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
By Geo. R. Sims.
WANTED, Jan. 7 and 14 (North or Midlands), also Feb. 11, for this great Attraction.

H. HOLLISTER, T. R., Norwich.

"HER ONE GREAT SIN," "DISHONOURED," and "PENALTY OF CRIME."
WANTED. Xmas.
JACKSON, Greenisland, Belfast.

"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae.
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH," by F. A. Scudamore.
WANTED, Dec. 31, Dec. 31, Jan. 28, April 1, Wire, to-day. FRANCES DELAVAL, T. R., Leicester; Dec. 10, Avenue, Kettering.

THEATRES WANTED.

MISS ANNIE HUGHES
MISS ANNIE HUGHES
MISS ANNIE HUGHES
MISS ANNIE HUGHES
will Tour
"TOMMY,"
"TOMMY,"
"TOMMY,"
"TOMMY,"
"TOMMY,"
"TOMMY,"
By Jerome K. Jerome.

Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.

"TOMMY" is a Striking Melodrama.
"TOMMY" is a Striking Melodrama.

WANTED, Dates by Miss Annie Hughes, for "TOMMY," a Striking Melodrama.

Extracts from the Press:
So seldom is it that the plot and interest of a modern piece develop together pari passu, and find their real climax at and not before the fall of the final curtain, that—if only for its achievement of this rare virtue—Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's play, which was produced last evening at the Camden Theatre, occupies an unusual position in modern drama. Such a bold challenge to the convention has hardly ever before been placed upon an English stage, and the loud and prolonged approbation of yesterday's audience is not the least curious incident of the evening's production.—Daily Telegraph.

The part is obviously one which would exactly suit Miss Annie Hughes. The first act and half of the second act show Tommy in her comedy aspect, and a very delightful figure she is. Miss Annie Hughes is quite at her best in the earlier scenes, but when the piece suddenly turns to melodrama she rises to the occasion, and shows a power and an intensity which will surprise all those who have followed her career.—Globe.

Apply direct to Miss ANNIE HUGHES,
4A, Portman-mansions, Baker-street, W.

LINGFORD CARSON'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, Managers to kindly Note that all the following Plays are beautifully staged and well played, and any production not satisfactory to the resident management, I shall take it as a personal favour if they will acquaint me immediately, so that I may have an opportunity of rectifying.—Faithfully yours, LINGFORD CARSON.

"THE DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Autumn Dates, for this most excellent attraction, August, on. L. CARSON, Keighley.

"BABES IN THE WOOD."
Beautiful Dresses, and, above all, a Company of Carefully-selected Artists.
WANTED, Feb. 4, First-class Theatres only. CARSON, Keighley.

HENRY BEDFORD'S CO.
WANTED, Dec. 31 and Jan. 7, to follow T. R., Stratford, "Gipsy Jack," as popular as ever. Can change bill. HENRY BEDFORD, 99, Halton-rd., London, N.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Jan. 28 (to oblige Fred Granville, Esq.), Feb. 4 (Lancs. or Yorks.).
DICKIE CLARE, Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

"HER ONE GREAT SIN."
WANTED, Xmas, unexpectedly vacant. Wire, JACKSON, Greenisland, Belfast.

"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, with large holding capacity, Whit and August Bank Holiday weeks, for the Biggest Financial Success touring. Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham

"THE LONDON FIREMAN."
WANTED, Jan. 14, Feb. 4, March 4, 11, the only vacant dates next year.
GARSIDE and KNOWLES,
Theatre Royal, Barnsley.

GRANVILLE AND THORNE'S CO.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Moneymaker, Dec. 24, Feb. 11, 25, March 18.
Wire, Wire, Wire for Xmas.
FRANK M. THORNE, T. R., Worcester.

"THE SLEDGE-HAMMER."
WANTED, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 11, and onwards with exceptions. GEORGE HENRY, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.C.

MESSRS. SHINTON AND GREENWOOD'S TOUR.
"THE PRICE OF HER SOUL."
WANTED, Big Theatre, for Xmas.
Wire, JOHN B. SHINTON,
Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD'S COMPANY.
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, Feb. 18, on with exceptions. Excellently advertised, sumptuously staged, brilliantly played. Add., STUART CLEVELAND, 30, Victoria-st., Fleetwood.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO'S.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Dec. 31, for this Great Play, an ideal holiday attraction, just redressed with new uniforms, &c., band of drums, fifes, and bugles, for parade. F. G. KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, for this Brilliant Attraction, Dec. 31, Jan. 7 and 14.
Miss Georgette Thierry as Ninon.
As many laughs as a pantomime.
HARRY FOXWELL, Theatre Royal. Sunderland.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Dec. 31.
FRED BULMER, Lyceum T., Newport, Mon.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, "For Auld Lang Syne."
FRED BULMER, Lyceum T., Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Aug. 5, onwards, "The Girl Who Went Astray."
FRED BULMER, Lyceum T., Newport, Mon.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, Jan. 7, 14, Easter.
FRED BULMER, Lyceum T., Newport, Mon.

Grand Christmas Production.
"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR," by Eva Elwes.
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 28, Feb. 11, 18, March 4, Easter, on, Bookings include R., Leeds, R., Rotherham, Chesterfield, St. Helens, Col., Oldham, Q., Liverpool, Bootle, Grimsby, &c. Everything carried; big plant of special printing.
E. A'DELL, H. M. T., Barrow-in-Furness.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, Feb. 4, 25, March 11, 18, Easter.
BEAUDYN and LIVESEY,
The Opera House, St. Helens (return).

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Xmas Week and Jan. 28.
Address, FRANK E. BURDETT,
To-day, T. R., Leigh; Dec. 10, Royalty, Chester.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 24, Feb. 18, 25, and few later.
Magnificently advertised, beautifully staged, and splendidly played.
Grand T., Southampton (third visit), Dec. 10.

MISS MARY NEIL AND MR. GEORGE KIRK'S CO., "HER LUCK IN LONDON."
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
New Year's Week, Jan. 7, 21, 28.
A few Autumn Dates still open.
CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
This, T. R., Stockport; next, Alex., Birmingham.

WANTED, "Revenge; or Death or Glory Boys." Star Cast, including E. Hill-Mitchelson, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 25, and March 11. E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Prince's, Accrington.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Dec. 31, Jan. 21, "Mason"; Jan. 7, 21, "Parisienne"; Jan. 28, "Popple." Communicate, CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"THE THRONE OF TERROR."
WANTED, Dec. 24, 31, various on. Mrs. Walter Bentley as Victorine D'Almonte.
W. J. MILLER, Motherwell (3), Coatbridge (3).

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"WHEN IT WAS DARK,"
"WHEN IT WAS DARK,"
Jan. 7, 28 (?), Feb. 18, 25, April 1.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Dates, for this Superb Production,
Jan. 14, 28, April 1.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Dates, for this Drama, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"BLUEBELL IN FAIRYLAND."
Forty-Five in Company.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Easter.
Only Vacant Date
till Xmas, 1907.
E. GRAHAM-FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
"THE FORTY THIEVES."
WANTED, for this Gorgeous Production, Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and 11, unrivalled Cast,
"THE BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Wanted, Jan. 28, Feb. 11, 18. Managers kindly note this Colossal Combination of Comedy will be produced at the STAR THEATRE, LIVERPOOL, Dec. 17 and week. Keep some open time for this certain winner.
FRED GRANVILLE, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
Mr. Sidney Dench has arranged with Messrs. Haddon and Loader to tour the above, with New Scenery, &c., a First-class Company of Well-known Artists, and any amount of New Printing. Vacant Dates.
WANTED, Dec. 24, Jan. 7, 14, 28, and on. Wire Dec. 24, Wire.
SIDNEY DENCH, 33, Tudor-road, Cardiff.

LINGFORD CARSON'S REPERTOIRE CO.
"MODERN ADVENTURESS," "HEART OF A HERO," "TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN," AND "OCTOROON."
Enormous Business at every Theatre visited.
WANTED, Theatres (unexpectedly vacant through transfer), Jan. 14 and March 4. Only Vacant Dates until Sept. 16, 1907. Wire at once for Jan. 14, Wire. CHARLES DRAYCOTT, To-day, Royalty, Barrow; next, C. T., Spennymoor.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR,"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, through transferring. This piece will be most elaborately produced at the Star Theatre, Liverpool.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Wanted, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, for this great Attraction. Racehorses toured. Doing bigger business than ever.
Wire for both Plays.
F. G. KIMBERLEY,
Theatre, Jarrow-on-Tyne; next, Gateshead.

MISS WINIFRED MAUDE'S CO., "THE SINS OF A CITY," by Nita Rae; "THE STOWAWAY," by Tom Craven.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Dec. 24 and 31 (precede Hammersmith).
Dec. 24 and 31 (precede Hammersmith).
Both First-class Productions. Specialities can be introduced in "The Stowaway." VICTOR DU CANE, to-day, C. T., Bacup; next, Grand Theatre, Halifax.

"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
Herbert Ralland's Principal Company.
WANTED (unexpectedly vacant) Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, and several Spring Dates.
Address,
RALLAND, King's Theatre, Edinburgh.

"ALICE, WHERE ART THOU?"
WANTED, Christmas, and onward.
A delightful play.
Powerful Plot. Absorbing Interest. No Sensation.
First Produced at Oxford, July, with enormous success, receiving glorious Press Notices, and drawing excellent business.
Wire, LOIE ESMOND, Grand Theatre, Falkirk; next week, Coatbridge and Motherwell.

"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."
WANTED, Theatres that can hold money, Jan. 7, 14, 21, owing to transferring London dates. Enormous business this week at Osborne, Manchester. Wires to-day, WHITTY, Osborne, Manchester; next week, T. R., Bury.

"BLUEBEARD."
WANTED, good Theatres, Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and 11.
WILLIAM MARTIN, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANY.
"OLIVER TWIST."
(by arrangement with Mr. Tree).
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, March 18, and Easter.
WILLIAM MARTIN, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

E. H. KNIGHT'S and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 7, 14, Feb. 4, 18, Thanks Samuel James, Esq., for Contract, Xmas week, Cardiff; Chas. Barnard, Esq., for Contracts, Aston (Easter), Smethwick, and Wolverhampton; J. E. Boughton, Esq., for Contract, Feb. 24, 1908.
GEORGE DENHAM,
This, Royal, Huddersfield; next, Queen's, Leeds.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
Tragedy, Comedy, Drama.
WANTED, Christmas and New Year, Wire,
283, Edge-lane, Liverpool.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
Tragedy, Comedy, Drama.
WANTED, Dec. 24, 31, Wire,
283, Edge-lane, Liverpool.

"THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
WANTED, Dec. 24 and 31, through extension of tour.
Now in Sixth Year.
Also, "THE SORROWS OF SATAN,"
Superb Cast. Crowded with Mystic Effects.
Either or both Plays.
Third series of dates, the Buchanan Tour.
Wire, to-day, LOIE ESMOND, Theatre, Falkirk; Dec. 10, Coatbridge; Dec. 13, Motherwell.

RUSSELL ROSSE'S REPERTOIRE CO.
WANTED, Dec. 24 and 31.
RUSSELL ROSSE, Grand T., Middlesbro'.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.
"FOR BETTER OR WORSE."
WANTED, for this most Successful Play,
Dec. 31 Vacant.
Dec. 31 Vacant.
Dec. 31 Vacant.
An Ideal Holiday Attraction; absolutely the finest Musical Comedy Drama on the road; beautifully mounted, splendidly played, and well advertised. First-Class Agent and Printing ad lib. Also Jan. 7. Re Dates, Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Feb. 25, 1907, for the No. 1 "Belle of New York." CHARLES THORBURN, 3, Bedford-street, W.C.

MOORE-KENNEDY "WHITTINGTON" PANTO.
WANTED, through Abandonment of New Theatre, Rugby, Jan. 7, 7.
Address, JAMES P. MOORE, Theatre, Kidderminster.

THE "APEX" ANIMATED AND TALKING PICTURE CO., with the CHRONOPHONE (Gaumont's patent).
The Greatest Wonder of the Age.
WANTED, Theatres, Music Halls, Halls, &c. Feb. 11, following Blackpool.
Shares or certainty.
All communications to
GENERAL-MANAGER,
81, Victoria-avenue, Hull.
Telegrams, "Chrono, Hull."

THEATRES WANTED.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres,
CHARLES CAREY.
THE BRIGHTEST OF MUSICAL COMEDY
of the Year.
A new edition of the Successful Musical Comedy,
"AFTER THE BALL,"
which has now completed a phenomenally successful Tour of twelve months.
"THE PICK OF THE BUNCH,"
An Exceptionally Strong Cast.
Full Chorus and Ballet.
Scenery, Dresses, and Printing Second to None.
CHARLES CAREY, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Theatres, Halls, for Mme. Natalia's (contralto and pianist, direct from S. Africa) Grand Concert and Vaudeville Company, Dec. 17, and on, ten turns guaranteed. SCOTT, O. H., Kidderminster.

WANTED, Dec. 10, 17, and Jan. 14, and on, for the Boston Bioscope, all the latest up-to-date pictures, 20 minutes to 3 hours. Just concluding at the Colosseum, Blackpool, and re-engaged for another fortnight, commencing Dec. 31. Also, if desired, Gilroy, the talented ventriloquist, in his up-to-date entertainment, for Monday next. GILROY, Colosseum, Blackpool.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
WANTED, to Rehearse Dec. 27, at Liverpool, open Dec. 31, Good Juvenile Man, for romantic leading part (to sing preferred), and combine stage-management; must be tall, and of gentlemanly appearance and address. Also Intense Character Heavy Man (no comedy), capable of stage-management. Novices don't write. Age, exact height, chest measurement, last two refs., photos. (in all cases where not personally known, or no notice will be taken), with stamped envelope for return, absolute lowest terms, and three weeks' addresses, to CHALMERS MACKEY, Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.; next, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"CLAUDIAN" CO.
WANTED, Tall, Young, Responsible Actor, one used to legitimate work preferred; also Young Lady, with good contralto voice; both to open Dec. 24. Rehearse four days previously. Recent photos. (or useless), latest references, height, age, terms, &c., to WILLIAM MACLAREN, 43, Micorgate, Lancaster.

WANTED, Light Comedian and Full Cast, for "The Mountain Climber," Xmas week, at Oxford. The members of the July cast are invited to write in. Interview only by appointment. THOMAS SIDNEY, 16, Long-acre, W.C.

WANTED, Artists, for Christmas Production of "Cymbeline." Apply, V. TURNER, Grand Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, "No Escape," &c., Bioscope Operator (combine Baggage). Particulars, lowest terms, COLEMAN DAVIES, 50, Slaney-street, Newcastle, Staffs.

WANTED, Funny Comedian and Heavy Lead, powerful, height not above 5ft. 6in, young. Call, 1 p.m., LUCK, 78, St. Agnes-place, Kennington.

WANTED, Ladies, for Lead and Light Comedy, in sketch, first-class tour. Particulars, HUGH LESLIE DOBREE, 12, Brunswick-terrace, Weymouth.

WANTED, for "Sign of the Cross," rehearse Monday, tall Juvenile Actress, (for Ancaria: also strong Character Actor, for Strabo. Particulars, with photo. and references, HENRY CHATTELL, Watford.

WANTED, Juvenile Lady, height 5ft. 10in, Costume production; good voice and delivery imperative. Lowest terms, photo., references, COLONEL LORRAINE, Didcott's, 6, St. John-st, Adelphi.

WANTED, tall, fair Lady, to play small part in Sketch. Apply at once to
CISSIE LAWSON, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, to Open Dec. 24, Gentleman, for Good Parts; also Gentleman, for Small Parts. All particulars (letters only), 283, Edge-lane, Liverpool.

WANTED, Good Reliable Character Actor for Cregeen, Bright Young Soubrette, Assistant Acting-Manager (Shorthand and Typist preferred), smart young married Carpenter (with tools), wife to be useful, commence about Dec. 24 or 31. Fullest particulars, A. B. CROSS, "Manxman" Co., G. T., Southampton.

WANTED, Gentleman, to Play Responsible Parts; must be tall. Refs., &c.,
NORMAN V. NORMAN, Crystal Palace Theatre, S.E.

WANTED, tall, responsible man. Lowest terms and reference,
F. JARMAN, Torridge, Tor Church-road, Torquay.

WANTED, Full Robust Character Actor, for "By Sheer Pluck," rehearse at once.
ERNEST DARE, T. R., Thornley, Durham.

"HER LUCK IN LONDON."
WANTED, to Rehearse Tuesday, good Character Comedian, through releasing. Apply, fullest particulars, CHARLES A. LEICESTER, Alex., Birmingham. Those personally known wire.

"THE TYRANT."
WANTED, Smart, Experienced Comedian, short, about 5ft. 6in., through disappointment. Rehearse Monday, Osborne, Manchester. Wire lowest terms.
SOMERFIELD, Fearnhead, Warrington.

WANTED, good Comedian (short), sing and dance, rehearse Tuesday. Full particulars, age, height, terms, refs., EDWARD SURREY, Prince's Theatre, Horwich.

WANTED, for Sketch Tour, Comedian and Old Woman, joint engagement preferred. Apply, with lowest terms, &c., to Box 4,096, "The Era."

WANTED, in a well-known Touring Company (Drama), visiting Best Theatres, two tall, gentlemanly Amateurs, to play small parts and understudy. No premium. Small commencing salary. Full particulars of age, height, experience (if any), and photo., to Box 4,086, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Gentleman (Amateur), for small parts in Shakespearean Répertoire. No premium required. Write, Miss GLOSSOP-HARRIS, 9B, Hyde Park-mansions, N.W.

WANTED, Known, an excellent opportunity occurs for a clever Amateur Gentleman, anxious to start in the Profession, Sound Touring Company. Apply in first instance by letter only, enclosing photo. and height, to H. J. B., 33, Canonbury-road, London, N.

WANTED, Young Gentleman, good correspondent in German, French, speak both languages, play part Pantomime Sketch, Continental Tour; also good Mime Artist, experienced, young, for intense Miser, used to leaps, vamps. Call 12 a.m., LUCK, 78, St. Agnes-place, Kennington (back of Park), S.E.

"WOMAN AND WINE" TOUR.
WANTED, Handsome Chorus Ladies, to rehearse Dec. 18, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes. Photographs, references, terms, E. VIVIAN EDMONDS, Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

WANTED, for Dinah Morris's Musical Comedy, fifty Smart Ladies; must have good voices, or of no use, age 18-24. Apply, Monday and Tuesday, between 12 and 2, White Horse Hotel, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Entertainer (Young and Bright Gentleman), at a large Hydro., near London, for Xmas Holidays, to arrange and lead the entertainments. Free, and high-class board and residence, and guinea fee.
Address, with full particulars,
O. D. W., at Horncastle's, 61, Cheapside, E.C.
Also a Good Piper and Highland Dancer.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Eight Lady Dancers, immediately.
Apply, GROSSMAN and ALTMAN,
40, Lisle-street, Leicester-square.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Sydney Lynn thanks George Robertson, Esq., for offer of Jack, in "Charley's Aunt"; also Fred Somerfield, Esq., for offer of light comedy part in "The Tyrant." Dis., light com., char. com. Add., 209, New King's-rd., Fulham, S.W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

JACK HADDON'S PANTOMIME.
WANTED, owing to illness, Good Principal Girl; must dance. Also pair of Sisters, sing and dance, for second boy and girl. Terms, photos., references (indispensable), JACK HADDON, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

WANTED, Known to all concerned, Fred Granville's Pantomime, "The Forty Thieves," Grand Theatre, Derby. Monday, Dec. 17, 10 sharp. J. L. BARRY.

MOORE-KENNEDY PANTOMIME.
WANTED, three Chorus and Ballet Ladies. Lowest terms, &c., with photos., to J. P. MOORE, O. H., Kidderminster.

WANTED, for Pantomime, two Good Knockabout Comedians; also Pantomimist (with speciality preferred), for monkey. State lowest terms, &c., ALFRED SELWYN, Empire, Hull.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE."
WANTED, First-class Lady Choristers, not less than 5ft. 7in.
Photo. and fullest particulars,
EDWARD MARRIS, Theatre Royal, Grantham.

WANTED, through Breach of Contract, pair of good Knockabout Comedians, also good Speciality. Wire, lowest terms; rehearse Wednesday. Long tour. JAZON, T. R., Chesterfield.

WANTED, Lady, for Small Part, Pantomime, and understudy principal boy; not tall.
Apply, 11 o'clock, Monday,
EDWARD CRANSTON, West London Theatre.

WANTED, Knockabout Pantomimists, Smart Boy (play Bugle), also Midget or Dwarf; long tour. Apply, salary, &c., SECRETARY, 18A, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, London and Provinces. Fares paid. Apply, 10 o'clock, Monday, EDWARD CRANSTON, West London Theatre, Church-street, Edgware-road, W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Panto., Little Rose Pink, Comedy and Descriptive Vocalist, Speciality Dancer. Can be seen working City Varieties, Leeds, Dec. 17, 51, Croft-avenue, Wallsend; or BURNS' Agency, Hartlepool.

WANTED, Known, Vacant through misunderstanding, Lily Stuart, Principal Girl last year West London Theatre. Permanent, 14 Hutchinson-street, Aldgate, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Flora Macdonald, A.L.C.M., soprano, 5ft. 9½in., Liberty Panto., Fairy Queen preferred. Last season, Bros. Luck. 56, Drayton-road, Harlesden, N.W.

WANTED, immediate dates, by Floria, Wonderful Equilibristique Act. Great fun on the swinging wire. 38, Harwood-rd., Walham Green, London.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty for Pantomime, Fred W. Millis, Dame or Comedian (not Knockabout); would also introduce Ventriloquial Speciality in Palace Scene; good lithos.; also Miss Ivy Kildare, Soprano Vocalist, as Fairy Queen. Communications, Wattle Bloom, Broomwater West, Teddington.

WANTED, Known, Harry Vernon, Baritone Vocalist, open for Panto., Demon or Emperor. Wire, 12, St. Peter's-street, Huddersfield.

WANTED, Panto. Engagement, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman, with Concertinacalities, Sing, Dance. 54, Tewkesbury-road, London, N.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Victor Vernon, Principal Comedian four seasons Theatre Royal, Plymouth. Wire, 69, Cranworth-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Panto, Bob Baxter, dame preferred, four seasons J. F. Elliston, Esq., last two seasons R. Arthur, Esq. Gaiety, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Wal Kent, Double-voiced Eccentric, Vacant Dec. 17, Panto., owing to misunderstanding with J. P. Moore, Esq. Coms., 13 Lower Buckingham-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Maxford and O'Neill.
Address, 6, Plan-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, London's Lazy Coalmen, Kroney Bros., are at Liberty for Panto., through misunderstanding, parts and speciality. Thanks for offers with Howard and Wyndham, John Hart, Milton Bode, and others, &c. Perm. Add., 8, Wansey-st., London, S.E.

WANTED, by Denby and Dent, Pantomime. Address,
"The Era" Office.

WANTED, Pantomime, the Renowned Turle and Turle, Rollicking Comedy Gymnastic Speciality. The Success of many Pantos. Small parts and harlequinade if required. Wire, 28, Upper Gough-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Panto., The Carls, Comedy Trampoline Act. Big Speciality and Parts, can also produce Star Traps above stage, without fixing; new method. Big Novelty for Travelling Panto. At present, Flora, Amsterdam. Terms, lithos., &c., 85, Rectory-road, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, Known, Myles and May, Comedians, thanks for Offers. Still vacant Panto. Park Palace, next, Roscommon, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by the Three Danbrooks, Refined Musical Comedy Act. At Liberty for Panto. or Combination. Offers invited. 16, Burtop-road, Lower Tooting, S.W.

WANTED, Pantomime Managers Playing no Harlequinade to Engage Willard's Marvellous Marionettes. All coms. to Queen's Palace of Varieties, Ilkeston.

WANTED, Known, the Latest Novelty, Dora's Great Revolving Table Troupe, Looping the Loop, and Trapeze Toy Terriers and Cats, great Speciality for Pantomime; silver-plated and electric apparatus; magnificent fit-up. Permanent address, Brook House Farm, Chigwell, Essex.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, for Week, own brushes. Pringle write if at Liberty. JOHN CASSIDY, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, Durham.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

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WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Known, S. Beltram open to receive Contracts, large or small, Touring Scenery re-painted; salary or contract. Address, c/o Waterloo Hotel, Liverpool.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, G. Sackmann, Scenic Artist and Contractor. Painting-room, Kennington Green, Kennington-road, S.E. Tel., N3295 Hop.

WANTED, Contracts for Bright, Effective Scenery, at lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, by Alfred Ford, Scenic Artist, an engagement, or contract. Address, 110, Wenlock-street, New North-road, Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, Scenery, &c., Supplied, shortest notice. Terms Scenic Co. W. B. BOSTOCK, 11, Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

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WANTED, Gentleman, to Act as Secretary to an Important Company, now in course of formation, and who contemplate erecting Hippodromes in eight towns in the Provinces. Sites already secured. Applicants must be of good appearance, willing to assist in the management, and thoroughly trustworthy. Qualification, the holding of 500 of the Company's shares. Particulars by interview only.
Apply, in the first instance,
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WANTED, for Touring Pantomime, Acting-Manager, young and energetic. Letters only, stating experience, references, salary, &c., ALFRED SELWYN, Empire, Hull.

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WANTED, for the Greatest of all Poole's Productions, good High Lithographers, for five weeks, Edinburgh, to open Monday, Dec. 17. Apply, CLIFF CRAWFORD, Advance Manager, Athenæum, Maryport; after Monday, Synod Hall, Edinburgh.

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WANTED, at once, First-class Carpenter, small part, for "Life's Sweetest Sins." Photo., ref., with addresses, T. ARTHUR JONES, Theatre, Glossop.

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WANTED, a Man, handy with tools, and to make himself useful. Lowest terms, ROLAND, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, a Wardrobe Mistress, salary £2 per week. Write full particulars to Box 4,097, "The Era."

WANTED, Beginner, to assist in front of Theatre; good opportunity to learn business. Apply personally, Monday or Tuesday, MANAGER, Laurie Hotel, John-street, Edgware-road.

WANTED, Engagement as Stage-Manager; good refs.; twelve years in last situation; good all-round man. J. BARTLETT, 10, Burnham-st., Canning Town.

To Music Hall Proprietors.
WANTED, Known, Advertiser, Entertainment Secretary and Stage Manager of one of the Biggest Clubs in London, is Open to Accept a situation in town or country; very capable Stage-Manager and Organiser; first-class references. Reply Box 4,080, "The Era."

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WANTED, Re-engagement by Edward Walpole. Advance Agent, Theatres or Fit-up; just finished successful Tour Hardie and Von Leer's Co. Excellent references. Post Office, Charing Cross, London.

WANTED, Situation as Practical Electrician, used to Effects, Arcs, Limes, Operating, Gas; own repairs; life's experience; First-class refs. Can commence at once. Apply, Box 4,088, "The Era."

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WANTED, by Smart Young Man, 22, Situation immediately. Baggage Biller, assist generally, willing, obliging; excellent refs. H. R., 54, Beardsall's-row, Retford.

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WANTED, Engagement in Box Office, by Miss L. Dale, late Theatre Royal, Stockton-on-Tees. 55, Ware-st., Norton-rd., Stockton.

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TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, for above, Musical-Director (Pianist), must be used to Musical Comedy and Variety, to rehearse N. Shields, Dec. 13. State age, height, and send last two references, recent photo., lowest terms, and full particulars, to J. W. CORDINER, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

WANTED, First-class Variety Leader, Violinist, open Dec. 17, permanency to suitable man, Midlands; good appearance, steady and reliable. State age, terms, refs. Also Band 16, for West Coast, later. Address, CONDUCTOR, 42, Bingly-terrace, Bingly-road, Coventry.

WANTED, Musical Director and Full Band, open all the year round; must be used to Variety. No fancy prices, as town only small. References and terms, Box 4,087, "The Era."

WANTED, for Pantomime, Musical Conductor (good pianist, able to arrange), also for touring and resident, first violin, cornet, and pianist: must be well up in variety business, or no use. Write, with full particulars, qualifications, references, terms, &c.,
ALFRED SELWYN, Empire, Hull.

WANTED, Repetiteur, Second Violin, and Viola, to open Dec. 24, at Gaiety Theatre, Glasgow.
Sobriety and full knowledge of variety business indispensable.
Members of the A.M.U. preferred.
State age, with references, to
W. MILNE, Musical-Director,
118, Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, First Violin, open Dec. 21. State age, experiences, latest references, and lowest terms, J. H. OARDEN, Lyceum Theatre, Govan Glasgow.

WANTED, Good Second Violin, and Drummer, with Effects, to open Dec. 17, permanency. Terms, age, references, C. ELPHINSTONE, Grand T., Hanley.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRISTOL.
WANTED, First Violin, for Pantomime Season, must be First-class Player. Rehearsals commence on Monday, Dec. 10. Full particulars, age, salary, &c., to G. R. CHAPMAN, Mus.-Director.

WANTED, for S.E. District Panto., Violin, Flute, Cornet, 'Cello, Clarionet, and Drums. Lowest terms and refs. Box 4,103, "The Era."

POOLE'S NEW IMPERIAL MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, Immediately, Double Bass; must assist with fittings. Wire,
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WANTED, 'Cello, Oboe, First Cornet, for Pantomime Season. Permanency to suitable Musicians. Apply, with last two references, ERNEST CARPENTER, Grand Theatre, Brighton.

WANTED, Lady 'Cellist, to Deputise two or three weeks, at Xmas. Write terms to F. FROST, 43, Woodbine-street, South Shields.

HOWARD and WYNDHAM, LTD, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Flute and Piccolo, open Monday; rehearsal, 10 o'clock. Permanency to good man. Wire, GEORGE BURNLEY, Theatre Royal.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Pianist, for Queen's T., Pembroke Dock, to open Dec. 22; stock season. Terms to CLINCH and DALTON, 32, Albemarle-road, Taunton, Somerset.

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WANTED, a thoroughly experienced Drummer. Permanent position to good, reliable man. State last three references, terms, age, &c., to COMPTON, Musical-Director,
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WANTED, Known, Edward P. Delevanti, Musical-Director, Composer, Arranger, Disengaged 3, Clarence-chambers, Regent's Park, N.W.

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WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement, steady, experienced, theatre or variety. First-class refs. H. E., 29, Palatine-rd., Stoke Newington, N.

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WANTED, by Lady 'Cellist, Engagement in London, after Christmas, Sundays excepted. 'CELLIST, 118, Elgin-avenue, Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, as 'Cellist, Engagement or Deputising, from 16th to 25th; any business. Address, R. SORTIN, 28, Union-road, Cambridge.

WANTED, Known, Æneas Gibson, Harpist and Pianist, immediate engagement; young, gentlemanly, travel abroad. Music SELLER, Bayswater House, Roundhay-road, Leeds.

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WANTED, Known, Miss Florence Maye, L.R.A.M., Solo and Orchestral Harpist, at Liberty. 180, Blomfield-terrace, W.

WANTED, by Experienced Lady Harpist (solo and orchestral), Engagements.
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WANTED, Engagements, Flute, Piccolo, theatre orchestra, London, or any business, reliable, theatre closing. PENFOLD, 74, Kenninghall-rd., Lower Clapton, London.

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WANTED, Engagement by good Flute and Piccolo, best references, well up in Operatic and Variety. Address, FLAUTIST, 133, Lavender-hill, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by N. Robinson, Pianist and Arranger, any Bus.; good reader, steady, reliable, Orch. or Self; excel. refs. 227, Bowling Back-lane, Bradford, Yorkshire.

WANTED, by Smart Handy Variety Pianist, Panto., or any engagement (Conduct and Arrange); good reputation; can combine magnificent monster portable organ, built to order, immense power. LORENZO LEWIS, 3, Market-street, Exmouth, Devon.

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WANTED, offers, by Miss Lizzie Spearing, Orchestral and Solo Pianist. Telephone 914 Battersea. 75, St. John's-hill, Clapham Junction.

WANTED, Engagements, by First-class Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, Variety preferred; good refs., steady, reliable. A. LILLE, 93, Queen's-road, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Known, Lady Drummer, Disengaged.
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WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington. Bookings Johannesburg, Jan. to Dec. Quartet now Disengaged.

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WANTED, Good Talent of all Descriptions, for Circus, Aldershot, Dec. 17, on. State lowest salary to Bosco, Circus, Aldershot.

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WANTED, Known, at Liberty for Christmas, Miss Beckey Daniels, Bare-back Equestrienne (own horses), four first-class numbers; Alfred Eugene Gaertner, Gentleman Juggler on the Rolling Globe, also Ringmaster, just returned from Forepaugh and Sells' great show, America, re-engaged for 1907. Address, 12, Mill-lane, Blackburn.

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WANTED, Les Steckels' Gymnastic Speciality, Dec. 24, 31. This week, Hippo., Oldham; Mon., return, Circus Varieties, Rochdale. Still moving. Agent, STEBB.

WANTED, Known, De Ora, Sensational Aerial Gymnast, is Vacant Dec. 10 and 24. Carnival Managers note. A guaranteed draw. Coms., Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Known, the Maros, Comedy Bar Act. Monday, Empire, Dudley; Liberty Dec. 24, North. Address as above.

WANTED, Known, Four Zolas, Lightning and Herculean Acrobats. This, Ohmy's Circus; next, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy. Christmas settled. Liberty 17th and 31st. Permanent, 40, Tiverton-road, Bournebrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Four Zolas, Lightning and Herculean Acrobats and Tumblers, Next, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy; Christmas, Ohmy's Circus, Hyde; at Liberty Dec. 17 and 31. Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, by Mons. De Greine, Juggler, Liberty Dec. 24, Circus, Halls, and Gala season. 35, Berwick-street, London, W.

WANTED, Known, the Three Lloyds, talent, not bluff, the only double cable act in the business. Big success, Alhambra, Blackpool. Vacancies Dec. 17, 24, Jan. 7 and 14. Particulars, 49, Station-rd., King's Heath, Birmingham.

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CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Dec. 10, also Christmas Season, Carnivals, &c., Joe Hastings' Jumping Act, Lecturer, or Management. Wire, People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Smart Boy, with Knowledge of Tumbling, wishes to join troupe of acrobats, would make good top mount. DAVIDSON, General Post Office, Glasgow.

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WANTED, for the Opening of the Coventry New Hippodrome,
Variety Artists
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Big Productions,
Military and Equestrians,
Spectacles, Ballets, Pantomimes,
scenes with 100 or more people taking part,
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the very cream of every branch of entertainment,
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First-class Variety Stage.

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A comfortable engagement,
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Apply, with terms, &c.
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WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Nothing too big. Send full particulars, with lithos. (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Classes, for 1907, Gala List. Lithos., Memos., FARNSWORTH and DYSON, Agents, 124, Crookesmoor-rd., Sheffield.

WANTED, now and onwards, Variety Artists, all lines, best class, attractive appearance. Send lithos., photos., and lowest terms, ALFRED MASON and Co., Irish House, Skibbereen, Cork.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Dec. 17, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Serios, Burlesque Actresses, &c., Dec. 10, and onwards. A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists, of all Descriptions, Dec. 31, onwards,
Absolute Lowest Terms.
Address,
ALBANO TROUPE, Royal Theatre, Oldham.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
ANDERSTON CROSS,
GLASGOW,
Manager, W. H. HOWARD,
First-class Artists,
in all Branches of the Profession,
Immediate and Future Dates
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Good Comedians,
Good Comedy Sketches,
Good Lady Artists,
Good Duettists, Trios, and Quartettes,
Good Musical Combinations,
Good Single and Double Turns,
of every description.
Must be free from vulgarity.

P.S.—Thanks to Artists who replied to previous advert. Regret I cannot reply individually.
All invited to write again, stating nearest vacant dates and actual lowest terms.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists for Glasgow Concerts. Lowest terms and permanent address to the SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-st., Glasgow.

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WANTED, Artists all Lines, nothing too big, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, 27, 29, and every Saturday onwards. Artists can work their London engagements same time. Write, VICTOR W. ROWE, 28, Herbert-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.

WANTED, Artists, for Variety Entertainment at Exhibition Hall, Newcastle, Xmas and New Year weeks; also Good Spectacular Show. Apply CARNEGIE and Co., LTD., 144, Northumberland-street, Newcastle.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines,
Palace, Lancaster.
J. FELL, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, of all Kinds.
Apply, M. RICHARDSON,
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WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Monday next, and onward,. Wire or write, MAURICE FRITZ, Empire, Swansea.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 18. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, for North, Xmas and New Year's week, Doubles doing Singles. Terms, &c., JONES, Hippo., Rochdale.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now, onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Nothing too Big, for Palace, Leigh, Dec. 17, onwards.
J. LARDER, Palace, Leigh.

"CHESTER'S."
P. L. CHESTER (late Chester's Agency, Limited),
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WANTED, First-class Artists.
Correspondence invited.

WANTED, Known, Artists wishing to be booked for First-Class Music Hall Engagements, communicate with BROOKE'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

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WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Jan. 14, Feb. 4, 11, nothing too big, share or certainty.
JOHN CASSIDY, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, for Alhambra, Edinburgh, Artists, immediate dates. Address, MANANGER. Call, Monday, Matt Wilkinson and Co., Gertie Douglas, Zettmah, Tom Odlin, Three Royal Temples, Violet Beatrice, Bioscope, the Dunvilles.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Empire Palace, Dover, and the Alhambra, Sandgate. FRED DURHAM'S Variety Agency, 14, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Telephone 15, Brixton.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
General-Manager, H. L. SKIVINGTON.

WANTED, Star Artists in all Lines. Nothing too big.
Salary or Share.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY. 'Phone, 234y5tron.
WANTED, Artists, in Every Line, Dec. 17, and on, big and small specialities, dumb acts, star comedians, and every act on the face of the earth, for the North. 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

HIPPODROME, TON-Y-PANDY.
WANTED, for the above, Dec. 17, 24, and 31, 1906, Artists in all branches of the variety profession; also big and sensational specialities. Address, with lowest terms,
D. TAYLOR, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy, S. Wales.

WANTED, Concert Artists, for Dec. 17, 19, 26, Jan. 1, and every Wednesday, with exceptions. Terms and where to be seen first letter, please, PAUL VANDY'S Agency, Barnes, London, S.W.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Oldbury and Bilston, for Monday next.
Wire, but not reply paid,
PRICHARD, Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, for new town, Dec. 20, Artists, also Pianist, Property Man, Child (over 14). Scenic Artist (play responsible), also complete Co. Musicians and Staff, new (permanent) Grand T., Hemel Hempstead, end of Jan. 1907. Photos. to WHITMEE, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY.	Always send
DALTON'S AGENCY.	House Address as well
DALTON'S AGENCY.	as Theatre.
DALTON'S AGENCY.	A feature in connection
DALTON'S AGENCY.	with this Agency will be
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Artists Vacant "Monday
DALTON'S AGENCY.	next," also "Artists Vacant
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Immediate Dates," and Art-
DALTON'S AGENCY.	ists are requested to post
DALTON'S AGENCY.	me if open Monday next,
DALTON'S AGENCY.	and mention at same time
DALTON'S AGENCY.	any immediate vacancies;
DALTON'S AGENCY.	but "Monday next" being
DALTON'S AGENCY.	a feature in the future, a
DALTON'S AGENCY.	penny stamp may mean a
DALTON'S AGENCY.	shop. Please note to always
DALTON'S AGENCY	send private address where
DALTON'S AGENCY.	staying in the respective
DALTON'S AGENCY.	towns for early delivery of
DALTON'S AGENCY.	telegrams. Tele., "Granbeste Withington," Tele-
DALTON'S AGENCY.	phone, 193 Didsbury. 29,
DALTON'S AGENCY.	Mauldeth-road West, With-
DALTON'S AGENCY.	ington, Manchester.

PONTYPOOL
CHAMBER OF TRADE FETE,
Whit-Monday and Whit-Tuesday, 1907.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
the Committee
are
prepared
to receive
Applications
from
Agents, Artists,
or anyone desirous of
Engagements
for
this Year's Fête,
both for
Aerial and Stage Shows
(Open Air).
In all cases Complete Specifications as to erections, lithos., showing acts, and, as far as possible, cost of fixing same, must be sent.
None but Artists of the First Rank need apply.

This Fête
is
visited annually
by from
40,000 to 50,000
People.

Particulars to
SECRETARY,
Chamber of Trade,
Pontypool.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession,
Acts New in Dublin, for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland,
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, for immediate Dates, on, the Biggest Stars in the Profession.

Full list of Bookings and absolute Lowest first instance.

HARRY BURNS' Agency,
Head Office, Empress Theatre, Hartlepool.

Telegrams, "Burns," Empress.
Telephones 0231 and 0231A.

BARNARD'S AGENCY,
24, Islington, Liverpool.
WANTED, Stars and Specialities,
Nothing too Big.
Telephone, 1114.

WANTED, Big Stars, Big Specialities, Comedians, Serio Dancers, Sisters Acrobats, Gymnasts, Musical Acts, nothing too big, Dec. 24, 31, onwards. Terms, bookings, lithos.,
EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telephone, 09251.
Telegraphic address, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Big Stars, Big Numbers, Anything Big.
The Bigger the Better,
Dec. 17, 24, 31, onwards.
Anything that can draw.
Full particulars to JESS VERNO,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKE'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, for Dec. 17, Xmas Week, and New Year Week.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
State towns at liberty for.
Can fix big numbers any odd weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 103, Strand, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, HYDE.
WANTED, from Dec. 31 onwards, the best Variety Talent, Novelties and Stars,
Nothing too Big.
Vacant Dates and terms to FRED GRANVILLE, as above.
N.B.—First-class Equestrian and other Circus Acts, that can perform on the very large Stage instead of ring, write.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
Rehearsal Monday next, 2 o'clock, for:—
Theodore Jones and Co., York, Mac, and York, Stephen Blyth, Olga Fane, Barney Vox, Vernon's Bioscope, Les Steckels, Halma.
WANTED, Talent, Share or Salary. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

THEATRE METROPOLE, DEVONPORT.
WANTED, Good Speciality, Palace Scene, Pantomime at above Theatre,
Animal Act, First-class Dog Show preferred.
Address,
GEO. S. KING, Metropole, Devonport.

CIRCUS, SPENNYMOOR,
CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, for Dec. 17, and on, Specialities, in all Lines, Comedy Acts and Comedians.
A Good Dancer wire for Monday next.
Address, ALGIE.
All Artists Engaged Dec. 10. Rehearsal 12 sharp.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, First-Class up-to-date Novelty Turn, for Christmas Week, at Loughborough (six shows), must be strong Act. No vacancies for Sketches, Vocalists, or Dancers. Full particulars, with lithos., to J. W. CORDINER,
Theatre Royal, North Shields.

WANTED, Turns of all Kinds, Dec. 31, for Queen's, Castleford. State in first letter lowest, and if two Acts. CUMBERLAND, Hengler's Circus, Glasgow.

WANTED, Double Turn, must be good Knock-about Comedians, for Policeman and Tramp, in "Larks in the Park" Sketch. State absolutely lowest terms. GLENN, 15, Grove-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Big Turns, all Lines, good, attractive printing; also turns capable of working sacred show, Xmas night. GEO. SAPHRINI, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns, good Tops, Dec. 10 and on, for the Midlands. Actual lowest. YATES, 22, Newport-road, Stafford.

WANTED, First-class Turns for week of Dec. 17. Terms and particulars.
MANAGER, Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

WANTED, Good Variety Turns, for Christmas week, possibly longer, for Swindon, including good vent. and conjurer. G. POOLE, Abbey-row, Malmesbury.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, for Xmas Day, First-class Variety Turns, in all Lines.
Apply, T. W. ROWE.

WANTED, Good Comedy Acts, of every description, comedians, &c., Dec. 10, onwards.
Apply, with lowest terms,
GEO. ZALVA,
Hippodrome, Scarborough.

WANTED, one week, Dec. 31, Comedy and Speciality Turns, Town Hall, Greenock.

Write, G. W. WALKER, George-street, Aberdeen.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,

Something New and Up-to-Date,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,

For Dec. 17, 24, 31, Jan. 7, onwards.

Send at once, Terms, Dates, and Lithos.
Those having a Good Act can rely on Immediate Work.
I can give you nine months' solid work.
Also Wanted, Big Acts, of all Kinds, for the Coming Season, for the Seaside.
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester
Manchester.
Manchester.
Manchester.

Telephone 09144.

Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."

JAMES FIONI, 21, NORTON-ST., LIVERPOOL.
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JAMES FIONI, 21, NORTON-ST., LIVERPOOL.

WANTED, First-Class Big Acts in all Lines, for immediate and future dates.
Also,
Wanted, Big Acts,
Sensational Novelties. Ripping Comedy Numbers, for every First-Class Seaside Establishment.
Send fullest particulars,

Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." 'Phone 1686 Royal.

JAMES FIONI, 21, NORTON-ST., LIVERPOOL.
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JAMES FIONI, 21, NORTON-ST., LIVERPOOL.

ROYAL
HIPPODROME,
BELFAST,
Now in Course of Erection,
and
when
Finished
will be the Largest and Handsomest Building in Ireland.

WANTED, February, onward, all the Finest Acts in the World.
Price no object.
New and Novel Turns of every Variety.
The above is Booked
in conjunction with
TIVOLI THEATRE,
DUBLIN.

WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, Known, any Star Acts who have odd weeks vacant should send list of vacancies to FRANK LYNNE, Palace, Blackpool (AYTOUN'S Agency.)

DEETRICH'S VAUDEVILLE BUREAU,
31, ISLINGTON, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, the Biggest Acts on Earth, especially Comic, for England and the Continent, Dec. 24, onwards. Price no object. Artists who have written before, kindly write again. Cavilli wire address. Contracts waiting.

WANTED, Sensational Acts, Dec. 31, on, for Carnival, Star Comedians, Comediennes, &c., Dec. 17, 24, Specialities for Pantomime write, Acrobatic Quartettes, &c., Comedian for Ugly Sister.

GEO. AYTOUN, Agent, 22, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E., till Monday; after to new offices, 120, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E. Please note new address.

'Phone 1949 Hop. Wires, "Antics, London."

MARTINO'S AGENCY,
125, Barcroft-street,
Grimsby.
WANTED, Big Acts of all Kinds, Dec. 24, onward; Dec. 24 onward.

WANTED, Dec., Jan., onwards, Star Variety and Speciality Acts. D'Artigan send address. I can book any sensational novelty from £100 down. Lithos., memos., perm. add., T. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, the Cream of the Profession, those new to London can have a trial show. Nothing too big. Send lithos., memos., bookings, and lowest terms to BILLY HENDERSON, and Co., 30, Handforth-road, Brixton-road, London. Seen by appointment only. Manager, F. CANTON.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c., 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Big Combinations, with Singing Pictures preferred, Jan. 7, on; new stage, 22 by 46. When writing, send particulars of acts, with bill and programme. TUDOR, Hippodrome, Blyth.

WANTED, for Dec. 24 and on, Comedy Sketches, Specialities, Single and Double Turns, &c., for Derby, Grimsby, Stoke, and Attercliffe. Particulars and lithos., T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Clever Soubrette, for the Royal Magnets, winter season, at the Pavilion, Ilkley; must be young, good looking, talented, good vocalist and dancer, good répertoire of up-to-date songs, and have good wardrobe. Full particulars, references, photos., and lowest terms, to DOUGLAS, 17, Mayland-terrace, Ilkley. State when at liberty.

JOHN H. TOMPKINSON'S ROYAL GIPSY CO.
Established 1888.
WANTED, for Tour, open at once, really good funny Comedians (Corner Men); also refined Serios. Photos., &c., J. H. TOMPKINSON, Criterion Hall, Worksop.

WANTED, good Comedian, must be a steady man, teetotaler preferred.
Apply Box 4108, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man Knockabout, that can tumble or bend a little, to join troupe. Address, letters only, Box 4,091, "The Era."

WANTED, for Sketch Tour, Comedian and Old Woman, joint engagement preferred. Apply, with lowest terms, &c., to Box 4,096, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Knockabout Pantomimist (tramp's part), also Young Lady; both to do turn. Terms, &c., fares and dress found after joining. WYS, 4, Conway-street, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Bioscope, Illustrated Songs, Pianiste, four nights, Xmas, near London; Lady Comedienne, for Speciality. Photos., VAUDEVILLE, 5, Connaught-road, Ealing, W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, a First-Class Picture Show, must have the latest, for six nights, Corn Exchange, Alnwick, Dec. 24; must change three times in the week, and show 6,000ft. every night; two hours' show; must be good, or useless; electric light; share or certainty. R. SILVESTER, Town Hall, Falkirk.

WANTED, good Bioscope, for week, at Swindon, open Monday next, Dec. 10. Wire, WOOD, Variety Agent, Cheese-lane, Bristol.

WANTED, Experienced Bioscope Operator, Electric and Lime, for Palace, Kilmarnock; good permanency to right man. Copy of references, terms, to J. CUMMINGS, Palace, Kilmarnock.

WANTED, Operator, with Modern Cinematograph and Up-to-date Pictures. State lowest terms. Apply, WILKIE, People's Palace, South Shields.

WANTED, Expert Operator, near Manchester, start Dec. 24. Age, refs., particulars. No callers. N. H. P., 15, Clifford-st., Oxford-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, Competent Operators, experienced electric and lime, for town and tours.
Apply at once, JURY'S, 142, Long Acre, London, W.C.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Engagement, by Little Lottie Lonsdale, juvenile comedienne and dancer. Last week, Empire, Shildon, with great success. Write or wire, 13, Summerhill-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Monday, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey also Ventriloquist, two first-class acts. Wire, Alexandra Hotel, York.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, Musical and Acrobatic Eccentric, is appearing nightly with great success at Gilbert's Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Will Gonn, "The Musical Page Boy," Vacant Dec. 17, 24. Big success, Alhambra, Edinburgh. This week, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, by Harry Barlow, Principal Baritone, late Royal Welsh Quartette, Vac. Dec. 16, onwards. Best offers to 10, Wellington-st., Stockport.

WANTED, by Clifton Hall, Vocalist, Monday next, also Dec. 17, 24. Wire, Hippo., Wakefield; after, 23, Marsland-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next and Dec. 17, Kingsley, Hand Bell Soloist, late of Milton Bode's Panto. Address, 73, Saltoun-road, Brixton.

WANTED, by Harry Albery, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer, Monday next, Wire any distance, 53, Barrowhill, Chesterfield. Panto. settled.

WANTED, Monday next, and few immediate dates, Dan Ashton, in original copyright "Collier's" Song, founded on fact, Wingate Colliery Explosion. Offers, DAN ASHTON, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, Known, that the Great Invincible Herman, with his Smart, Refined, and Up-to-date Wire Act, is at Liberty Dec. 17, and onwards. All business communications to be addressed to S. FORREST, Manager, Winchelsea Cottage, Station-road, Forest Gate.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, World's Champion Boy Wrestler, Posing and taking on all comers. Great success this week, Colne, Lancs. Re next year's vacant dates, MEGSON'S Agency, 8, Woodsley-road, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Harry Formosa, Young Comedy Artist, presenting Club Manipulating, Tumbling, and Juggling, vacant Dec. 17, 24. 53, Victoria-rd., Grangetown, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, Tom Garland, Vent., and Conj., "the Masterpiece," wants Feb. 4. Big success. This week, Palace, Porth; next, 12, Poplar-road, Wrexham.

WANTED, Proprietors and Managers. Don't overlook this advertisement. The Original Kyoto, presenting the Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box. A laughing and applauding hit. A clever contortionist, comedy juggler, conjurer, and the only performing pug dog on the halls. Also May Geraldine, a sprightly comedienne and dancer. Sixth visit, Central Palace, North Shields; Monday, Dec. 10, Aquarium, Scarborough. Many thanks for offers; must have our terms, or useless. Vacant Dec. 31, to follow Yarmouth; also Jan. 14, '07, onward, to follow Chatham.

WANTED, Monday next, Martin Melia, Irish Comedian, the World's Dancing Masterpiece; also Miss Lill, Contralto and Speciality Dancer. Terrific success Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool, where wire; one or both.

WANTED, Xmas and New Year, for Successful Duos. "Pity the Blind," and "Motor Muddle," through transferring to oblige Mr. Macnaghten. FRANCES FERINA, Grand, Doncaster.

WANTED, 10th, 17th, by Gravetta and Parr, Clay and Sand Pictures Impersonators, Conjurers, &c., &c. Terrific success here. Wire, Hipp., Maidstone.

WANTED, Monday next, Dec. 10, and 17, by the Two Dees, in their Novelty Comedy Act. 1, Hawkins-street, Camp-road, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Oakley and James, Refined Comedy Act, Vacant Dec. 17 and 31. Monday next, Grand, Hanley.

WANTED, by Lambert and Glover, for their High-class, Screamingly Funny Vaudeville Act, Dec. 17, 31. Address, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Titan and Telka, in novel Act of Music, Mirth, and Muscle, vacant Xmas and New Year. 8, Manchester-street, Southampton.

WANTED, Monday next, and onwards, by Reszki and Raszki, gymnastic grotesques, and we're gluttons on it. 6, Beech-grove, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Monday next, by Chant and Chant, Comedy Duo, also 17th, between here and Edinburgh. Bottom of bill here. Palace, Lancaster.

WANTED, Monday, on, Turle and Turle, Comedy Gymnasts, one or two Acts. Terms or Shares. 28, Upper Gough-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, the Regal Opera Singers, in scenes from "Maritana" and "Il Trovatore." Success, Pavilion, Glasgow. Thanks Mr. S. Lloyd for return dates. Vacant Dec. 24 and 31. Next, Hippo., Stoke.

WANTED, Known, Craig, Roze, and Craig, vacant Monday next. Wires,
Hippodrome, Maidstone, Kent.

WANTED, Dec. 24, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, by Los Granadas, "Sensational Happening Outside an Hotel." Monday, Palace Theatre, Leicester.

WANTED, the Cheers, Speciality, Special Scenery, real Chimes, with Wonderful Performing Cats. Vac. Dec. 10, 24. Wire, CHEERS, Central Hall, Colne.

WANTED, Monday next, Dec. 10, by The Boultons and Mlle. Bartenelli. Two Acts. Wire, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, "Our New Slavey," Tom Green, Nellie Gordon, and Jennie Green, Xmas vacant; 20 sheet posters. 106, Fairholme-rd., Croydon.

WANTED, Monday next, Walker's Comedy Nippers; Reklaw, Globe Speciality. Vacant Monday. Wire, Gaiety Theatre, Dundee.

WANTED, Known, Bert Leonard Trio, Herculean Acrobats and Equilibrists, Liberty Dec. 10 and 17. Wire for Monday, 140, Oak-street, Norwich.

WANTED, Dec. 24, on, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Smart, refined act.
Empire, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist, vacant Monday, also Jan. 21. Wire, Saturday, Tivoli, Dublin; after, Union-road, Macclesfield.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next and 17th, by King Leo, Smart Original Singing Ventriloquist. Wire, 29, Mytton-street, Manchester. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Lion Show, finest lions in existence, and cleanest show in the wild beast profession, Vacant Dec. 24 (Xmas week), Jan. 7, 14, and 28.
Address,
Week, Dec. 10, Queen's Theatre, Swindon.

WANTED, Known, Caban's French Cirque, Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs, at Liberty Dec. 17, also Christmas and New Year weeks. Big Attraction. Wire for 17th, CABAN, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Proprietors, Agents, to see the smartest, most novel, Dog Show on the boards, fifteen minutes excitement, no dummies, every one artists. Monday next, Empire, Merthyr; Agricultural Hall, London, to follow. A few dates end of Jan. and Feb. ALICE FONTAINBLEAU.

WANTED, Known, Devereux' Famous Dogs, big hit this week at the Westminster, Liverpool; Liberty Monday. Wire, 23, Portland-place, Roscommon-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Gilbert's Dogs and Cats, including two Sensational Diving Dogs, also Burlesque Football Donkey, Liberty Dec. 17, 24. Address, 74, Boyson-road, London, S.E.; or STEBBINGS, Manchester.

WANTED, Dec. 17, Chard's Dog Circus, Hippodrome, Aldershot.
Panto. to follow.

WANTED, Engagements, public or private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements for Lingwood's Bioscopes, complete change of up-to-date Films weekly; electric or limelight. LINGWOOD, 31, Watcombe-road, S. Norwood.

WANTED, Known, Bioscope at Liberty 17th and 24th, twenty minutes or two hours. BAINTON, 23, West High-st., Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Operator wishing to meet with situation in Music Hall or Theatre; previous experience; good reference. NORMAN DINSDALE, Operator, 5, Imperial-arcade, Walliker-street, Anlaby-road, Hull.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Important to Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Amusement Caterers, Speculators, Cycle Dealers, and Others.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Tom Norman (Silver King, regd.), having been favoured with instructions from the Owner, who is retiring from business, to Sell by Public Auction, on Wednesday, Dec. 12, 1906, at the King Edward, King Edward-street, Upper-street, Islington, N., near the Agricultural Hall, the whole of the Stock and Plant of those Three well-known Roundabout Riding Machines, together with the Goodwill as a going concern, and as now built up in the grounds of that world-renowned amusement resort, the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, Kent, where they have been established and doing terrific business.

The above Machines consist of:—Firstly, all that well-known Riding Machine, the Boston Riding School, having 72 Life-sized Horses and 2 Full-sized Wagonettes, and being the only one of its kind in England, and cost over £2,500 to construct, and has taken over £143 in one day, and still capable of doing so.

Secondly, a Steam-driven Roundabout, having 24 Horses and 2 Boats. This is a most convenient and light machine for getting about the country.

Thirdly, a Steam-driven Set of Roundabout Bicycles, carrying forty persons at one time.

Each of the above Machines are driven by first-class Engines, by such well-known makers as Savage, King's Lynn; Walker, Tewkesbury; and Thuxford, Boston; each Machine also having Organ and Organ Engines with same.

The Auctioneer desires to call attention to the above important Sale, which offers extraordinary facilities to the purchaser to make a fortune in a very short time.

Each of the above lots are complete in every detail, and in thorough good condition and repair, and the rent of the ground they stand on is remarkably moderate, as well as having no opposition, and considering that the Crystal Palace Company has been reorganised, and great preparations are being made to make the Palace and grounds still more attractive, &c., than ever, the above cannot fail to prove one of the best paying concerns of its kind in this country.

The Auctioneer will also offer, at the same time, Four Covered Trucks, for conveying, &c.; Three Sheds, comprising Workshop, Paint Shop, and Tool House; also a large quantity of Water Tanks, Oil Cans, Jacks, Ropes, Fittings, Engineer's and Workmen's Tools, &c., &c.

N.B.—The whole of the above lots will be offered in one lot as a going concern, when, if not sold, it will then be submitted in several lots, as per Catalogue, for removal or otherwise, to then be decided and stated by the Auctioneer.

Each machine can be seen built up complete, and a trial run given to intending purchasers, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., on Monday, Dec. 10, and Tuesday, Dec. 11 next.

Cards to view, Catalogues, and all particulars can be had by applying to TOM NORMAN, Showman Expert and Authority, Manor Farm, Dallington, Sussex.

Sale to commence at 7.30 p.m. prompt.

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in
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LIVERPOOL,
Dec. 15 to 29.

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Finest and only Central
Fête
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Also I have a few Spaces to Let for Christmas and New Year at my well-known Fair Grounds in Birmingham and District for Good Side-shows, Stalls, &c.
Terms, apply,
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WANTED, Known, Room to Let, suitable for massage treatment, beauty doctor, &c. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxwork Exhibition, Dublin. Palmistry excepted.

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SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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List of Clubs.
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Foreign Money Table.
London Music Halls and Theatres.
Their Telephone Numbers.
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CALLS FOR MR. ROBERT ARTHUR'S PANTOMIME.
COURT THEATRE, LIVERPOOL,
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"BABES IN THE WOOD."
First Rehearsals of the above will be held on the respective stages of the respective Theatres, on MONDAY, Dec. 10, 1906, at 11 a.m., when ALL CONCERNED must attend. No excuses will be taken.
Also,
THEATRE ROYAL, BIRMINGHAM,
"QUEEN OF HEARTS."
THEATRE ROYAL, NOTTINGHAM,
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
CAMDEN THEATRE, N.W.,
"CINDERELLA."
KENNINGTON THEATRE,
"HUMPTY DUMPTY."
CORONET THEATRE, W.,
"FORTY THIEVES."
First Rehearsals of the above Pantomimes will be held on the stages of the respective Theatres, at 11 a.m., on WEDNESDAY, Dec. 12, 1906, when ALL CONCERNED must attend. No excuses will be taken.
Artists engaged who have changed their addresses are requested to communicate at once with Mr. Frank Dix, Kennington Theatre, S.E.

CALLS FOR PANTOMIME.
JAMES KIDDIE'S PANTOMIMES,
CHRISTMAS, 1906.
"ALADDIN."
EVERYBODY, MONDAY, Dec. 17, at 10.30 a.m. on the stage of the
PRINCE'S THEATRE, PORTSMOUTH.
"CINDERELLA."
EVERYBODY, MONDAY, Dec. 17, at 10.30 a.m., on the stage of the
GRAND THEATRE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
EVERYBODY, MONDAY, Dec. 17, at 10.30 a.m., on the stage of the
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
No excuses entertained.
(Signed) JAMES KIDDIE
Special Notice to Artists engaged for above Productions:—
Special trains at three-quarter fare will leave Widnes on Sunday, Dec. 16, for the respective towns, viz., Portsmouth, Middlesbrough, and West Hartlepool. Artists desirous of travelling by these trains are requested to send in their names to Mr. Kiddie's Secretary, Mr. Thos. Swinton, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes, who will duly advise them time of Train Call.

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J. GAR KIDDIE'S PANTOMIMES.
Will the ladies and gentlemen of the "Little Bo-Peep" Company kindly assemble on Stage of New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, at 11 o'clock, sharp, Monday, Dec. 17.
Members of "Babes in the Wood" Company assemble on Stage of Lyceum Theatre, Govan, Glasgow, at 11 o'clock, sharp, Monday, Dec. 17.
No Excuses.
Notice.—There will be a special train leave Widnes (L. and N. W. Station), Sunday morning, Dec. 16, at about 10.30, for Glasgow, at ¾ fare, there are connections from Liverpool and Manchester. All artists wishing to travel by this train kindly write at once.
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NEW KING'S THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
ALL CONCERNED. Monday, Dec. 17, at 11 a.m.
"CINDERELLA."
MARLBOROUGH THEATRE.
CHORUS, Thursday, Dec. 13, at 11 a.m.
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No excuse for absence accepted.
Signed, Stanley Rogers, General-Manager,
124, Warwick-road, Carlisle.

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The ladies and gentlemen engaged for pantomime of "Mother Goose" will please attend on the stage at 11 sharp, on Monday, Dec. 10, 1906.
Signed, John Gaffney, Manager.

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"ALADDIN"
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No excuses; EVERYBODY must attend.

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Full Call,
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Everybody concerned. No excuses. Tuesday, Dec. 18, ten o'clock prompt. Signed, Lester Collingwood.

CALL FOR PANTOMIME.
THEATRE ROYAL, BURY.
"BLUE BEARD" Touring Production.
Everybody concerned. No excuses. Friday, Dec. 14. 11 o'clock prompt. Signed, Lester Collingwood.

CALL FOR PANTOMIME.—"Cinderella," Queen's Theatre, Longton. All artists engaged for the above production are requested to assemble on the stage Monday, Dec. 10, at 12 noon; no excuses. Harry Fischer.

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The ladies and gentlemen engaged for Pantomime of "Blue Beard," will please attend on the stage at 11 a.m., on Monday, Dec. 10. C. F. Williams.

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"BLUEBEARD."
All Artists engaged please attend Rehearsal at 12.30 at No. 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.
Louis Ducane, Stage-Manager.

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PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRISTOL.
Principals and Chorus, Monday, Dec. 10, at 12 o'clock. J. M. Chute.

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Cullen and Carthy's Panto, "Babes in the Wood." Will the ladies and gentlemen engaged in the above kindly meet at 55a, Booth-street, Oxford-road, Manchester—Sid Dooley's Academy—on Dec. 17, 11 a.m. sharp. All must attend.

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7. Twice Nightly. 9.
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Charles Ulrick.
Address, HARRY MCKELVIE, Business-Manager.

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CALL for Monday, Dec. 10.
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26	16	16	7/9	3/6	3/0	2/3
28	18	18	8/9	4/0	3/3	2/6
30	20	20	10/6	4/6	3/6	2/5
33	21	21	12/6	5/3	4/0	3/0
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"I'M OFF TO DELAGOA BAY."
"THE GARDEN OF MY HEART."
"ALL HE WANTS IS A GIRL."
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"WHERE THE BANYAN CROWS."
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True, true and steady, in danger ready,
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"The Earthquake," Kremos, Marzella's Birds, Bellonini, The Tupps, Tschernoff's Dogs, The Manings, Chung Ling Soo, Morris and Vincent, The Robertys, "Daily Mirror" Boy Army, Schwatz Brothers, Chronophone, Lavater Lee.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
Karno's "Early Birds," Frank Harwood, Rosie Archer, Lyons Trio, Genaro and Theol, Pat Rafferty, Lee and Kingston, Catlin's Pierrots, Horace Jones, Parker and Parr, Counsel and Mills.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Madge Lessing, Bioscope, "Mysterious Mrs.," Florence Smithers and Co., Boyd and Gilfain, La Danseuse, Fred Daniels, Bernardo, Browning and Wally, Four Lyttons.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
"La Pia," Bioscope, Jones and Munroe, Pat Carey, Graham's Marionettes, Wartemburg Bros., Leverto, Two Cymros, Zanfretta and Napio, Sisters May.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Ernest Shand, Bioscope, Arthur Lloyd Trio, Bonnie Goodwin, Five Bogannys, Six Imrie Girls, Horace White, Illustrated Song, Trippello, Maude Rochez.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Cot and Colibri, Baker and Balfe, Bros. Hayes, De Wynne Bros., Albert Christian, Katie Cohen, Jordan and Harvey, Frances Letty, Harry Leybourne, Ryan and Hall.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"Globe of Life," Mlle. De Dio, Grisse Bros., Bioscope, George Newburn, Solari Duo, Prince Kokin, Rose Harvey, Illustrated Song, Picton and Roxborough.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Lil Hawthorne, Macarte Sisters, Lilieth Leyton and Co., Bioscope, Conway and Leland, Motramos, Beattie and Blanche, Buddha's Blackboard, Clark and Glenny, Ernest Torrence.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Bob Hutt and Co., Gordon Highlanders, Alexandra Edwin, Two Butterflies, Nina Gordon, Selma Braatz, Walter King, Bioscope, Lauri Clare, Ella and Dacie Hope.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Kellinos, Ethel Ra Leslie, Maxwell and Frances, Three Sisters Chester, Debreans, Dion Wade, Darnley's "Moving In," Barney Armstrong, Lena Brunton, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Carl Hertz, Sisters Brendon, Adeline Yohle, "Crystal Gazing," Bros. Horne, Alf Gibson, Rio Bros., Bioscope, Burnetti, Carl.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
"Dick Dare, M.P.," Mezzettis, Illustrated Song, Cliff Ryland, Bioscope, Walter Curtis, Henri Taylor Trio, Frank Darwin, Gertrude Bradshaw.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Paul Conchas, J. H. Crewe, Maud Marlow, Annie Nelson, Petram Sisters, Bioscope, Syd May, The Clarkes, Fred Storey and Co., Dan Crawley, Lilian Bishop.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"Yellow Fang," Fancourt and Ruby, Bioscope, Ginnett's "Remounts," Selbinis, Mason and Bart, Delomes, Amy Marsden, Stelling and Dog, Matthew Cowper and Co.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Dr. Bodie, Dot Hardy, Michael Nolan, Agnes Hazel, Two Bostons, Bandurria Troupe, Four Royal Welshmen, Mabel Bright and Co., Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
La Milo, Mascotte Trio, Hurley and Cole, E. J. Sheldon, Frank and Jen Latona, Theo Hardeen, Holden's Marionettes, Victor Newman, Chas. Robinson, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Tom Costello, Frobel and Ruge, Three Ramoniers, Clark and Hamilton, Young and De Voie, James Brady, Jeannie Mackay, Welsh Wanderers, Phil Ray, Sisters Finney.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Marie Loftus, Harry Anderson, Winnie Dersen, Three Guitanos, Northern Troupe, Wilson and Waring, The Ohms, Alexander, Harold Hughman, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Arthur Roberts and Co., in "The Woman who Was," The Saphos, Matweef Troupe, Sybil St. Elmo, Tom Owen, Frank Elliston and Co., Speedwell, Fred Elton, Millie Hylton, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
"Dandy Thieves," Monte Myro Troupe, Ernesto, Die Schultzen-lieserlyn, Schenk Bros., Hettie Chattell, Carney and Armstrong, Ed. Forde, Bioscope.

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EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Three Olympiers, Wotpert Trio, Albertus and Millar, Herr Fritz, Strolling Players, Harry Coates, Harry Lawson, Lily Tiso, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
The Dandies, Aurora Troupe, James Stewart, Amoros Werner Troupe, Jimmy Shields, Billy Farrell, Johnnie and Charlie, Bioscope, Illustrated Song.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Barton and Ashley, Arthur Reece, Amy Sullivan, Mezzetti and Mora, Stein Eretto Troupe, Carlos Caesaro, Albertine Melisch, Lucia and Viata, George Gilbey, Bioscope.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Mrs. Brown Potter and Co., in "Romeo and Juliet," The Althoffs, Los Granadas, Harriet Vernon, Maudie Ford, Hale and Francis, Jack Pleasants, Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Gus Elen, Bioscope, Lilian Warren, Paulinetti and Piquo, J. A. Wilson, Henry A. Moore, Frank Bernard and Co., Will Mitcham, Maud Ross, Rapoli.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Gadbin, Bioscope, Illustrated Song, Dennis Drew, Spissel Bros. and Mack, L. W. Harris, "The Peacemaker," Clemart, Ipna, The Courtiers.

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EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Marie San Toi and Co. Clarice Netta, Paxton Trio, "A Little Bit of String," Jessie Burnett, Derenda and Green, Pictures, Frank Maura, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, Geo. Westland.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
The Anartos, May Orchard, Arif Hemet, Marie Duma, George Gulliver, Lora, Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard, Lotto, Lillo, and Otto.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"Moses and Son," Chas. Pastor, Techow's Cats, Pictures, Hall and Earle, Florence and Lillian.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Ben Hur, Clara Greeta, Vasey and Ramsey, Frank Sherlock, Harold Wills and Lily Mills, Stuarts, Pictures, Frank Cumminger, Phil and Nattie Peters.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Harry Tate's No. 1 Co., Montague Bros., Celtic Comedy Trio, Cairns and Lynch, Bioscope, Sisters Lavender, Cattaneos, Peggy Pryde.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Boissetts, Bugler Carr, The Lentons, New Macs, Sisters Dorrell, Boswell's Circus, Cole and Rags, Lena Willard, Bioscope.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Joe Elvin and Co., Frank Neiman, Geo. Hyman, Bert Brantford, Edwin Barwick, Carl Lynn, Albert Whelan, Sinclair and Whiteford. Lily Langtry, Elly Adair, Katie Marsh, Burg, Haud, and Wise, Five Brewsters, Twin Sisters Wood, Daisy James, Park's Eton Boys, Pictures.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
First performance: Joe Elvin and Co., Jack Camp, Carl Lynn, Lily Langtry, Rosie Lloyd, Pictures, Sam Mayo, Chas. Johnson, J. G. Taylor, Laurie's Kindergarten, Tee and Tee.

Second performance: Joe Elvin and Co., Jack Camp, Carl Lynn, Lily Langtry, Rosie Lloyd, Pictures, Sam Mayo, Harry Pleon, Marguerite Broadfoote, Laurie's Kindergarten, The Lurins, Park's Eton Boys.

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Artists should be careful to keep Dates Open for this Theatre, Booking for which will shortly commence.

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Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE?"
"HENNY KLEIN,"
"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
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"THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR A GIRL."
"WHAT HAS BECOME OF OUR SONGS?"
"COLOMBO." "STOWAWAY."
"YOU ARE MY IRISH LILY."
"WALTZ ME AROUND AGAIN WILLIE."
"I WANT NO OTHER LITTLE GIRL BUT YOU."
"IF I HAD BEEN BORN A GIRL."
"SHE HASN'T DONE HER HAIR UP YET."
"WOULD YOU CARE?"
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"SEASIDE LOUISE."

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HIPPODROME, LEEDS.
Smart Set, Babs Lloyd, Three Transfields, Williams and Warden, Sisters Marion, Recco, Barton and Franklin, Bert Lytton, Simosa San, Pictures, Harwood's Juveniles.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
Six Brothers Luck, Ada Twibell, Martine and Son, Gus Barra, Wild, Willie and West, Jock Whiteford, Brilliant and Brilliant, Bishop and Hanlon, Sisters Tinsley, Pictures, George Leyton.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Ada Reeve, Arthur Stacey, Winona and Kins, Les Rallis, Four Maisonas, Wilton Heriot and Co., Belrose and De Velin, Billie Burford, Pictures, Bensons.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.
The Novellos, Cordite and Buffalo, Cissie Dryden, Jennie Hartley, Lottie Lennox, Silverton Quartette, Helen Martin, Pictures, Two Falcons.

ALHAMBRA, PARIS.
Henrietta De Serris, Four Jumels, Amiel, New York Comedy Four, Radford and Valentine, La Sallandri, Anna Thibaud, Hilgart Arkas Troupe, Pictures, Cornier, Mdlle. Fougere.

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"SWEET EILEEN." "ANY OLD PLACE WHERE THE SUN SHINES."

"WHEN THE BAND PLAYED THE 'MEN OF HARLECH'."
"MY TINY FIREFLY." "SEND ALONG A WIRE.

"SOMEBODY CARES FOR YOU." (MILLS & SCOTT.)
"WATERFALL." "ZING-TA-RA-RA BAND."

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FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, DEC. 10, 1906.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.
SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday, at 12-0 sharp.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Learto, The Jansons, Bioscope, Fred Southern and Co., The Players, Lester May.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
W. J. Churchill, Tom Lloyd, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Yolande Noble, Geo. Leonard, Minnie Atkins, Imperial Glee Singers, Juno Salmo.

GRAND, SHEFFIELD.
The Treshams, George Phillips, Bioscope, Lily Le Breton, Sisters Ford, T. W. Lenner, Florrie Wright, Mayon and Marie.

PALACE, BATH.
"Casey's Circus," Harry Cotton, Tiny Arnold, Harry Briggs, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Gracie Bard, Carl Rosine, Tate and Tate.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Donaldson Bros. and Ardel, Mabel La Blanche, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Richard Fineberg, Amurat, Robb Gilmore, Louis Kerno, Alexr. Victor Duo, Geraldos.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Galetti's Monkeys, W. H. Downs, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Leotard Bros., Hillman and Russell, Bert Harrow, Friscari, Mignonette Kokin, "Battle of the Belles."

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Six Bros. Luck, Johnny Holland and Co., Eric Graham, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Mdlle. De Rose, J. H. Hawtrey, Ethel Loftus, Aquamarinoff Troupe.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Steinway Quartette, Almas, J. C. Scatter, Lily Currie, F. H. Dundas, Bros. Durant, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Chas. F. Best, Marba and Verity.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
"The Fighting Parson," Bliss and Bliss, Wallace Whitney, Beattie Foster, Woodward and Walton, Sisters Marion, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Geoffreys and Benson.

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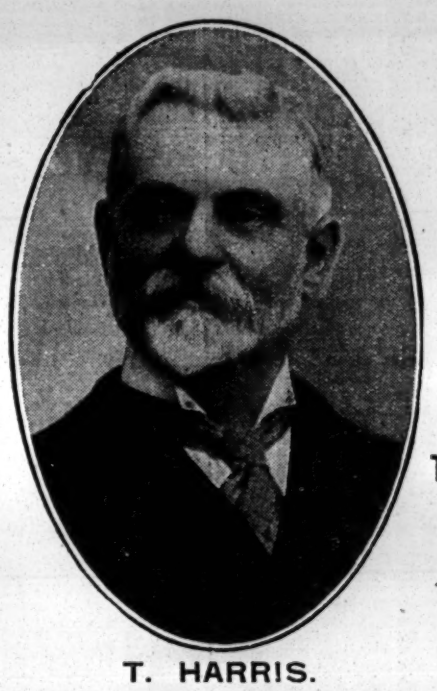

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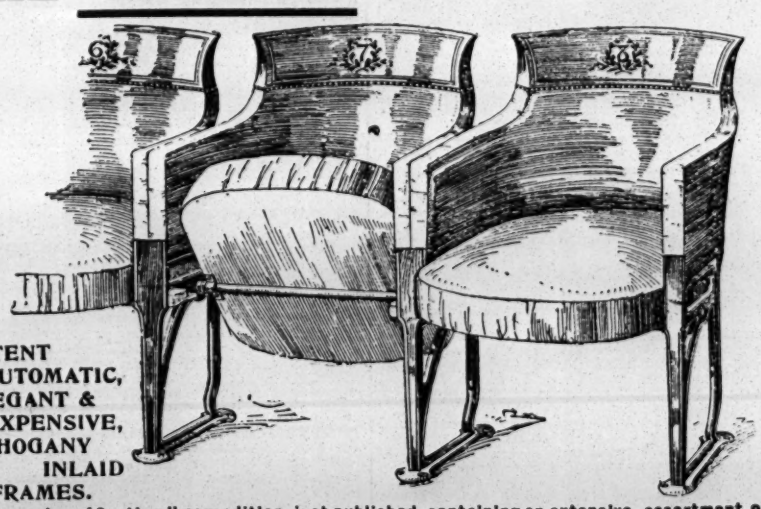

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NEW THEATRE, CARDIFF.

The New Theatre in Park Place, Cardiff, which Messrs. Runtz and Ford have built for Mr. Robert Redford, was opened by Mr. Beerbohm Tree on Monday. The building, which seats 1,570, is of brick and Bath stone. The principal elevation is to the south-east. The lower portion is of Bath stone, above this is brick, and a fine colonnade of Ionic columns is surmounted by a cornice and balustrade all in Bath stone. Two turrets are utilised for ventilating purposes. The style is English renaissance. From a large circular crush-room open the usual cloakrooms, ticket office, etc. The orchestra stalls are reached by a corridor on the right hand, and the dress circle is approached by a flight of stairs on the left. Corridor and staircase are richly carpeted and are draped at the entrance, brass handrails being fixed at the sides. The pit is approached by separate entrances. Behind the dress circle is a balcony. This is very spacious, and there is a broad promenade at the rear. Each portion of the house is provided with a spacious saloon or refreshment bar. That for the dress circle, which is immediately over the crush-room, is circular. The mural decorations in cream and gold are extremely tasteful. The dress circle, orchestra stalls, pit stalls, and balcony are furnished with tip-up seats luxuriously upholstered in crimson velvet.

The general scheme of decoration is white and gold with Rose du Barri draperies, the carpets being of a slightly deeper shade. The pelmets over the boxes are richly embroidered in the Empire style. The proscenium is 30ft in width by 34ft. in height. The distance from the curtain line to the back of the pit is 74ft. The stage is 76ft. in width and 54ft. in depth, while the height from the stage to the grid is 57ft. There are seventeen dressing rooms, all well heated, well ventilated, and well lit. All are fitted with hot and cold water, electric light, and gas. The ventilation on the most modern principle. Electric fans are arranged to carry off the foul air and to bring in fresh air. The fire extinguishing appliances are effective and elaborate, and there are also double fire and smoke-proof doors. The contractor for the building is Mr. James Allen. After the fall of the curtain on the last act of *Twelfth Night* on Monday, Mr. Tree and the principals were called four times.

Mr. TREE said: Ladies and gentlemen: This night will be ever a memorable one to all of us here on the stage, and I am sure it is a source of great joy to most of us who have appeared for the first time before a Welsh audience and to have listened to the sweet music of your applause, and also the sweet music of your voices in the earlier part of the evening. I say to most of us, because there are some of us who made their first appearance on the stage in this Principality. First of all, there is my very old friend Lionel Brough, who, I am glad to know is such a favourite with you here, as he has ever been a favourite with us in London. He was born in Monmouthshire. Then there is Mr. Lyn Harding, who was not only born in Wales, but is of Welsh descent, and has passed a considerable portion of his life, I believe, in Cardiff. It was a great source of pride to me as an actor when I cast my eyes on this building and its surroundings to know that in your beautiful park, where you have already your municipal buildings and your law courts, where you have also your University College and your national museum, that you have been able to find a place for a theatre, showing that in Cardiff you regard a theatre not only as an amusement, but as a means of education. It is also a source of pride to me that my company should have been selected to open this theatre, which I hope will not only be an outward adornment to this city, but which may add something to its inward and spiritual grace. Ladies and gentlemen, I am glad to think, too—and I say that I was anxious that it should be so—that a Shakespeare play should be selected for the opening night, for although Shakespeare was perhaps not geographically a Welshman, yet he understood the Welsh and its people, and I remember in a play in which I played many times—Falstaff in *Henry IV.*—there is a little scene which is conducted almost entirely in the Welsh tongue. But, indeed, Shakespeare, as he was not of an age, but for all time, so he did not belong to any country, but to every province in the whole world. As I say, I hope every country has the music that it feels, every community has the drama it deserves, and I hope that Cardiff will deserve well of the drama, and that the drama will deserve well of Cardiff. I congratulate Mr. Redford, who, I am sure, is the man for you, for he will not only consider your interests, but he will consider the interests of our art. And remember that a theatre is not only a vehicle for amusement, but that it should give something more, and I hope that it may be the nurse, the feeder, and the moulder of the soul of Cardiff. You will forgive me for thinking so well of the drama. I also congratulate Mr. Runtz, who has built this very admirable theatre. For, ladies and gentlemen, the first thing in a theatre is to see, the second is to hear, and the third—perhaps I ought to say the first—is to be safe, and in acting to-night I felt I could see every person in this theatre from every part of the stage, and, I also hope, that we on the stage were all heard. I remember some years ago I built a theatre of my own in London, which is called His Majesty's Theatre, and I remember the laying of the foundation-stone. I also remember that I had exhausted my little capital on the prospective bricks and mortar of that theatre, and that on the occasion of the laying of that foundation-stone I was so poor that I could not invite my friends to it. But I did crack a bottle over the foundation-stone in solitary grandeur, and I remember saying with a quaver in my voice, "God bless this house." Ladies and gentlemen, I don't think that in opening this theatre I can do better than repeat those little words, "God bless this house." May it ever remain a source of joy and a source of pride, and may it ever hold the dignity of art we all here love so well. Thank you for your splendid reception of us. Thank you, thank you, again and again.

After the curtain fell there were loud calls for Mr. Redford.

Mr. REDFORD thanked the audience very heartily for their kind reception, and for their attendance. He hoped they all liked the theatre. It had been a very anxious time for him and his staff for some weeks past, but he thought they had succeeded in providing a very comfortable theatre, one worthy of the great city of Cardiff. He hoped they were all pleased with the great intellectual treat which Mr. Tree and his company had given them that night, and if the public rallied round him in the future he would give them of the best that the stage could produce.

Enthusiasm marked the performance of *Twelfth Night* throughout. Seldom have Cardiffians had the opportunity of witnessing such a masterly production as Mr. Tree's life-like conception of Malvolio. Miss Viola Tree played Viola with an irresistible charm, and won a host of admirers. Miss Constance Collier as Olivia gave a portrayal that displayed her grace and beauty, and invested her part with a sweet and captivating charm. As Maria, the waiting-maid, Miss A Bruce-Joy took advantage of the many opportunities afforded her. Mr. Lionel Brough as Sir Toby Belch was a great favourite in his clever impersonation of the dissolute roysterer; Mr. Basil Gill's Orsino was a fine piece of acting; Mr. Sydney Brough made an admirable Feste; Mr. Norman Forbes undertook the part of Sir Andrew Aguecheek with success; Sebastian had a faithful impersonator in Mr. Reginald Owen; and Antonio had a powerful interpretation at the hands of Mr. J. Fisher White. Mr. Charles Quartermaine did well with his clever performance of Fabian.

"THE ROSE OF THE RANCHO."

A Play, in Three Acts, by David Belasco and Richard Watson Tully,
Produced at the Belasco Theatre, New York, on Nov. 27.

This is a drama of Spanish California during the late 'fifties, and is full of colour, lively incidents, and striking situations. It has made a pronounced hit. The story deals with an attempt of a notorious American "land-grabber" named Kincaid to obtain possession of the Castro rancho under an Act of Congress, which virtually dispossessed thousands of the old Spanish families of their estates. The love story concerns a Government agent from Washington and Dona Juanita, the daughter of the Castros, known as "the Rose of the Rancho."

The scenes are laid amid the picturesque Spanish missions of Southern California. Through pride and indolence the Castros have neglected to make their property secure by filing their claim with the American land agent as required. Kincaid, of Beaver, Neb., has come to the San Juan valley, intending to grab everything in sight, and at the same time Kearney, of Washington, a Government agent, sent to investigate the land disputes, appears on the scene. Kearney meets and falls in love with the fascinating Juanita, whose mother has arranged that she shall marry a young Spanish gallant from Monterey—Don Luis de la Torre. Juanita and her people hate the "Gringos" (Americans), but the girl's father was a Yankee, and her admiration for Kearney is only half-concealed. Kincaid gives notice that he intends to dispossess the Castros of their beautiful ancestral home within a few hours. Kearney has no authority to interfere. The only thing he can do is to send a messenger to Monterey to make the required registration for the Castros before the land-grabber can take possession of the rancho. Juanita gives Kearney the necessary data, and Kearney's friend, Lieut. Martin, rides post haste to Monterey, while Kearney undertakes to delay Kincaid by trickery as long as he can. Larkin is to bring back the State Militia for Kearney's protection. In the meantime, Juanita's mother learns that the girl has tossed a geranium to a "Gringo," the flower signifying "I love you," and Juanita is locked in her room. In the second act, in spite of the danger that threatens, the mother gives the engagement party she has planned in the patio or courtyard of the rancho. Juanita's friends are all present. There are dancing, the throwing of cascarones and confetti, and other picturesque Spanish customs, and Don Luis appears to claim his bride. Juanita is defiant, and when they are about to betroth her she blows out her engagement candles and declares her preference for the American. For this her mother threatened to disown her, and is about to turn her out of the house when Kincaid and his men force their way into the courtyard, and Juanita is dumbfounded to see the man she has trusted among them. Kincaid's men are a band of ruffians. They insult the women, and are eager to possess them. Kearney tries to protect them, but he must pretend that he is friendly to Kincaid. When Juanita appeals to him he answers her coldly. Persuaded by Kearney, Kincaid agrees not to take possession till dawn, thereby giving Kearney the time he desires. At the first opportunity he tries to explain to Juanita, but she lashes him with her tongue for his betrayal of her people and strikes him. Unable to make her listen to him, he catches her in his arms and holds her by force while he explains the situation. She tells him she believes he is a liar, but she will wait till morning to see if the Militia comes.

The third act takes place on the roof of the ranch house. Dawn is breaking, and no help has arrived. Kearney pinions Kincaid suddenly, takes his pistol from him, and holds him as a hostage to ensure the safety of the women. But Don Luis, being jealous of Kearney, attacks his rival, and during the struggle Kincaid recovers his revolver and joins his men. An attack is imminent, and Padre Antonio assembles the women and offers up a prayer for their delivery. At the last moment, when Kearney has given up all hope, the sound of a bugle is heard, and the soldiers from Monterey dash in. The rancho is saved, but still the mother will not give her daughter to a "Gringo." If she clings to him she must leave the rancho. Juanita must make her choice, and she does so—in favour of the American.

The three scenes were stage pictures of rare beauty, Mr. Belasco, pastmaster of the art of embellishment, again excelling himself. The play was admirably acted by a cast which included Miss Frances Starr, Miss Maria Davis, and Messrs. Charles Richman, Hamilton Revelle, Frank Losee, John W. Cope, and Frank H. Westerton. Miss Starr, who emerged from obscurity but a short while ago, is Mr. Belasco's latest "find." Her rendering of the title-rôle was such a captivating performance that she had the critics and the general public at her feet.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS THEATRE.

The Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds, reconstructed and beautifully redecorated, was opened on Monday evening under brilliant auspices, with every promise of a fair and prosperous career. A large and fashionable audience assembled to greet the Moody-Manners Grand Opera Company, the production for the opening being *Faust*. Previous to the commencement of the opera the curtain was raised on the entire company, grouped behind the Mayor of the Borough, Mr. Owen A. Clark, who formally declared the theatre open, calling on the audience to signalise the same by joining in the singing of "God Save the King." Mr. Charles Manners as Mephistopheles had excellent scope for displaying his fine bass voice, one of his best efforts being the serenade, "Catarina, while you play at sleeping," in the fourth act. Mr. Maurice Paul in the title-rôle sang tunefully; and Mr. Marshall Vincent as Valentine used a fine baritone with good effect; Mr. G. Gorst also sang well as Wagner. Miss Alice Boaden gave the numbers allotted to Marguerite exquisitely, and her duets with Faust were faultlessly rendered, as was also the famous "Jewel Song." Miss Rosina Beynon (Siebel) was compelled to respond to an enthusiastic encore for her charming rendering of the beautiful romance, "When all was young." Martha was taken by Miss V. Barry in a satisfactory manner. The well-balanced chorus worked hard throughout for the success of the opera, and the scenery and mounting were first-class.

During the evening the lessee and manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore, who has already established himself as a general favourite, was introduced by the chairman of the board of directors, Mr. E. W. Lake, and received with tumultuous applause. Mr. Montefiore, in a neat and appropriate speech, alluded to the historical associations of the theatre, urging the need of some place of pure and wholesome entertainment for the townspeople, and declared his intention of making the Theatre Royal once more worthy of the ancient borough of St. Edmundsbury. Mr. Manners also responded to an enthusiastic "call," and in a few well-chosen words expressed his pleasure at being present on such an occasion.

Certainly the production of Gounod's masterpiece will live in the memory of Bury St. Edmunds playgoers as the forerunner of many such evenings, and, to quote the words of the manager, "though to control the public bent is not within one's power or scope, to guide the spending of hard-earned money, and brighten the evenings after toilsome hours is a mission earning a certain gratitude." *Carmen, Lohengrin, Maritana, Cavalleria Rusticana, Tannhäuser,* and *The Bohemian Girl* were to be presented during the week.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

On Wednesday night the students of the operatic class of the Royal Academy of Music gave a performance of the Spinning Scene from Act 2 of Wagner's *Flying Dutchman*, and Acts 3 and 4 of Verdi's *Falstaff*. Mr. Edgardo Levi conducted, and the students, both soloists and chorus, may be heartily commended for their acting and singing. In the Spinning Scene Miss Josephine Ottlee gave an artistic performance of Senta, singing the music well; while Miss Dorothy Webb appeared with success in the part of Mary; the chorus of maidens at the spinning-wheels was also admirably sung. In *Falstaff* Mr. David Evans impersonated the hero in a jovial and bluff manner quite in keeping with the character, and causing much amusement by his clever acting in the fourth act, where Falstaff appears at the meeting-place in the forest wearing a pair of huge stag's horns on his head. Mr. John Bardsley also deserves much praise for his singing in the part of Fenton, and we may heartily compliment Miss Mary Fielding on her performance of Mistress Ford and Miss Dorothy Webb on Mistress Page, while Miss Margaret S. Wilton proved a lively Dame Quickly and Miss Aileen Hodgson a charming Anne. The characters of Cajus, Pistol, and Bardolph were intelligently played by Mr. Thomas Gibbs, Mr. Cecil Pearson, and Mr. J. Musgrove Wright. The graceful and effective dance in the fourth act was cleverly arranged by Mr. B. Soutten; and a word of praise must be awarded to Miss Mary Burgess, who presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. Benjamin Dale at the organ. The costumes and properties were kindly lent by the Royal Opera Syndicate.

After the performance of the operatic students on Wednesday, the dramatic class gave a really excellent performance of Sheridan's comedy, *The School for Scandal*, on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 13. To avoid loss of time there was no change of scenery throughout, and this plan answered admirably, as otherwise it would not have been possible to have given the four acts in so short a time, and the one scene of a room at Lady Sneerwell's, with some alteration of the furniture and pictures, served all purposes, as the action of the comedy takes place in the various rooms of the principal characters. In the character of Lady Teazle Miss Elsie Williams displayed no little talent, acting in a bright and sparkling manner her quarrel scenes with Sir Peter Teazle, and in the famous screen scene showing that she was at home in the more serious side of her art. She was admirably supported by Mr. Campbell Cargill as Sir Peter, although his make-up was hardly old enough for the part. Mr. Cecil Pearson made an excellent Sir Oliver Surface, speaking his lines with clearness and decision. The part of the hypocritical Joseph Surface was skilfully enacted by Mr. Patric Curwen; and Mr. Emile d'Oisly acted the character of Charles Surface with freedom and grace, being particularly good in the scene where he sells his ancestors' portraits to Mr. Premium. Mr. R. Jones did well as Sir Benjamin Backbite, and Miss Esther Telling made a capital Mrs. Candour; the part of the caustic Lady Sneerwell being cleverly acted by Miss Ruth Parrott; while Miss Kathleen Coombes was a sympathetic Maria. As the Jew Moses Mr. J. M. Duncan was very effective, although his make-up was not particularly Jewish. Snake, Careless, and Sir Harry Bumper were carefully acted by Mr. Campbell Cargill, Mr. Basil Taylor, and Mr. J. Melvin Nightingale; and even the small parts of Lady Sneerwell's and Lady Teazle's servants were well performed. The scene of the room in Charles Surface's house was cleverly managed, and the song, "Here's to the maiden," encored. The dresses of the various characters were handsome and correct, and the entire performance and the stage-management reflected the greatest credit on Miss Rosina Filippi. Miss Mary Burgess and Miss Myra Hess presided at the piano. During the performance all the principal characters came on, and Mr. Cecil Pearson advanced to the front saying that, as Miss Filippi was about leaving the school, he took this opportunity of making a presentation to her, and, at the same time, expressing the deep regret of all her pupils, to whom Miss Rosina Filippi was endeared by her kindness and marvellous patience. In answer to loud applause, Miss Filippi said she heartily thanked them all, and that she was sorry to leave.

CASTLE THEATRE, RICHMOND.

On Thursday, Dec. 13,
the Drama, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE CHRISTIAN."

Mr. J. Bannister Howard has concluded his first season here with an attraction worthy of its predecessors. By arrangement with Mr. Wentworth Croke he was enabled to produce *The Christian* here, and, as was to be expected, the play met with an all-round enthusiastic reception. The company concerned in the interpretation did well from start to finish. The wisdom of selecting Mr. E. Stanton Sharp to play as the Hon. John Storm was early apparent; his acting was excellent throughout, and his elocution added much to the success of a really finished performance. To Miss Laura Walker, as Glory Quayle, honours should not be stinted; never for a moment was the safety of the part in jeopardy—in the lighter comedy scenes she was irresistibly naïve and amusing, and in the more arduous parts of the play she manifested talent of an unmistakably high order. Mr. Harry Colbeck did well as the good Father; and Mr. Phipps Stanley displayed a sense of humour as Archdeacon Wealthy. A good, homely soul, Mrs. Callender found a clever exponent in Miss Alice Maude; Horatio Drake was forcibly and capably sustained by Mr. Duncan Yarrow, who will do much by this impersonation to enhance his reputation. Paradoxically, Mr. P. Gedge Twyman, as Lord Robert Ure, made quite an agreeable villain. As the manager of the Colosseum, Mr. Stuart Black did the little he had to do very well; and Mr. Anthony Rawle was satisfactory as the Faro King. Miss L. Kingston may be complimented on her efforts as Polly Love; in Act II. she did splendidly. Some creditable work was shown by Miss A. Hearne (Betty), Miss K. Graeme (Netty), and Miss V. Herne (Letty); Mr. Percy Johnson played Farmer Quayle with discretion; and Brother Paul found a capital exponent in Mr. H. Louis Wilson. The play was admirably staged and mounted. The business-managership, in the hands of Miss Marie Beckenham, left nothing to be desired. Mr. Arthur Howard's success as acting-manager during the season has left nothing undone, and he has worked indefatigably to bring success to the little Temple of Thespis.

"THE WEBSTERS," a play, in four acts, by Frank Kingston, was produced at Terry's Theatre, on Tuesday afternoon. It can only be described as "amateurish," both in construction and treatment. Frank Webster, son of Sir Reginald Webster, Bart., has to suffer for a forgery which has been committed by his brother Douglas. Indignant at the injustice, he goes to London, and writes plays. One of these is accepted by an American manager; and, in the end, Sir Reginald leaves Frank his sole heir. He is thus able to marry Léonie de Fernandez, whose guardian, Kenneth Clairville—who is in love with Léonie himself—has tried in vain to represent as illegitimate. The artists engaged in a piece of this sort merit mercy and sympathy. Miss Beatrice Bevan brought an engaging personality and manner and good enunciation to bear upon the part of the heroine; and Mr. Percy Calton worked hard and well as Frank Webster. The other members of the cast did the best they could with the materials at their command.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Messrs. E. Hill Mitchelson and Harris Finberg's company opened here on Monday in *The Traitor*. Mr. Bensley Evens gives a powerful impersonation of Prince Rudolph; Mr. Steven E. Scanlon is an ideal Chief of Police; Mr. Arthur McCulloch is good as General Hertz; General Franz is a careful study by Mr. E. Duff; the Speaker of the Hidden Council is in the safe hands of Mr. Cyril Maitland; Miss Ruth Shepherd gives an impersonation of Zulu, the Avenger; Lieut. Nicholas is well played by Miss Isabel Hunt; Miss Katherine Vere gives a bright and chic performance as Elsie Dupres; the Countess Zicka is portrayed with effect; Miss Maud Stewart is smart as Cen-Cen, the Japanese girl.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker.—The bill here is topped by the Arleys, in a gymnast pourri, introducing some very clever dogs. Frank Cass must be highly complimented on his smart turn; Sandy and Carl are clever knockabout artists; the Sisters St. Julian are duly appreciated; Valvero gives an electrical novelty which is pleasing and clever; the Beau Ideal Troupe are smart juvenile performers. The prospectors are good, and the Hippodrome bioscope presents some interesting pictures.

ALDERSHOT.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Saunes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo E. Williams.—*A Girl's Cross Roads*, is being produced for the first time in Aldershot by Mr. Walter Melville's company. Miss Beaumont Collins gives a talented portrayal of the drunken, fallen Barbara Wade; and Mr. Wilson Gunning's is a capital impersonation of Jack Livingstone. Miss Nannie Meade proves herself to be a clever actress as Nellie Meadows; and Miss Jessica Black gives an excellent portrayal of Constance. Mr. Chas. Franmore's is a fine conception of Farmer Meadows; Messrs. Frank Brunell, Gerald Jordan, and Fred Withers are good as Dr. Weston, Cuthbert Lumley, and Luke respectively; whilst comic element is supplied by Miss Lena Delphine and Mr. F. Ingram.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pool and Bisco; Manager, Mr. Irving Bosco.—An almost entire change of programme is submitted here this week, including Alfonzo, foot equilibrist; Gilbey, high ladder performer; Pablo Diaz, contortionist; Mlle. Aladina and cockatoos; Messrs. Yelding and O'Brien; De Henan, toe artist; Lieut. Chard and his dogs; and Valdo and Sid, clowns.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Once more M. Van Biene is visiting here with Miss Lena Burnleigh and an efficient company in *The Broken Melody*. As Paul Borinski, the exiled genius, M. Van Biene charms his hearers with his soulful playing. He is admirably seconded by Miss Lena Burnleigh as Mabel; and effective character studies are given of Ivanoff by Mr. Henry Ludlow, Dickson by Mr. Chas. A. Morgan; Mortimer by Mr. Faulkner Cox, Beaujour by Mr. Lawrence Grove, the Hon. Richard Spinnaker by Mr. Archie Selwyn, Dr. McGrath by Mr. W. Thompson, and the Duchesse by Miss Rosemary Rees, Mrs. Dickson by Miss Rosie Lewis, and the Hon. Mrs. Spinnaker by Miss Mary Mannering.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Undoubtedly the great feature of the current programme is Milton Ray's company in the musical farce, *The Cruise of the Calabar*. Mr. Arthur Milton is the central figure, and his impersonation of Cherrible Chickington is excellent. The support accorded by Mr. Fred Russell as Captain Frank Fairweather, and Mr. Joe English as Peter Panley is invaluable. They are fun-makers par excellence, and the laughter they excite is of the heartiest kind. In a minor way the acting of Messrs. T. Hill, J. Holden, C. Grand, and A. Potts is to be commended. Miss Minnie Malvey as Mrs. Cherrible Chickington, Miss Hetty Lind as Maude Chickington, Miss Lillie Ward as Fanny Panley, and a dozen other sprightly young ladies as soldiers, sailors, peasant girls, &c., contribute very naturally to the success of the nautical piece by their tuneful singing and expert dancing. Other artists in the bill are Clarmont and Victor, clever comedy acrobats; Ellis and Watts, comedians and dancers; the Sisters Russell, duettists; the Three Dorians, whose expert skill shows efficient training in their "speciality"; Farrimond and Roberts give a pleasing vocal scena, and Von Etta, lady illusionist, is well received. The Bioscope presents an amusing and interesting series of pictures.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Palace Theatre of Varieties—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. H. Laycock.—The star turn here this week is furnished by the Schiavonis Troupe of lady and gentlemen acrobats in a clever performance; Mr. F. S. Hulme is an acceptable light comedian; Zaro and Zarno are smart on the horizontal bars; Miss Bessie Willow both looks and sings well; Xley and Hamilton are seen in a musical comedy scena all too brief; and other attractive turns are furnished by Almon, equilibrist and hand balancer; Mr. Fred Mason, whistling comedian; and Mr. E. C. Clayton's pictures.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—On the first three nights of this week the theatre was occupied by a capable company in *The Still Alarm*. Mr. Mathew Glenville gave a stirring interpretation of the part of Jack Manley, the hero of the piece; while Miss Maud Warburton was delightful as the heroine. Miss Hetty Zillwood made a sprightly Carrie Wilber; Mr. Tom Beasley, as Jack's brother, did exceedingly well; the villain of the play was in the able hands of Mr. George Arthur, while his comical accomplice was embodied by Mr. Fred Osmond, who made the most of the part. The Lyric Comedy Four sang tunefully the quartettes in the third act.

BACUP. — New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's No. 1 company is appearing here this week with *A Beautiful Fiend*. Miss V. St. Lawrence, in the title-rôle, is the central figure, and her rendering is a complete success; Mr. Montague Beaudyn creates a good impression as Ivan Paulovitch; Mr. J. P. McBride capably fills the character of Count Fedor Karatoff; and Mr. Albert Wray is seen to advantage in his pathetic representation of Sergius Strogoff. Miss Irene Munro renders the part of Madine Karatoff in a pleasing manner; Mr. W. Robertson Foulis as Malachi is effective; and the same can be said of Mr. Harry Oates as Christopher Crackles and Miss Annie Clunn as Patty Woodlands.

BARNSTAPLE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Bridge Trust; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—The Charles W. Poole's Royal Myriorama provides the attraction here this week. The programme includes Daisy Graham with her marvellous collection of trained birds and clever coon dog "Nap"; Little Doretta, comedienne and acrobatic dancer; Kitty Woodford, a soprano of decided ability; the Avondale Quartette, whose contributions are received with rapturous applause; Harry Stewart, the original American protean change artist; and Leonard and Mac, eccentric comedians and knockabouts. A deservedly popular item is Kitty Woodford's canine circus and orchestra.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott and company in *A Wife's Triumph* are here. He is eminently successful as Frank Wilton; Mr. Douglas C. Phelps as the Yorkshireman Robert Dewhurst does exceedingly well; Ellis Jordan is admirably drawn by Mr. W. H. Garbois; Miss Ada Abbott is a charming Bessie Dewhurst; and Miss Doris Dew a pleasing Alice Wilton.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Messrs. E. A. Dell and F. Chabot's company is here in *The Romany's Revenge*. The former is a capital John Hope, and Miss Kathleen Eckars gives a sympathetic presentment of Lilian Hope. Mr. John Soden is an excellent David Denard, and Miss Ethel Ashleigh a convincing Zamet. Mr. Fred Rose as Bobbie Bloom and Miss Ada Stirling as Pollie Pluck are very entertaining.

Tivoli Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—Mr. G. W. Hunter, the famous comedian, gives some good songs with success; the Norman and Leonard Trio, in a musical incident, *The Itinerant*, are clever; the Sisters Neilson are expert dancers and duettists; Picitt and Lizette create amusement in their illusionary absurdity, *The Crazy Cook*; Takio is a clever Japanese mimic; and Frank Hartley a smart juggler.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Closed for rehearsals of pantomime, *Sinbad*, to be produced on Christmas Eve.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—*Casey's Circus* is the chief item in the current programme, and creates great merriment; Carl Rosini, magician, is once again baffling beholders with his great hoop trick and other smart experiments; Tate and Tate return to perform their wonderful acrobatic feats; Tiny Arnold sustains her reputation as a comedienne and dancer of the front rank; another little lady that is pleasing in a similar line is Gracie Bard; Harry Colton, eccentric comedian, continues to score in his mock veteran-soldier song; Harry Briggs, triple-voiced vocalist, comes in for much applause; Raymond's Bio-tableaux depict, as usual, interesting and funny subjects.

BATLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Whitty.—Mr. Stanley Carlton's company, in the interesting drama *A Marriage of Vengeance*, is giving every satisfaction here. Miss Rubie Maude is to be complimented on a clever portrayal of the character of the adventuress, Stella; Miss Alice de Lacey submits a quiet, lady-like, and convincing portrait of Elsie Dean; and Miss R. H. Belasco is useful in the comedy scenes. Mr. Stanley Carlton gives a sound and impressive reading of the hero's part; Mr. Edward Fryer is admirably placed as Vannock; Mr. J. W. Henson is conspicuously successful as Max Rheinhardt; and Mr. Victor T. Raymond causes much laughter by his amusing *gaucherie*.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—This week the principal attraction is Ediscope and Barnum's electric animated pictures. Miss Doris Jeffs is quite a clever child vocalist, dancer, and quick-change artist; Mr. Cecil Roche, comedian; Miss Clarice Vere, dancer; and Otto Ethardoe, juggler, give amusing and highly entertaining performances. Mlle. Pardoe is successful in her speciality dance. Loder Lyons causes plenty of fun as an Irish entertainer; Tony and Snowden contribute an appreciative item with their songs and dances.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Our own townsman—Mr. Whitford Kane—supported by a most capable company, is appearing in a round of Shakespearean plays. On Monday *The Merchant of Venice* was produced with success. Mr. Kane's impersonation of Shylock reached a high level of excellence, and during the course of the piece he was frequently and deservedly applauded. It would be impossible to speak too highly of Miss Lillian Herries as Portia. It was an ideal interpretation. Miss Molly Malone's charming interpretation of Nerissa quite delighted all; Mr. F. M. Paget's impersonation of Antonio reflected much credit on this experienced and clever actor; and Mr. Godfrey Tearle was thoroughly convincing as Bassanio; Mr. Philip Gordon was decidedly humorous as Launcelot Gobbo; Mr. Houston Meharry must be commended for his admirable impersonation of Old Gobbo; Mr. Bernard Grahame acquitted himself with distinction as Lorenzo; and Miss Edith Coleman furnished a most attractive impersonation of Jessica. Mr. Alfred Grey as the Prince of Morocco, Mr. N. S. Butt as the Duke of Venice, Mr. J. V. Bryant as Solanio, Mr. Malcolm Tearle as Salarino, Mr. Cyril Este as Gratiano, Mr. Edward Landor as Tubal, and Mr. Henry Howard as Balthazar were all skilful impersonations. On Tuesday was produced *As You Like It*, in which Mr. Kane achieved a noteworthy success as Jaques. *Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *Julius Cæsar* have also been performed during the week.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, Warden, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—The famous wrestler, Mr. Tom McInerney, heads the bill with a capital exhibition of wrestling. The Achmed Ibraham troupe of Arabs are also starring, and their tumbling and other feats are little short of marvellous. Mr. Martin Conway is a versatile comedian with good songs; and a hit has been recorded by Mr. Harry Bent, mimic, who deputised for Mr. Barney Stuart. Miss Arabella Allen appears in a number of character impersonations from Dickens, and deserves much praise; the Venola Bros., comedy gymnasts, take well, and deservedly so; and also here are Miss Florence Leonard, balladist, and the Palace pictures.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Walker.—The Anarios, who head the bill, have been accorded a good reception. Lotto, Lillo, and Otto, described as the world's greatest cyclists, have strong claims to the title; Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard appear to advantage in their comedy duologue, *Coming Home*; the feats of Aref Hemet, Persian mystifier, have created much interest; and a good reception has been extended to Miss Marie Duma, whose vocal items have been heard with much pleasure. Mr. George Gulliver is a smart ventriloquist; and others here are Miss May Orchard, juvenile comedienne; and Lora, the marvellous talking bird.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company stage this week with great success the capital comedy-drama, entitled *Every Inch a Man*, by Mr. Edward Thane. The various characters have been capably assumed. Special mention should, however, be made of the clever assumption of the rôle of Vera Maxwell by Miss Nina Blake-Adams, an emotional actress of infinite power. Mr. Horace Denton must be congratulated on his skilful impersonation of Dick Barnet; Mr. Percy M. Stevenson portrayed the iniquities of Daniel Barnet so vividly that he fairly earned the loud anathemas of the crowded house; Mr. Cyril Grier, a versatile actor, was most successful as Ben Brown; and the humour of the piece was entrusted to Mr. Tom H. Solly, who was very funny as Teddy Edwardes. Mr. Elmore Frith had a difficult part to sustain as Alderman Barnet, but was entirely satisfactory throughout. Miss Alice Clarke was good as Mrs. Edwardes; and other rôles were capitally interpreted by Miss Mattie Crawford, Mr. H. Hesselgrave, &c. The Alhambra bioscope exhibits a fine picture this week—"The Female Spy."

BILSTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Battersby.—For this week only a couple of variety performances are given nightly. The artists appearing are Professor Devereux and his trained dogs; Mlle. Telka, ballad vocalist; Titan, in feats of strength; and The Bensters, duettists—all interesting turns. These are supplemented by Sisters Benton, singers and dancers; Terrie and Darnley, eccentrics; Alf Lenton, comedian; and Signor Bosco, in a musical act.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company in the Irish play, *Wearin' o' the Green*, is doing excellent business here. Mr. Mackey, as Barney O'Hea, is the life and soul of the piece, receiving admirable support from Miss Nana Flensberg, as Biddy M'Ginn; Mr. Maughton Macaulay gives a forcible rendering of the unpopular rôle of Michael Kenney; Mr. Charles Homer appears to advantage as Shamus McDermott; Mr. David McFarlane is well-placed as Connor Martin; Norah M'Grath is unexceptionally played by Mrs. Mackey; and Miss Adele Liddon is a good Mrs. McDermott.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Harry Lauder is in the second week of a most successful engagement, and extra matinées are necessary to cope with the rush. The week's appearances also include Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden in their capital sketch, *Two to One*; Frank Keegan and company of knockabouts and comic cyclists; Miss Marie Blythe, comedienne; Mr. Ellis Barrieton, double-voiced vocalist; Mr. Charles Williams, big boot dancer; Drum and Major, speciality artistes; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—Eden Theatre, Ltd.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—Miss Mary Austin and company are paying a welcome return visit here in *The Golden Ladder*. Mr. William Clayton gives a good interpretation of Rev. Frank Thornhill; the duplicity of Michael Severn is admirably depicted by Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds; Peranza is capably handled by Mr. Graham Winsford; Mr. Fred Acton is well placed as Jim Dixon; and Mr. William Millward acts well as Mr. John Grant. Miss Mary Austin gains much sympathy in the rôle of Lilian Grant; Miss Mimi Edwards is successful as Mrs. Peckaby; and Miss Teresa Haynes as Mrs. Dixon is very good. Miss May Eddis wins approval in the character of Lily; Mr. Joseph Rowlands is entertaining as Samuel Peckaby; and much laughter is evoked by Miss Fanny Williams as The Tearer.

BLACKBURN. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company is successfully appearing here in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the combination including a number of negroes and freed slaves, which makes the presentation of the play exceptionally interesting and realistic. Mr. J. Carr gives a forceful yet pathetic rendering of Uncle Tom, and in striking contrast, though equally good, is Mr. J. Henry Rodgers, acting in the part of the villainous Simon Legree; Little Minnie plays Eva particularly well, and the other parts are well filled. Some of the negro choruses are excellently done, and speciality items are given by Rowe and Holden, cake walkers; W. H. Mott, a tenor vocalist; May Vincent, ballad singer; Ben Rowe, bone soloist; Walter Longford, banjoist; and Rich and Moore, coloured duettists.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. Robt. Perris's company in *A Fight for Millions* is drawing good houses.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—A good variety entertainment is given by Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholl's company, in *The Battle of the Belles*; Hillman and Russell in *The Somnambulist*; Bert Harrow, comedian; the Leotard Brothers, bat throwers; Friscari, juggler; W. H. Downe, Australian coloured vocalist; and Raymond's animated pictures.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. Allan Wilkie is here this week, and along with a company which includes Mr. G. Alexander Marsh, Miss Ive Cameron, and Miss Carrie Baillie, is providing a week of the legitimate. *Othello* was very carefully presented on Monday, with Mr. Wilkie in the title-rôle, and Mr. Marsh as Iago; whilst on Tuesday, *Hamlet* was the attraction. *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The School for Scandal*, *David Garrick*, *The Fool's Revenge*, and *The Bells* have also found a place in the week's bill.

Palace. — General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—A well-balanced programme is provided here. The Vasilescu Troupe appear in an eccentric pantomime mélange of cycle, triple bar, and acrobatic performances; Frank Lynne is a particularly clever comedian; Vernando scores as a ventriloquist; W. J. Ashcroft is cordially received; Bromley and Fontein contribute a sketch; Mdlle. Sylvestro goes through a series of contortionistic movements; Esta Estella, a pleasing comedienne; Time and Money find favour in their comedy act; and Herr Schuler is the premier saxophonist. The display of pictures by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope conclude a capital programme.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. C. Moody.—Mr. C. Watson Mill, Miss Rosalind Tate, and company are here in the romantic drama, entitled *A Warning to Women*. Mr. Mill, in the character of Dr. Marcus Dread, gives every satisfaction; and Miss Rosalind Tate embodies the part of Moira Kennion in a most artistic and pleasing manner. Shiela Kennion is satisfactorily portrayed by Miss Emmie Barton; Mr. George Harvey as Shaun plays in an efficient manner; the Fergus McNaughton of Mr. Norman B. Cannon is a prominent representation; Mr. N. Carter Slaughter is a gentlemanly Lord Eversleigh; Mr. Henry Rutland gives a vivid portrayal of Squire Kennion; and the Rev. Emmanuel Wallace of Mr. G. M. Davidson is a praiseworthy performance.

Gaiety Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Councillor Jno. Grantham; Manager, Mr. Arthur James.—A strong attraction in the week's programme is the singing competition arranged by the manager, which has drawn good houses. The regular turns are supplied by the Royal Victorian Boys, whose dancing has met with a good reception; Joe Hennessy, the Scotch athlete, gives a fine display as a club manipulator and juggler; Wee Winnie Jackson, the child wonder, proves an interesting turn; and the Gaiety Bioscope shows a fine series of pictures.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. William Tudor.—Jury's animated pictures and concert party are in possession here, and are meeting with a favourable reception and liberal patronage.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd. — Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—This week Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's No. 1 company is occupying the stage here in the thrilling Russian drama, *In Holy* (!) *Russia*. The piece is well staged and dressed. Mr. J. Rice Cassidy displays much Irish humour as Mickey Nolan; and Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy gives an artistic rendering of the part of Renée Rubinoff. Other characters are successfully filled by Mr. A. Stratton as Colonel Richard Forrest; Mr. Frederick Loyd as Petroiski; Miss Annie Dudley as Mrs. Richard Forrest; Miss Kate Randolph as Catska Lavotski; and Mr. Carl Rovinelli as Laurice Steragoff, the Nihilist leader.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A good "bill" is submitted here by Mr. Harry M. Vernon's company in the original episode, *Christmas Eve*; Vardon, ventriloquist, and his caddie; Lilian Lowe, vocalist; Ted Saunders, mimic; T. C. Jacques, versatile comedian; Tony Iveson, as the aristocratic ragman, and the piano; Harry Carlton, comedian; Freda Spry and B. S. Montl, in their scena, *The Dandy Guardsman*; Maud Grimshaw, juvenile male impersonator; Conway and Garland, in their burlesque absurdity, *Left in Charge*; Miss Minnie Cunningham, versatile comedienne; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—The star turn this week is *The Belle of the Orient*, in which Mr. Joe Peterman and Miss Florence Vie, assisted by an able company of artists, appear to advantage. The Original Cecilias present a refined musical act; Held and Sagan, eccentric comedy duo, are laughable; George Prince is diverting; Wallan, boy juggler, performs clever balancing feats; Fred Poplar gets a good reception; Kitty Wager is pleasing; and the pictures conclude.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The performance of Mr. Arthur W. Pinero's clever comedy, *His House in Order*, by Mr. George Alexander's company, on Monday evening, marks one of the most interesting events in the current dramatic season here. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart scored a genuine success for a forceful and exceedingly clever performance of the part of Hilary Jesson; the self-important egotist, Filmer Jesson, was finely realised by Mr. J. Edward Pearce; a very intelligent performance of Derek Jesson was given by little Miss Maisie Richardson; the pompous Sir Daniel Ridgeley found an excellent exponent in Mr. George Fitzgerald, whose assumption of self-importance was distinctly amusing. Mr. Ernest R. Holloway capitally realised the supercilious and offensive Pryce Ridgeley; Major Maurewarde was an able self-possessed effort on the part of Mr. Lloyd Lowndes. As the bustling Dr. Dilnott, Mr. Luke Forster was diverting; Harding and Forshaw found good representatives in Messrs. Reginald Besant and J. Douglas Campbell respectively. Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay won unstinted sympathy from her audience for a convincing performance of the part of the ill-mated and persecuted Nina Jesson; Miss Augusta Haviland realised perfectly the character of the unpleasantly austere Lady Ridgeley; as the unemotional and unsympathetic Geraldine Ridgeley, Miss Elaine Sleddall was effective; and Mlle. Eve Grand gave a bright and attractive performance of the part of the French governess, Mlle. Thomé.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. Andrew Melville's company is here this week with the familiar drama, *Driven from Home*. Mr. Felix Pitt has fine scope for his histrionic abilities as the cold-hearted grandfather. As the hero of the story Mr. Clement Wakefield wins unbounded sympathy; Mr. F. Sandy is distinctly realistic in the villain's part; as the friend of the hero, Mr. G. Thorne wins approbation; and other parts are effectively filled by Miss Florence Creagh, Miss Madge Muriels, and Miss Florence Wilson.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Limited; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Bob Hutt and company in their outrageously funny absurdity, *Welcome Home*, are causing roars of hearty laughter here this week; and those youthful gymnasts, the Two Butterflies, do some clever work on the trapeze. Captain Bevan's Sixteen Gordon Highlanders arouse enthusiasm with their fine military evolutions; Walter King's doleful humour is amusing; Alexandra Edwin has an excellent soprano voice; Lauri Clare submits a good turn as comedian and dancer; in their turn, *The Serio and the Slavey*, Ella and Dacie Hope are amusing; Selma Bratz, who is aptly named "the lady Cinquevalli," is exceedingly clever as a juggler; Nina Gordon's mimicry at the piano is entertaining; and there are some fine films shown by the American Bioscope.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. H. Foster.—The Four Juggling Geraldos head a capital programme here, and elicit great applause; Miss Ray Ford proves an excellent deputy for Mabel La Blanche (comedienne), who is unable to appear; Louis Kerno sings vigorously and dances well as a "white coon." Excellent character sketches from plays are submitted by Richard Finberg; Robb Gilmore is a funny little comedian. In their screamingly funny sketch, *A Zoological Comedy*, those clever pantomimists Donaldson Bros. and Ardel elicit hearty laughter; Amurat, the musical athlete, is a marvel of physical culture, who submits an original performance of merit. The Alexander Victor duo are humorous, and possess good voices; and some entertaining pictures are shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BRIGHTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—*The Belle of Mayfair* was performed here, for the first time in Brighton, on Monday evening, and was warmly received. Miss Alice Russon gave a refined and charming impersonation of Julia Chaldicott, and sang in pleasing style; Mr. Percy Yorke was admirably suited as the Earl of Mount Highgate; Mr. Charles McNaughton submitted a humorous portrayal of Sir John Chaldicott; Mr. Wensley Russell, as Hugh Meredith, danced himself into high favour; Mr. Robert Whyte, jun., was effective as the Comte de Perrier; and Mr. Vernon Davidson displayed good acting and dancing as the Hon. Raymond Finchley; Mr. Trueman Towers made the most of his opportunities as the Bishop of Brighton; Miss Rosa Snell's Countess of Mount Highgate, Miss Joan Keddie's Princess Karl, Miss Maud Ashton's Pincott, Miss Dorothy Hanbury's Lady Gussop, Miss Barbara Huntley's Lady Chaldicott, and Miss Blanche Massey's Lady Rocksley added to the excellence of the performance. The chorouses were well sung; and the duties of conductor were in the hands of Mr. Alfred C. Toone.

Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company opened here on Monday with *The Face at the Window*. Mr. Lionel D'Aragon gave a powerful impersonation of the villainous Lucio Delgado; Mr. T. W. Dunscombe submitted an excellent impersonation of Paul Gouffet; and Mr. Malcolm Wills was highly successful as Lucien Courtier, whose fiancée, Marie de Brisson, had a charming exponent in Miss Eugene Magnus. Much amusement was afforded by Mr. C. Alan Hineson, as Peter Pottleberry, and Miss M. Leslie-Cudd as Babette. The interesting and exciting drama was admirably mounted.

Alhambra.—Managing-Director, Mr J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—A capital company is here this week. Stelling and Revell are clever and amusing in their tumbling and swinging on bar and wire; Harry Russon's character studies in song and recitation are warmly appreciated; Lionel Vaughan and company are well received in the farcical absurdity, *In Trouble*; McDonald and Huntington merit praise for their refined singing and dancing act; Edie Grey and the Boys are accomplished vocalists; the Sisters Melba, sing and dance admirably; Stanley and Vandyke are an eccentric comedy pair; Joe Mac, comedian and dancer, gives a good turn; Nina May is a pleasing singer; Flo D'Orville mkes a hit with her songs and dancing; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting and amusing.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. Stanley Damerell and Cecil Rutland's company evoke hearty laughter in *House Full*; Mme. Lydia Yeamans-Titus, assisted by Mr. F. J. Titus, as accompanist, gives very artistic baby impersonations, and other clever imitations; Lillie Souter, character comedienne, wins enthusiastic applause; the Brothers Krags submit a skilful gymnast entertainment; the Three Tauberts are expert xylophonists; Leta Grey and company are well received in their musical comedy act, *The Lancashire Lass*; Ada Parker is a charming little coon singer and dancer; Fred Allsopp and Florrie Bekwith are entertaining with their duets and smart patter; A. E. Clifford is a capital vocalist; Yetta contributes a graceful and clever wire act; and the Barrascope pictures are amusing.

BRISTOL.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—This week we have Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in the Criterion success, *The Freedom of Suzanne*. The comedy is staged in a very complete and adequate manner, and the company is an exceptionally good one. Miss Mabel Love and Mr. Percy Hutchison both act cleverly the leading parts of Susanne Trevor and Charles Trevor; Mr. F. G. Thurston is amusing as Fitzroy Harding; Mr. Patrick Quill is well placed as Sir Horace Halton; Miss Annie Stalman is sufficiently imperious and dignified as Lady Charlotte Trevor; Miss Florence Harwood presents a capital character study of Miss Fanny Minching; and other parts are carefully taken by Messrs. J. Hastings Batson, Townsend Whitling, Conybeare Gough, Montgomery, Bruce Smith; Misses Violet Ley, Dorothy Lart, Mrs. F. Turner, and Mr. Bruce Franks. The performance commences with the amusing one act comedy, *Two in a Trap*, which is cleverly played by Miss Violet Ley and Mr. Townsend Whitling.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. F. Crowe.—The good old drama, *The Streets of London*, is attracting good houses. The play is well staged, and Mr. Eade Montefiore's company is a good one. Mr. William Rokeby acts in excellent style as Badger; Mr. Riddell Robinson is well placed as Gideon Bloodgood; Mr. Charles O'Connor and Miss Winifred Ingram are both pleasing as Mark Livingston and Lucy Fairweather; Mr. Charles Kean is expressive as Paul Fairweather; Mr. Clifford Armitage makes a typical old captain of Fairweather, senior; and Miss Dorothy Cacey displays considerable power and fascination in her clever performance of Alida Bloodgood. The comic parts of Jonas Puffy, Mrs. Puffy, and Dan Puffy are cleverly taken by Mr. Joe Bracewell, Miss Adelaide Gracey, and Miss Florence Moore.

Palace Theatre.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. V. Welchman.—Caicedo, king of the wire, heads the programme with his clever and sensational acts; the Dumond Trio please with a vocal and musical speciality; Olive Watts is successful as a dancer and patter comedienne; Hans and Lux amuse with eccentric comedy; Doody and Wright, Australian comiques, are appreciated; Marie Empress is a pleasing comedienne; the Maitland Comedy Trio score with their absurdity, *The Picture*; Ventom Swift is successful in song and dance; and Charles Vincent, comedian, is popular. The performance concludes with animated pictures. The matinée on Thursday was for the benefit of the Bristol Unemployed Fund.

Empire.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Mabel Bardine is here with her interesting dramatic episode, entitled *Nell of the Music Halls*. The sketch is well acted, Miss Bardine evincing much power, and it is deservedly applauded. The Seener and Pridkins Imperial Russian troupe of singers and dancers obtain appreciation; the Edgertons do a clever and sensational aerial act; Sterling and Love have an amusing comedy act, *A Domestic Musical Squabble*; Wright, Ismay, and Wright are experts in speciality dancing; Maud Wilton, comedienne, is pleasing; George Bendon, comedian, obtains applause; and Harry Zetter, comedian and dancer, is appreciated. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—Victoria, Ltd.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. William Greet's production of *The Shulamite* was much enjoyed by a good house on Monday. Miss Ruth Shepherd added to her reputation by the power of her performance of Deborah Krillett; Simeon Krillett, a Boer farmer, was a fine piece of work by Mr. Algernon J. Hicks; Mr. Charles Fancourt as Robert Waring was equal to his very difficult task; Miss Mary Griffiths was an excellent Tante Anna Vanderburg; and Mr. George Rammell ably presented the easy-going young Boer Jan Vanderburg. Memke and Klaus, Kaffir servants, were well represented by Miss Chrissie Bickerstaffe and Mr. James L. Rilings. The play was preceded by the clever duologue, *Jerry and the Sunbeam*, smartly sustained by Mr. Charles Fancourt and Miss Chrissie Bickerstaffe.

BURNLEY.—Victoria Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Crowded houses are witnessing here the brilliant productions of the Moody-Manners Opera Company (A) this week. On Monday *Carmen* was given, with Mlle. Zélie de Lussan in the title-rôle. Mr. Wilson Pembroke added to his reputation by his fine rendering of Don José; Miss Kate Anderson sang beautifully as Michaela; and Mr. Lewys James was a fine Escamillo. Great praise is due to the splendid chorus and orchestra under the bâton of Herr Eckhold. On Tuesday afternoon *Il Trovatore* was given, and in Tuesday evening's performance of *The Puritan's Daughter* Madame Fanny Moody, Mr. Chas. Magrath, and Mr. Wm. Dever figured prominently with great success. Mr. Charles Manners's rendering of "The Light of Other Days" exhibited to the full the powers of his excellent voice. *Tannhäuser*, *Maritana*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *The Lily of Killarney* are also in the répertoire.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—An excellent feature in this week's bill of fare is the wonderful headbalancing of the Carpos Bros. Charles Dare's Minstrels provide a good miscellaneous programme of musical numbers; the Westwoods give a clever cycling performance; David Poole creates laughter with his ventriloquial entertainment; Mill May and Theresa contribute an acceptable turn; Herbert La Martine suits his audience with his eccentric dancing; Auto gives a smart turn on his musical instruments; and the Theatroscope shows a very good film, "The Female Spy."

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—Opera House, New Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Waller.—A good programme is presented here this week. Miss Irene Wynter's fine voice is heard to special advantage. The Evalos give a clever comedy juggling and gymnastic display; Guy Ryder, vocal

Archie Phipps makes the most of his humorous possibilities; Miss Violet Barton Aster is charming as the Hon. Millicent Keppie; Mr. Harold Weston produces a bright and pleasing impression as Jack Menzies; and Miss Estelle Despa cleverly suggests the intermeddling busybody the Hon. Mrs. Colquhoun.

CHESTER.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company is appearing here in a new version of *The Indian Mutiny*, The part of Lieut. Manley is forcibly represented by Mr. George Steel; Mr. John Davidson presents a fine portrait of the kind-hearted Major Ingleby; and the humorous element is well supplied by Mr. Cecil Morand as Terry O'Brien and Miss Lillie Grey as Mrs. Ingleby. In the part of Nebu Singh Mr. Villiers Stanley is a success; Mr. George Belmont submits a clever piece of acting as the crafty Abul Khan; Miss F. Melrose Millett as Ghuznah acts with sympathy; and the remaining parts are in good hands.

CHORLEY (Lancs).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hemingway.—This week a vaudeville company is occupying the boards. Heading the bill are the Mentis, who give an excellent exposition of thought transmission. Exceptionally good pictures are shown on the Biograph; and the Poole-Pelham troupe of international dancers and acrobats give a particularly smart turn.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Herbert J. Montague.—A variety company holds the boards here this week, and includes Mr. Charles Coborn, comedian, who had quite a flattering reception; Sage, comedy burlesque artist and dancer; Miss Violet Robson, comedienne; Miss Edna Reeve and company in a sketch, *Her Shattered Idol*; Mr. Fred Field, tenor vocalist; Mr. Bert Boothroyd, comedian and dancer; and Saros, the mysterious lady. The audience are taken "A Trip Round the World" on the American Bio-Motograph.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Company; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—Miss Lole Esmond's company, under the direction of Mr. Edward Neville, opened here on Monday with *The Anarchist Terror*. Of the title-rôle, Mr. Neville gives a capital rendering; Mr. H. Evan Gibbon proves a characteristic Ishmael; Mr. Fred Cherry appears to advantage as Silas Washington Goldstraw; and Lieut. Armstrong has a strong representative in Mr. Wilfred Langley. Miss Lole Esmond enacts with considerable ability the part of Kitty Malone; Miss Nita Langford exercises good judgment in her delineation of Marita; and Miss Rosie Neville is a clever Columbia Goldstraw. William J. Miller and company were billed for Thursday with *The Throne of Terror*.

COLCHESTER.—HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Another fine programme this week, with Mr. Fred Ginnett and company on top, in the equestrian romance, *Turpin's Ride to York*. Mr. Ginnett himself dramatically sustains the rôle of Dick, and is finely supported by his highly-trained mare, Black Bess. Curtis and Vanity, the American comedy duo, are capital, the lady proving herself an eccentric dancer of wonderful versatility; Welda and Wynne are both droll and clever in their juggling; and Little Ganty is most popular as a comedian; the Sisters Love are capable duettists and charming dancers; Flo Deighton scores as a vocalist; and Beattie and Bentley present a novel episode, entitled *In Darkest Africa*.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—The Irish Animated Picture company opened a week's engagement here on Monday. The scenes shown are very interesting, and are interspersed with vocal and instrumental items. Miss Helen Andrews, contralto, contributes a couple of items; Mr. Walter Thompson is a clever tenor; and Mr. R. W. Goggin's illustrated songs form a feature of the entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The star turn here is Datas, the man with a phenomenal memory; Ruby Aston is a clever comedienne and dancer; Jack Daw pleases with his comic songs; Carlo Bianchi, an upside-down juggler, performs clever feats; Annie Eastwood, soprano, is a good vocalist; Linton performs on a wire, and is very skilful; and Jack Truman possesses a cultivated tenor voice. The programme finishes with the Empiregraph.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr Wm. Bennett.—A well-filled house witnessed, on Monday, *The City of Sin*, produced by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Elliott's company, Mr. Conrad Heywood ably portrays the part of Paul Torraine; Mr. Willfred Graham is seen to advantage as Zip Barzoni; Mr. Beresford Innes is successful as Mortain, the villain; considerable humour is imparted by Mr. C. W. Spencer and Mr. Val W. Gully to the parts of Bibi and Titi; and they are ably assisted by Miss Polly Denville and Miss Sophie Blunden, as Lazotte and Chowette; Miss Edith Wallis is a graceful heroine.

THE HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—An attractive programme is submitted here. The Tan Kwai Troupe of Chinese conjurers are responsible for some smart mystifying tricks; Orpheus is well received in a musical scena; Professor Thornbury gives an exhibition of his powers as a lightning picture artist; Hicks and company appear in a really smart pantomimical production, *A Day at the Seaside*; Bert Woodward is a clever trick cyclist; Tom Packer, a smart comedian; Violet Nunn is much appreciated as a comedienne and dancer; the Morton Trio are well received; and some excellent pictures are shown on the cinematograph.

THE EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. A. Rand.—Largely increased audiences continue to witness an excellent programme submitted at this popular house. A most laughable and amusing turn is given by the Boissets in *The Bricklayers*; Boswell's circus possesses some clever educated ponies and dogs; Cole and Rags are smart comedy jugglers; the Sisters Dorrell are well received; the New Macs give some smart patter; Herbert Lenton, assisted by "Scroggs," appears in Los Espanolas; Buglar Carr is smart; and Lena Willard, comedienne, also entertaining. The usual Bioscope pictures are shown.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John H. Morton.—Mr. A. Campbell Kelly's company is here with *The Trail of the Serpent*. Mr. Kelly himself takes the part of the serpent, Ralph Hammond, and gives us a very finished piece of acting. Miss Nana Cameron as Rachael, a gipsy, shows histrionic ability above the ordinary. Miss Mabel Aspinall gives a winsome interpretation of her part as Ethel Maynard, and Mr. Bradford Crosby has a really good make-up as Gerald Kingston. Mr. Robert Cromwell and Miss Gladys Newcombe as Mr. and Mrs. William Higgins, are full of fun; Mr. Leo Whamboult as Sir Gerald Kingston is dignified and staid; Mr. Vincent Kelway is very good as Gipsy Jake, and he is well assisted by his pal, Ben Chucks, enacted by Mr. George Harris. The other two characters, Bully Tom and Detective Handson are in the able hands of Mr. T. E. Dudley and Mr. George F. Pateman.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—A visit is this week being paid by Mr. Tom Taylor's company in *The Female Swindler*. Miss Grace Leslie, as Lu Valroy, displays talent of a high order; Miss Florrie Kelsey as May Andrews makes a good impression; Miss Mary Dawson as Mary Ann is worthy of special mention; Mr. Joseph Millane cleverly sustains the part of John Coulson; and Mr. Stanley Radcliffe gives a powerful rendering of Geoffrey Warden. Mr. Clarence Ibbotson as Billy Binks shows versatility, impersonating no less than four distinct characters with success; Mr. A. Kenyon Gray gives a dignified portrayal of James Oliver; and Mr. John Belton's Abraham Mikestein is a characteristic study. Mr. Guy P. Ellis is suitably placed as Harold Travers.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr Lawson Lambert.—Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory is presenting *Lights Out* here this week. Miss Octavia Kenmore is quite equal to the responsibilities of the rôle of Klara Volkhardt; Mr. F. Clive Ross is commendable as Major Paschke; Mr. Lambert Plummer makes capital out of the part of Captain Lehdenburgh; Mr. W. Victor is well suited as Lieut. Hagemeister; Mr. Arthur Stone shows histrionic abilities as Capt. Von. B. Bannewitz; Mr. Kenneth Brampton acts carefully as Lieut. Von Howen; Mr. Lovel plays creditably in the rôle of Lieut. Von Lauffen; Mr. Wilton Reed is adequate as Sergeant Volkhardt; and a good word is due to Messrs. Francis J. Bithell, Richard Fielding, Frederick Clifton, and Alfred B. Allen. The drama is preceded by *Nan*, in which Miss Eileen Barry scores in the title-rôle, receiving valuable assistance from Messrs. F. Olive Ross (Tom), Alfred B. Allen (Henry), Kenneth Brampton (Charlie), and Frederick Clifton (Simpson).

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—Mr. Arnold Bell has brought an excellent company to present *Ben-My-Chree* here this week. Miss Marion Forrester enacts the character of Mona Myirea with all the tact and skill of an accomplished actress; and Miss V. Campbell sings sweetly and is an enchanting Kitty. Mr. Arnold Bell puts in genuine work as Dan Myirea; Mr. Guy Morville acts with effect as Ewan Myirea; Mr. Frank Carlile gives an admirable impersonation of Thorkell Myirea; Mr. H. M. Clifford is sincere as Gilchrist Myirea; Mr. Guthbert Imrie is quite up to the mark as Mr. Harcourt; Mr. F. C. Robson deserves praise as Davy Fayle; and Mr. H. Fuller makes the most of Hommey-beg.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—A palatable bill of fare at this popular house includes Fred Eustace and company, who are received with approval in *The Lights of the Harbour*; J. W. Winton, Australian ventriloquist, is smart; the Olympian Stars are interesting dancers and vocalists; Amy Clevere is delightful in song-scena, *My Pale-Faced Queen*; Frank Lawton whistles to perfection; the Eight English Roses are encored in song and dance; Howard and Collinson do well in their droll turn, *The Porter and the Parcel*; Prof. Duncan and his collies are worthy of special mention; Haig and Novel, comedy acrobats, are clever; and Herbert Darnley's company makes a big hit in the physical culture skit, *Muscles*.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Bell.—Mr. Edmund Tearle's Shakespearean company came here on Monday with *Othello*. Mr. Tearle was responsible for a fine masterly presentation of the Moor; and Miss Esther Tearle's Desdemona was graceful and attractive. Not less admirable were the parts played by Mr. B. Turner (Iago), Mr. Clifford Marle (Cassio), and Miss May Campbell (Emilia).

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—Messrs. Frank J. Pitt and Chas. Halling's company is this week presenting the detective drama, *£1000 Reward*. Mr. Chas. Halling makes a decided hit as Vincent Rainsworth; as Inspector Gilbert, Mr. Frank Dallas is clever, as is also Mr. J. Witton Richards as Gilbert Lisle; Mr. Chas. Rogers, jun., as Dick Springthorpe, and Miss Crissie Frances as Kitty, establish themselves favourites; and Mr. J. Newton Cowling as Fred Ingleford, Mr. Frank J. Pitt as Fred Ingleford, jun., and Mr. Arthur Merton as Fighting Jepps are all very good. Miss Daisy Halling, with a fine stage presence, plays the part of Mme. Sansom exceedingly well; as Meg, the flower girl, Miss Lynn Darlington is pleasing, and in several songs uses her fine contralto voice to advantage.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles. Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—Hardie and Von Leer's London company is appearing here this week in *For Life and After*. Miss Grace Heywood as Marion Grey could hardly be improved upon; Miss Muriel Dean is a charming Dora; and other important characters are those of Jenny Huggett and Loo Hexham, admirably played by Miss Marion Fawcett and Miss Rosslyn Vane respectively. Mr. Vernon Sansbury is a good Richard Grey; Mr. Charles Osborne an effective Rube Hexham; Mr. Henry Hare creditably doubles the rôles of Jack Huggett and Jim Huggett; and Mr. Sydney Vautier as Gilbert O'Neill also merits special mention. The humour is mainly supplied by Mr. Chris. Mason as Joe Grimper, and Miss Hilda Leslie as the showman's wife, their fun being most acceptable. The other parts are all in capable hands, and the scenic effects are extremely good.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwards; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Madge Grey heads the bill here this week, and scores a distinct success with her baby mimicry. The Society Quartette contribute excellent singing and dancing; Prof. Dunning gives a pleasing ventriloquial turn; Kahn and Kahn are responsible for a neat conjuring exhibition; and the Two Eltons are accorded a good reception in their bar act. Other entertaining turns are provided by the Marblesque Trio; Claude Tomlin, comedian, and the Bioscope.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—The attractive domestic drama, *Home, Sweet Home*, which proved a great draw at Plymouth recently, is doing equally good business at Devonport. Miss Ethel Kay, a warm local favourite, scored a great success as Joan; Miss Lilian Mildred as Sybil Fey is very popular, her songs contributing to the success; Mr. H. D. Cottell extracts amusement from his part; and Mr. J. P. Lallen as Stephen Armitage is a favourite.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—The stage here this week is in possession of the Dewsbury Amateur Operatic Society, whose initial production of *Dorothy* has proved quite successful. The professional coach and stage-manager is Mr. Jerrold Manville, who has justly earned unanimous praise for the excellence of the performances. The augmented orchestra was led by Mr. Arthur Farnsides, the musical director.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Directress, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer and company opened here on Monday night, when a large and appreciative audience was present to witness the performance of *From Washerwoman to Duchess*. Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer in the title-rôle had ample scope to display her undoubted talent, which she did to the utmost, her efforts being raptuously applauded. Mr. F. Skein gave a powerful representation of Fouché, and Miss Ida A. Chapman acquitted herself admirably as Rosalie. Mr. Leonard Cheetham as Lieutenant Adrian Lefebvre portrayed the part in a clever manner, and Miss Katherine Herbert was remarkably good as Princess Pauline. Mr. Robert Pittard was a capital Maréchal Lefebvre, and Miss More Dunphie gave a careful study of Madame de Staël. Mr. Ashmore J. Vincent and Mr. Alfred Harvey were good exponents of Dubois and D'Esparre respectively, whilst Napoleon was well acted by Mr. Sydney Bland. On Tuesday night *Mary Queen of Scots* was presented, and met with a favourable reception. The other plays for the week include *East Lynne* and *Hamlet*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The charming comedy opera *Dorothy* is being successfully presented here this week by a talented company of local amateurs in aid of Lady Dudley's Nursing Fund.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; Acting-Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson.—*The Span of Life* is presented here with every success by Mr. Arthur Carlton's company. Mr. R. S. Trelawney undertakes the part of Richard Blunt with ability, and Miss Phyllis Hamilton gives due prominence to the rôle of Mrs. Jelf. Mr. Sanderson Moffatt achieves success as Dunstan Leech, and Miss M. Douglas is commendable in the dual rôle of Cecil Jelf and Cecil Blunt. Mr. Walter Dale well sustains the part of Nutty Brown, and is ably assisted by Miss Kitty Russell as Shrove Tuesday. Miss Ella Wilmer makes a pleasing appearance as Kate Heathcott, and Mr. James Jarrett as Joshua Gurnett and Mr. J. Petersfell as Azrek are both good in their respective parts. A special feature of the production is the acrobatic act of the Stebbing Family, which receives due recognition.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—A distinct hit has been made this week by the engagement of Marie Santoi and her merry Japs in a delightful musical novelty entitled *The Japanese Tea Garden by Night*. Another excellent attraction is Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas in an interesting series of readings from Dickens, which is well appreciated, and Clarice Netta, ballad vocalist, sings several songs admirably. Leslie Bell and Lily Pearl's company, in the sketch, *A Little Bit of String*, causes roars of laughter, and Frank Maura, Mexican funambulist, wins popular favour. The Paxton Trio, Continental athletes, score a great success, and Jessie Burnett, comedienne, has many admirers. Derenda and Green, clever and amusing juggling comedians, meet with approval, and the Empire pictures are entertaining.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—This week the bill here is headed by the Andos Japanese troupe, who give a marvellously clever performance and are loudly applauded. Another item deserving of special mention is contributed by Blanche and Powell in a vocal comedy act, and the Garden Troupe of International Vocalists and Dancers are well received. The Stack and Milton Trio gain commendation for their smart and novel gymnastic act, and the Sisters Lylle are pleasing duettists and dancers. Caban's dogs and ponies display remarkable intelligence. The Brothers Sheppard are humorous cross-talk comedians, and Gus Merriman, musical page boy, scores. Excellent living pictures are shown by means of the Tivoli Bioscope.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here:—Lindon and Wright, duettists; Amy Royston, coon vocalist; Roy Lovell, tenor vocalist; Wal Kent, comedian; and Arthur Leo, actor-vocalist.

DUNDALK.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Proprietors, Urban Council.—This week Mr. Payne Seddon has presented his Hippodrome company, which has included Mr. Harold Montague's vaudeville company, *The Vagabonds*, in their humorous and musical entertainment. Mr. Harold Montague must be congratulated upon his excellent acting and singing. He was ably assisted by Miss Lulu, Miss Olive Spark, Mr. Leslie Burgiss, and Mr. Claude Russell. The Two Virginias were successful in song and dance; Mr. Leon Leonard as a conjurer was very good indeed; Miss Lola Leonard, in illustrated song, met with a warm reception; a fine Bioscope exhibition kept the audience highly amused.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company present this week that delightful comedy, *Cousin Kate*. The crisp and witty dialogue in the hands of such a capable company proves most enjoyable. Miss Lilias Earle acted the part of Kate Curtis to perfection; Mr. Templer Powell as Heath Desmond was likewise exceptionally good; Miss Hilda Honiss as Amy Spencer gave a charming rendering of a difficult rôle; Miss Amy Coleman made an excellent Mrs. Spencer, and Miss Margaret Marshall a most amusing Jane. Mr. Ernest H. G. Cox was capital as the Rev. James Bartlett; and Mr. S. Irwin Barrett entertaining as Bobby Spencer. *Cousin Kate* was preceded by Mr. Ernest H. G. Cox's comedy, *The Other Heir*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—A bright and attractive programme is submitted here, the top turn being Astley's American Circus, which proves very entertaining. The Consul Girls supply neat and graceful acrobatic dancing; Jack Walker is a capital comedian; Ara, Zebra, and Vora supply a smart juggling act; and George Bernard (actor-vocalist), Musical Rosina, Dennis and Cligan (comedy artists), Amandus (facial mimic), and the bioscope are all well received.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—The principal turn this week is Tom Bassett's spectacle, *Santa Claus*, in which twenty local children take part. The dresses and scenery are excellent, and the songs written and composed by the aforesaid Tom are above the average. Tom Bassett scores his usual big success as a Shakespearean comedian; Mark Anthony repeats his triumph of last week; and Wallace Muirhead, tenor, has a flattering reception. The Lilian Brothers give a neat acrobatic show; Cliff and Kean are successful in their clever comedy and dancing act; and the Three Henriques, comedy acrobats; Rose Waller, a chic comedienne; George Foster, and the Gaiety Bioscope all prove entertaining.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The Empire Animated Photo Company are presenting films including "A Tour with Bostock's Menagerie," which is one of the best pictures seen here for a long time. Pleasant variety is supplied by Miss La Claire, in illustrated songs, and by Little Doris, a clever juvenile performer.

EASTBOURNE.—PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Alexander Loftus's company is reappearing here in *The New Barmaid*. The main part of the fun is supplied by Mr. Alexander Loftus, who as Bertie White sings and dances and acts in a most lively and admirable manner. Mr. James Grant is a really funny and amusing William; Mr. Leslie Austin uses a fine voice in excellent style as Captain Lovebury; Mr. Harry Collier is a very good Colonel; and Mr. Stephen Hall is a clever and animated Bonsor. Miss Amy Preston, pretty, refined and graceful, scores as Ethel Joy; Miss Violet Osmond repeats a successful performance as Dora Heather; and Miss Winifred Preston is a dignified Lady Moulton. Mr. E. W. Vaughan is the director of the augmented chorus.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—At the head of the bill are the Pasqualia Bros. and their wonderfully clever and finished work is in great favour; Miss Madeline Rossitor sings prettily, dances gracefully, and is a great favourite; Mr. Charles Cardow is an original and talented comedian; Mr. Fred Land has a distinctly amusing style; Matalia and Diana have a very effective trapeze act; Mac and Hill patter laughably; and capital pictures are shown on the new machine.

ECCLES.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Manager, Mr. Ernest Hales; Secretary, Mr. P. Ryan Smith.—Mr. Fred Jarman's company is here in the new Anglo-Russian drama, *Under the Czar*. The part of Nicholas Yerosloff is well taken by Mr. Newton Buckland; Mr. George H. Doyle is a powerful Zakhar Kovesky; Mr. R. Merring is well placed as Michael Granoviski; Mr. Louis Weston, as Paul Ignst, is amusing; Mr. Carl Varsner is a clever Alexis Petroff; Miss Maude Steeple distinguishes herself as Sonia Gregorovitch, and the Zara Bhura of Miss Rose May is pleasing.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—The welcome visit here this week of the D'Oyly Carte company, in a round of the tuneful Savoy pieces, has been a very great success. The house was crowded on Monday evening, when the company opened with *The Mikado*, and applause and laughter rang through the theatre during the evening. Mr. Fred Billington was in his old part of Pooh-Bah, and he was, if possible, more humorous and in better voice than ever, making every point tell. Mr. Stafford Moss, a young tenor vocalist with a cultured voice, was an admirable Nanki Poo; Mr. Albert Kavanagh, so long associated with the part of the Mikado, was unfortunately prevented by illness from appearing, and his place was successfully filled by Mr. Drawater; Mr. Charles R. Walenn, an excellent comedian and capital vocalist, was in splendid form as Ko-Ko; Miss Hope Hastings, Miss Lulu Evans, and Miss Mabel Burnage were the "three little maids," and they acted and sang in delightful style; Miss Theresa Rassam acted with much ability as Katisha, showing admirable taste and dramatic instinct, and she sang excellently; Pish-Tush was made very enjoyable in the hands of Mr. Tunks; and the choruses were sung with the precision and effectiveness characteristic of the company. *The Gondoliers*, *The Yeomen of the Guard*, *Iolanthe*, *Patience*, and *H.M.S. Pinafore* have been played during the week. Sir Charles Wyndham, Miss Mary Moore, and company, paid a special flying visit to Edinburgh on Wednesday, and gave a matinée performance of *David Garrick* in the presence of a large audience.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—The Fred Karno company of comedians provide the leading turn here with the amusing burlesque *Early Birds*, which is carried through with unflagging energy. Pat Rafferty sings his Irish songs with great humour in genial style; the Lyons Trio of pantomimists put plenty of spirit into their sketch, *The Parson, the Lady, and the Butler*; Frank Harwood sings several descriptive songs very pleasingly; and Horace Jones gains applause as a Welsh humorist. Lee and Kingston prove themselves competent comedy artists; Parker and Parr appear with acceptance in a sketch, entitled *Taffy and the Toff*; Counsell and Mills enact a mock melodrama, *The Midnight Express*; while Genaro and Theol perform some extraordinary contortions. Cattin's Pierrots provide a popular variety entertainment; and Miss Rosie Archer gives clever imitations of well-known music-hall favourites.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—The holiday attraction at this popular place of amusement has already proved phenomenally successful, and the veteran entertainer may be congratulated on the merits of his latest production. *The Big Water Carnival* is preceded by a varied programme of equestrian acts and interesting circus turns, worthily sustaining the reputation of this long-lived establishment, and relieved at intervals by some excellent fooling on the part of Handy Andy, Frank Anderson, and other clever clowns. The Humels, Miss Iona Ginnett, Permane's Bears, and Mitzi, a Japanese juggler, are prominent in an admirable programme.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Miss Winifred Chalmers's company is appearing here this week in *Dearer than Life*, and is attracting large "houses." Miss Winifred Chalmers herself takes the part of the female detective, Mona Brayton, in a clever manner; Mr. Henry L. Osmond's Armand Dubois is excellent; Mr. Leonard Williams as Harry Royce, the detective, ably seconds Miss Chalmers; and Miss Kate Blair is good as Natalie Latour. Mr. Harry Cooke as Sammy Dobbs is amusing.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—The first three nights of the week the boards were occupied by Mr. Douglas Bowie and his Falkirk Juvenile Dramatic Company (numbering 80), who successfully appeared in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. On Thursday evening Messrs. Elliman's No. 1 company opened a three nights' engagement in *A Heart's Desire*.

TOWN HALL.—On Monday Mr. R. Silvester entered upon his second week of occupancy of the Town Hall with his chronophone and Continental animated pictures and variety entertainment.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—The theatre is occupied this week by the Boston (U.S.A.) Bioscope, under the management of Mr. J. Gilroy, and a very good evening's entertainment is provided. "The Eccentric Burglary" produces roars of laughter, and "A Fireman's Story" rounds of applause, and a large number of other really good items are included. Mr. J. Gilroy also gives a very clever ventriloquial turn; and Miniature Florrie (the Blackpool girl vocalist) contributes some excellent singing.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company is here this week in *The Silver King*. Mr. Fred D. Daviss gives a very fine performance as Wilfred Denver; Mr. L St. George Lowther plays with effect as the Spider; Mr. Edward J. George scores a success in the part of Jaikes; Mr. A. Horney Warburton is exceedingly good as Henry Corkett; Mr. Arthur Wright and Mr. Warress Sindon give clever representations of Elijah Coombe and Cripps; Miss Daisy Scudamore is a capable Nellie Denver; Miss Flossie Hale Daviss, as Cissy, is pleasing and natural; Miss Dorothy Radford gives able support as Olive Skinner; and Miss Louie Hale causes merriment as Tabitha.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—Mr. Howard Cochran's company appeared here for three nights last week in the amusing comedy, *The Marriage of Kitty*. Miss Margaret Damer was charming in the character of Kitty Silverton; Mr. Cochran gave a clever rendering of Sir Reginald Belize; John Travers was excellently played by Mr. Cecil Wilford; Mme. de Samiano had a powerful representative in Miss Betty Castle; and the French maid of Miss Helen Kay Robertson was a smart little piece of acting.

GATESHEAD.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company appears here this week in *Bound to Win*. Mr. Kimberley makes a capital Harry Lyndon; Mr. Chas. Vivian is well placed as Philip Ayre; Squire Forbes is capably treated by Mr. Edward Bilker; and the comedy element is well exploited by Mr. F. Rogers (Horatio Buffitt), and Mr. Dick Seddon (Willie Winkins). Miss Eva Newes is an excellent Gladys Orme; Miss Violet Langley a capital Marion Forbes; and Miss Trixie Toole a vivacious Winnie Oakley.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee, Mr. Edward Johnson; General-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—"Starring" here are the Brothers Ashley in a lively sketch, named *Next, Please*. Rose Elliott, on her third visit, is more popular than ever; accomplished acrobatic cyclists are the Villions; Collins and Rice have a comedy act which meets with hearty approval; the Sivanes are a pair of smart dancers; Meier and Mora are admired for business which includes ball-punching, singing, and dancing; the Wallys, in a juggling "turn," are seen to advantage; and Hettie Lee scores in the song, "Sailing in my balloon." Pictures by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope conclude the entertainment.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Managers, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company (under the direction of Mr. Charles M. Julian), is here in *I Defy the World*, Mr. Percy Ballard plays the principal part.

GLASGOW.—KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—Despite the frivolous feelings engendered by pantomime, a good and appreciative audience welcomed Messrs. Lely and Mollison's company here in *Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush*. Mr. William Mollison's embodiment of the stern old father, Lachlan Campbell, is a specially fine bit of acting, and was received by the audience with the most sympathetic attention, culminating in hearty applause at the end of each scene. Miss Evelyn McNay as Flora Campbell made an attractive heroine, and in the pathetic scene where she is ordered out of her father's house she acted with much pathos. Mr. John Clyde was the hearty and bluff Doctor McClure to the life, and strengthened the cast considerably. A first-rate touch of comedy was given by Mr. Alec F. Thompson as the Wee Postie, and Miss Edith Blair-Staples as Annie. Mr. Kendal Chalmers appeared as Tammas; Miss Alice Francis was a handsome Kate Carnegie; Miss Josephine Woodward gave a quiet, homely touch to the part of Margaret Howe, and the two children were cleverly acted by Misses Martha Stewart and Jeannie Fitzgerald. Mr. Eric Mayne lent dignity to the part of the Rev. John Carmichael; Mr. Archie W. Chappell was a manly young Lord Hay, and Mr. D. Lyall, as the old Earl, could have improved his make-up with advantage. The play was mounted with much care and picturesque effect. On Tuesday a flying matinée performance of *David Garrick* was given by Sir Charles Wyndham, Miss Mary Moore, and company.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. M. Downie.—This week, The Players, a clever local amateur theatrical combination, is giving a creditable performance of the well-known farcical comedy, *Niobe*.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Gillespy.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Charles Majilton's company in *The Runaways*, a pantomimic extravaganza by Fred Locke. Mr. Chas. Majilton as the mystery is a weird impersonation, gliding like a ghost throughout the scenes. Two boy parts are gracefully performed by Miss Maddie Majilton as Frank and Miss Amy Majilton as Tom. A notable character is that of a kilted Scot, comically acted by Mr. Jim Bond. Miss Nellie Clifford, as Maud of the railway bar, plays the part quite naturally; Mr. Randle Wilson scores as a mashing dude; Mr. Ben Storey doubles the parts of a railway porter and a pugilist, and is successful in both characters; Miss Norah Christie as Alice and Miss Rose Ingleford as Daisy are two charming impersonations. Lively fun runs all through this entertainment.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—The Govan house is this week staging Mr. Theodore Kremer's American domestic drama, *An Actor's Romance*. The company is Miss Lillian Bessant's, and that dainty little actress appears with much mirth and vivacity in the part of Dolly Dillingham. The acting of Mr. R. Bardley Howard as Harold Davenport is very pleasing; while Messrs. R. Clive, Harry Agar-Lyons, and Harry Wren, as Robert Livingstone, Jack Woodford, and Charley Cummins respectively, appear with much merited success. To little Miss Marion Ryder is due a word of praise for her talented portrayal of Phyllis Davenport, and Mr. Percy Warlow could not be improved on as Ikey Isaacs. Both Miss Beatrice Hone and Miss Florence Nelson have trying parts as Louise Davenport and Florence Nelson, the delineation of which leaves nothing to be desired.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Mussett.—Madge Lessing tops the bill here, and, aided by a tuneful sextett, contributes two Dutch scenas, one being the melodious *Zuyder Zee*. A clever young girl as La Dansense gives several smart dances, and was accorded an enthusiastic recall. Florence Smithers and her company cause roars of laughter with the lively sketch, *Hard Lines*. Boyd and Gilfain's lively patter and songs are well received, and the bagpipe-playing of the lady is again highly popular. Charles Berte and company appear in a playlet, *The Mysterious Mrs.*, which combines drama and farce acceptably. Bernardo is extremely good as a comic juggler; Fred Daniels and Tom Lytton, comedians, and Browning and Wally, gymnasts, complete a varied bill.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—La Pia, the beautiful poseuse, tops the bill here, and has a flattering reception; Marie Jones, protean actress, assisted by Ernest Munro, gives a clever quick-change duologue, entitled *How to Win a Bet*; Graham, the human marionette, is decidedly good; an amusing act is contributed by Zamfretta and Napio, musical knife grinders and violinists, and the Wartenberg Bros. are wonderful double-foot jugglers. Other pleasing turns include the Sisters May, dancers; Two Cymros, Welsh vocalists; Walter Levetto, pedestal dancer; Pat Carey, Irish comedian, and the Hippodrome Bioscope.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The non-appearance of Miss Ada Colley on the earlier nights of the week was a great disappointment to the management and patrons alike. The lady was suffering from bronchial catarrh, but hoped to be able to sing later in the week. Cora Duncan and Albert Brasque appear in a smart dramatic episode, *A Dressing-room Romance*. Joe O'Gorman renews old acquaintance with this city, and has a capital reception for his excellent patter, songs, and dancing. An entertaining turn is that of the Calcotts; they are quite expert on the banjo, grand piano, &c., and neat dancing is a further feature. The vocal mimicry of leading stars in the world of musical comedy is a revelation to many, and Herbert Clifton well merits his hearty recalls. Oakdene, in his nautical ventriloquial scena, is clever. Lotte de Abbey is

their share; Mr. Harry Elliston is a lively Abanazar, and keeps the fun going with much spirit, ably assisted by Mr. Harry Morgan as I-ke-mo, and Little Britton as Schnapps. Mr. Fred Dark as the tearful Widow Twankey proves very amusing. Mr. Harold Wardroper as the Emperor, and Miss Nellie Rodney as the Geni of the Ring give able support. As is usual in Tiller's companies, the dancing is a special feature and the Tiller Quartette, the chorus and ballet, as well as a number of very little girls, all distinguish themselves as dancers. An interesting display of foot-balancing by Charles Ulrick concludes the performance.

HARMONIC CONCERTS.—Musical Secretary, Mr. Wm. Biggam.—A lenghy, but enjoyable, programme here includes Joe Weseley's Minstrels in their répertoire; Chorley and Connor, comedians; Madame Rogers and family in songs and duets; Jack Henri and Harry Austin Scotch comedians; Ted Curtis and piccaninnies; Lieut. Fred Granville, ventriloquist; the Sisters Du Barrie, Andrew Brown, Victoria troupe of dancers, and Little Dollie Barrie.

GLOSSOP. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. T. Arthur Jones and company are paying a welcome visit this week in *Life's Sweetest Sins*. Mr. Jones as Capt. Harold Marston plays the lead in an able and much appreciated manner; Mr. Oswald Douglas, as Doctor Colbrooke, is successful as a man of the world; whilst Mr. Robert Sawin (Kimberley Coutts) and Mr. Clem Horlock (Rev. Edward Grey) are conspicuous as the doctor's confederates; Mr. Fred Wilson makes a capital Ernie Wedstone; Mr. Frank Thornton well represents the part of Captain Rawlins; and Mr. Bertram Lee is effective as Martin, an old salt; Miss Hazel Dent scores as Dorean Rivers; Miss Mary Ainslee as Fay Colbrooke acts with marked ability; Miss Elsie Walton is excellent as Bess Grayson, and with Mr. Edgar Morgan as Bob Tanner keeps the audience in good humour. Mr. Fred Wilson (Mr. Burrows), Mr. John Walker (Bob Simpson), Mr. Lucien Feveral (Will Bridge), Mr. Sydney Belmore (Jack Lackey), and Mr. George Organ (Sergeant Bates) all do well.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Austin and Cowan, at the top of the bill this week, are well received; Percy Galino submits a musical pot-pourri act with success; Lugio's Serenaders are an excellent troupe; Miss Dolly Harmer, both in her "Suffragette" song and her music-hall imitations, has a rousing reception; Silent Tait proves neat and effective as an eccentric wizard; May Francis is a good speciality dancer; Kid Johnson and Maisie Pelham introduce a smart act, in which bag-punching, vocalism, and dancing in turn predominate; Sam Redfern patters as of yore; Miss Mabel Blanche gives artistic international dances and quick changes; May La Vella is a versatile instrumentalist; and the Bioscope is always good.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Wybert Clive's company is here this week with the powerful Russian drama, *The Conscript*. Mr. J. W. Henson gives a realistic portrait of Karl Truevitch; and Miss Lilian Ross is equally successful as Nadia. They are well supported by Mr. Walter Steele as Ivan Manloff, Mr. Chas. E. Johnson as Count Paul Hardiski, Mr. William Head as Doggervitch, Mr. Beckett Bould as Tretch Troloff, Mr. Sidney Cauldfield as Mexim Fedka, Miss Edith Wilson as Wand Khoval, and Miss Alga Datre as Catherine.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert.—The Four Indian Fakirs give a very weird and mystifying entertainment; the Hartfords contribute an exceedingly clever acrobatic cycling turn; the Wambas excel as musical eccentrics; Lily and Albert provide a smart acrobatic turn, and other artists appear with much success.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R C. Buchanan; Resident Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. A. H. Canby's original company in *The Prince Chap* is the attraction here this week. Mr. H. R. Roberts plays his part as William Peyton with conspicuous ability; Mr. Victor Widdicombe gives a richly humorous representation of Marcus Runion; as the Earl of Henningford, Mr. Wilfred Draycott is also successful; Peyton's artist friends, Ballington, Jadder, and Fritz are well represented by Messrs. A. E. Greenaway, Leonard Robson, and Ivan Berlyn. Miss Ethel Hollingshead excels in the rôle of Alice Travers; Claudia is presented in the first act by Little Olga Hope, in the second by little Geraldine Wilson, and in the third by Miss Lorna Laurence, all of whom are most successful; Miss Marie Wright is very amusing as Phœbe Puckers. The curtain-raiser is a smart little piece entitled *The Girl from Biarritz*.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—An excellent programme is headed by Le Diabelo, who gives a daring and sensational cycle performance, looping the Devil's Wheel; Max Rubens and Mlle. Doro submit a novel musical change scena entitled *Superba*, which is warmly applauded; Gold and Sterling are also well received in their comedy scena *The Welsh Girl and the Artist*; Will McIvor, comedian, scores with his songs; Ruby Dahl's marionettes and the Empire pictures are also good.

PAVILION THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—A strong bill is headed here by Messrs. Muir, Bartlett and company, who appear in a laughable sketch entitled *The Collar-stud*, which keeps the house convulsed with laughter. Mr. Bert Byrne is an amusing comedian, with catchy songs and a good reception has been extended to Rastus and Banks, coloured entertainers, in *The Major and the Maid*. Charles Banks and his wonderful little dog elicit applause Other excellent turns are provided by Dolly Golden, comedienne and speciality dancer, and Gena Manon, vocalist and soubrette. The Paviscope pictures complete a good all-round entertainment.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—The naval play, *The Sailors of the King*, is being performed here by Mr. Charles Harrington's company. Mr. Harrington himself appears as Admiral Drake, and is a dignified figure as the retired officer, whose son, Lieutenant Dick Drake, is portrayed in breezy fashion by Mr. Frank Stevens; Mr. R. F. Stacey presents the scheming chaplain, Orrel Drake, in sufficiently vivid colours; Miss Madge North as Felicia Phrynne, Miss Lily Prescott as Daisy Dent, Miss Sylvia Stella as Rebecca Crosby, Mr. A. D. Anderson as Rufford Dent, Mr. Fred Owen as Harris Wilkinstein, Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., as Barnet Fair, and Miss Nero Hathaway as Penelope Penn, are other prominent figures in the play.

CURRY'S TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The Lukushima Troupe of Japanese performers give a capital exhibition of their native skill; their equilibristic and risley work is especially remarkable. J. W. Hall has enhanced his reputation here as a comedian; the Marconis give novel demonstrations of electrical and fire experiments; George Young, a blind musician, contributes excellent concertina solos; Francis Heskoll presents illustrated songs; and others appearing are: Dorothy L. Clarke, vocalist; the Lannons, pedestal dancers; and the Payts, in an amusing sketch.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—Gustave Fasola performs a series of mystifying illusions, his cabinet and trunk tricks being especially smart; the Four Charles, a continental troupe, combine acrobatic business with novel juggling feats; Howard and Clair extract much fun out of their sketch representing an amateur theatrical rehearsal; Mark Leslie is a popular coon singer; Bert Williams, a ventriloquist, is responsible for an amusing turn; and the remainder of the programme is supplied by the Gregson Trio, in *The Dummy*; Marie Weston, a pleasing dancer; and Lambert and Glover, in a sketch.

THE HIPPODROME. — Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Arthur Vivian.—Animated Pictures have again provided the attraction, whilst varieties are given by the Shamrock Trio of vocalists and dancers, and Joe Leonard, descriptive vocalist.

HALIFAX.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Miss Winifred Maude and company occupy the boards here this week with the *Stowaway* and *Sins of a City*, both plays being fairly well patronised.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Two crowded houses gave May Glenn enthusiastic receptions here on Monday night. The chic little comedienne was in excellent form. The Royal Zanettos, appearing as Japanese jugglers, proved a great attraction; Frank Leon danced in a manner that gave satisfaction to all; Fred Peake and company were seen to advantage in *The Hypocrite*; Walter Ray is possessed of a keen sense of humour, and scored heavily; Celest performed his remarkable rope and wire vaulting; Walter Goodman, the American tramp eccentric, and Milner Verran shared the honours.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—A regal feature of the bill here this week is undoubtedly the Six Brothers Luck, in their absurdity, *The Demon of the Cellar*; rousing receptions are accorded Johnny Holland and company for their capital representation of *Our Betsy*; Eric Graham, the coster comedian, makes a welcome reappearance; Mlle. De Rose enchants her attentive listeners as of old; J. H. Hawtrey has clever songs, admirably interpreted; Ethel Leftus, in song and comedy; and the Aquamarinoff troupe of Russian dancers are also successful.

HANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing Director. Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's company opened here on Monday in *When London Sleeps*. Miss Maud Scudamore as Queenie Carruthers contributes a capital impersonation; David Englebeart finds a manly representative in Mr. Sam Arthur; Mr. C. P. Wentworth, in the heavy part of Captain Rodney Hayes, is all that can be desired; Mr. Frank Havard does well as the Hon. Bertie Broomhead; Mr. Fred Barnardo shows ability as the policeman; Mr. Chas. E. Sutton is well placed as Fuller; Mr. F. E. Thomas contributes a good reading of Bob Jones; as Mark Blackwood Mr. Harry Barham is seen to advantage; and Mr. D'Arcy Kelway as Sammy Blyth does good work. Miss Maud Yorke makes a powerful Hilda Carode.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—The premier position here is held by Ludwig Amann, in his wonderful facial impersonations; Nellie Wallace returns, and scores her usual success; Brown and Robinson, in their scena, are the recipients of much applause; Corbin's dogs go through a turn which reflects the highest credit upon their trainer; Oakley and James provide an acceptable interlude; Lily Flexmore as a singer and dancer is much appreciated; the Bros. Ralston are comedians of merit; and the pictures are quite up-to-date.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of this week we had a return visit of *Sherlock Holmes*, presented on this occasion by Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart's company. In the title-rôle Mr. Hamilton Stewart was seen to advantage; as Dr. Watson Mr. Stanley Logan was all that could be desired; as Professor Moriarty Mr. W. F. Stirling was excellent; Mr. Ernest Gray was well placed as James Larrabee; as Madge Larrabee Miss Georgina Winter may be specially commended; Miss Constance Leigh made a pretty and pathetic Alice Faulkner; and Mr. Edward Mervyn supplied the comic relief as Syd Prince.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Everton and Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The principal attraction here is the Mannone in *Uncle Yank*. The one and only J. H. Milburn is always a strong number for a Hartlepool audience; Carr and Rose have a welcome that is fully justified; and Grace Linton, vocalist; Maxford and O'Neil, cross-talk comedians; and Fannie Humber, speciality dancer, all contribute attractive turns. Ada Gatley is well named the "Queen of the swinging wire."

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—On Monday the clever company organised by Madge McIntosh and Lumsden Hare gave the initial performance in Hastings of Alfred Sutro's whimsical comedy, *Mollentrave on Women*, which the audience greatly enjoyed. The smug, self-complaisant Mr. Mollentrave had an excellent representative in Mr. Herbert Grimwood, whose didactic manner was very entertaining. Mr. Athol Stewart acted cleverly the complex rôle of Sir John Balsted; Miss May Pardoe was convincing as Lady Claude; the sentimental rôle of Margaret Messilent was played by Miss Eva Hamblin with much grace and pleasing comedy; Mr. Harry Kendall was sufficiently impetuous in his amours; Mr. Stockall Ward as Lord Contareen was very amusing in his application of Mollentrave's system; the jealousy between Miss Treable, the companion, and Mrs. Martelli, the housekeeper, was well depicted by Miss Belle Donaldson and Miss Ada King respectively. A good character sketch was provided by Mr. Stanley James as Mr. Dexter.

PIER PAVILION. — Pier - Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Alfred Tapping and company are appearing this week in *The Serious Family*. Mr. Tapping appears at his best in the part of Aminadab Sleek; Mr. Algernon Syms gives a spirited account of Captain Maguire; Lady Creamly is charmingly played by Miss Una Gilbert; Miss Clarissa Selwynne illustrates the character of Mrs. Charles Torrens to perfection; and a delightful interpretation of Mrs. Ormsby Delmaine is given by Miss Alice Farleigh.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman. — The company here is an interesting one. Mr. Charles Rutland is a good comedian; some excellent sand-dancing is presented by Bob Pueblo and Katie Cropp; Mr. Charles Ashdowne is highly amusing; a pot-pourri entertainment is given by the Paolias; Miss Ida Bale is attractive; Terry and Bentley are excellent as burlesque huntsmen; and Letine, vocalist, the pictures, and some clever cycling by the Whitworth Girls are other attractions.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. Barnsley.—Well billed, well managed, and well staged, there is little wonder that Mr. Skardon's *Rogues of the Turf* company has received a rousing reception here this week. Miss Marie Fontaine as Nellie Flaxman proves herself an exceptionally fine artist, doing full justice to her part, and acting with much feeling. Miss Sidney Crowe, a clever actress, plays to great advantage as Lady Heathcote; Miss May Rosina's impersonation of Phlis creates roars of laughter, her performance being excellent. Mr. Herbert Skardon looks quite a hero as Arthur Somerton; Mr. Fred Bentley is remarkably good as Joe Flaxman; as Steve Burton Mr. Pat Quin gives a creditable performance; and Mr. Fred J. Edwards provides some good light comedy as Sam Flaxman.

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fred Lewis.—Miss Bonwin Carlton's company, in *The Plucky Nipper*, is paying a return visit here. The piece is admirably staged, and the scenery and stage machinery are very effective. The company is an excellent all-round one, and includes Mr. Fred Rivers, who gives a decidedly sinister rendering of the fiend Richard Vanburgh. Mr. H. J. Butler plays Col. Fenwick in good style; Mr. P. Watson's interpretation of Captain Frank Leslie is very good; Mr. Edward Surrey's Bill Burgess is a quaint and clever study; Tommy Atkins, in the hands of Mr. Alf Williams, is perfectly safe, and the comedy with Polly is very funny. Miss Evelyn Derwent plays the Colonel's daughter with feeling; Miss Kitty Maynard is a touching Daisy; and Miss Bonwin Carlton, in the title-rôle, creates roars of laughter.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Sensational drama rules here. *The 10.30 Down Express* is the title of the play presented by Mr. Horace Stanley's company, which includes Mr. George Beverley, smart as Jack O'Malley; Mr. Chas. Burdon, incisive as the villain, Inderwick; Mr. Tom Roydan as the gamekeeper, Coombes; Mr. Horace Stanley, humorous as Wagstaffe; Miss Kate Kilpack, a helpful colleague as Peggy; Miss Elsie Capell, a sympathetic Bessie, and Miss E. M. Walton a giddy Letitia Leigh.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The turns here are provided by the Dayton Family of clever Risley performers; Fred Bronte, descriptive vocalist; the Raymond Trio of refined musicians and dancers; Stacey and Williams, comedians and dancers; Miss Florence Yamen, coon songstress; Estino and Luigi, a clever pair of head-to-head trick performers; Miss Lily Esplin, comedienne; Harry Freeman, a smart and happy comedian; Lily Foy, comedienne; Carl Howard, a humdrum mock sleight-of hand artist; and a laughable picture on the biograph.

HULL.—THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Otto and Olga, mock operatic artists, make a big hit here. Dawson Dewick is an exceedingly clever patterer and vocalist; the Three Coopers present an interesting turn; Maud Laverne has some good songs, and knows how to render them; the Sutcliffe family give a varied entertainment as pipers and acrobats; Rose and Grayson complete. Billy Stonehouse, the veteran stage-manager, took a well-deserved benefit on Friday, when a host of special attractions were announced.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Mexican Mac, assisted by Mlle. St. Claire, appear in a clever shooting act; Marcus Boyle is a big favourite; Arnett and Beever are comedians who cause much laughter; Sabino appears in a clever entertainment. Other favourites include Nellie Dunbar, a comic sketch by Chas. H. Gould and company, Ada Whitton, and Rene and Smith.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—The "Globe of Life," circled by Wizard and Irene Stone, is one of the most sensational acts ever produced here. The charming dances of De Dio gain much applause; Rose Harvey's songs are popular; and Geo. Newburn (mimic) is well received. Other artists include the Grisse Brothers, the Solari Duo, Prince Kokin, Picton and Roxborough, and Hesketh Meade.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*A Woman Worth Winning* is the attraction here this week. Miss Maud Buchanan is admirably suited to the part of Roma Pauloff, and as Fergus Lovinski Mr. Mackay secures applause. Messrs. E. Kendrick, Wynne Davies, and Angus Alexander respectively as Col. Mashenoff, Corporal Peteroff, and Ivan Bardoff, materially contribute to the success of the piece. Messrs. Sidney Barton and Gilbert Standing, as the Czar Nicholas and Amos Pauloff, deserve honourable mention. Mr. E. C. Edwards as Peter Popples, and Miss Ida Mackay as Katerina Kloss, keep the audience in a good humour; whilst Mr. E. Hall-Eldon gives a quaint representation of Bertie Scribbles. The villain, General Bovinski, is capitally portrayed by Mr. Percy Norman.

QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—The bill is headed by Mlle. Adelina, who gives clever impersonations; the Vaudevilles present a diverting sketch entitled *My Husband the Lunatic*; Deller and Oxford please with their duets; and Jim Deller, comedian, and Alice Oxford, serio and dancer, both do well; Harry Slade, comedian, is welcomed as an old friend; and Annie Barton, Tyrolean vocalist, &c., wins much applause.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—*The Little Breadwinner*, played by Mr. J. A. Campbell's company, has occupied the boards here this week. Miss Emmie Thomas makes a favourable impression in the title-rôle; Mr. Alfred Maurice does justice to the part of Joseph; Mr. Eugene Santley is an effective Lord Dorrington, and Mr. Stanley Needham an amusing Charles Prior. Miss Mary Mallalieu is an accomplished actress in the character of the Quaker's granddaughter.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The chief item of a strong and varied programme here this week is the appearance of Mr. John L. Shine and company in *Hogmanay*—a homely and pathetic little piece. Other turns include Helen Charles, a drawing-room entertainer of refinement; the Sisters Carina, a couple of talented instrumentalists; Goggin and Davis, acrobats; Rita and Roma, contortionists and musical artists; Raie Walters, a charming fisher girl; the Hanlon Troupe, daring and accomplished trapeze performers; and Arthur Aiston, ventriloquist.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jerrold E. Reed.—Mr. W. Reuben Payne's company is here with a powerful drama entitled *The World's Verdict*. Mr. Cecil R. Thompson gives a good rendering of the part of Sir Geoffrey Woodleigh; Mr. Harry Lloyd submits a manly portrayal of George Ashford; Mr. Albert Guyon plays Jasper Woodleigh with force; Mr. Arthur Pringle does remarkably well as Nathan Black, the maniac; Mr. W. R. Payne gives a fine performance of Jeremiah Screw; Miss Lily Roselle is well suited as Cora Cassilis; Miss May Axon is charming as Nellie Ashford; Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh scores in the part of Florence Woodleigh; some capital comedy is introduced by Fred Griffiths as Sammy Carrots; and he is ably assisted by Miss A. Walton as Sally Jenkins.

KENDAL.—ST. GEORGE'S THEATRE.—Joint-Managers, Messrs. Butler and Chorley.—Mr. R. F. Benson's company is appearing here this week; it includes that capable actor, Mr. Henry Herbert.—On Monday, *Henry V.* was played to a rather disappointing audience. *Macbeth*, *The School for Scandal*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, and *Richard III.* complete the répertoire for the week.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—This week Miss Frances Delavel and company are here with *Her Lost Self*. Miss Delavel gives a powerful rendering of Philipine Marcel, and Mr. G. Tearle is good as Norman Esmond. Mr. Cecil Grey is a successful Wilfred Daventry, and Mr. Jimmie Stewart and Miss Hetty Stewart are amusing as Tom Flyaway and Bridget.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren's company opened, on Monday, in the romantic costume play, entitled *Proof*. Mr. Gerald Kennedy ably portrays the character of Pierre Lorance, and Mr. W. J. Butler is equally good as Lazare; Chamboran is well depicted by Mr. Wilfred Bailey; Miss May Grimshaw as Valentine, and Miss Ellen Morris as Julie are clever in their respective parts.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessees, J. Bannister Howard, Ltd.; Business-Manager, Herr B. Pareezer.—Messrs. Pooles are occupying the theatre this week with their educational and edifying entertainment. A combination programme is presented of panorama pictures, animated pictures, and variety turns. In the tour round the world Mr. Bert Berry proves an efficient guide; and Johnny O'Rourke, as a droll tourist, makes much fun in his encounters with Mr. Berry in his official capacity. A good and varied assortment of animated pictures is shown. Amongst the variety turns Mr. Harry Meir shows himself a particularly smart comedy juggler; and the Franko Midgets prove a pair of clever illusionists. The Four Rosaires are responsible for an acrobatic turn of much ability, and later appear in a comic triple bar performance as the Boleros.

KIRKCALDY. — KING'S THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager Mr. John Burton.—The production of *Cinderella* here has been looked forward to with much enthusiasm. The pantomime is written by, and produced under the direction of, Mr. Stanley Rogers, and is quite up to his usual high standard. The music, which is composed, selected, and arranged by Mr. Harry Richardson, is bright, tuneful, and catchy, and the scenery and dresses are beautiful in the extreme. Miss Madge Daly, as the Prince, is a dashing principal boy, and Miss Lily Eyton a charming and impressive Cinderella, her singing being particularly worthy of special notice; Mr. Frank Barclay gives a fine representation of Dandini, rendering his musical numbers in excellent fashion; the rôle of Capers, the Page, could scarcely be better placed than in the hands of Mr. Harry Ray, who is both clever and funny, his dance being a feature of the evening; Messrs. Freddie French and Ted Young work hard as the Baron and Baroness, and are successful in causing no end of laughter; the "dear girls" are played by Misses Edith Barwell and Florence Desmond, who are to be congratulated on their success; Miss Madge Allan is conspicuous as a pleasing Duke of Whistbridge; and Miss Phillis Melville and Miss Elsie Cooper are highly competent as the Fairy Godmother and the Snow Queen; the Waverley Girls are a smart lot of dancers; the chorus and augmented orchestra, under Mr. Julian Rutt, render valuable assistance.

LANCASTER. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Martin.—The bill is this week headed with a burlesque. *The Belle of Barcelona*, which has had a capital reception. The Greys (Adah and Lucien), operatic duettists, sing exceedingly well, and the Avolos are clever; the Cellos supply a pleasing musical turn; Mr. Frank Coyle, comedian, wins hearty applause; whilst Syd Herman (comedian), Miss Flo Warner (vocalist), and the Hipnograph all add to the success of the entertainment.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. and C. Fell; Manager, Mr. John Fell.—Mendal, the blind pianist and composer, and Mr. F. V. St. Clair, topical vocalist, both received unlimited applause on Monday evening; the Danbys also came in for a good reception; and others include the Sisters Charnley (duettists), Percy Johnson (comedian), F. L. Nimball (musician), Minnie Moran (comedienne), and the Edison-Swan animated pictures.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing Director Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—The evergreen favourite, *The Private Secretary*, comes again to keep good houses in merry mood, the laughter being as spontaneous and continuous as of yore. Mr. W. Hargreaves repeats his clever portrayal of the peppery and irritable Cattermole, and on this occasion Mr. Donald Evans is handling the name-part in a style which leaves little to be desired. Miss Dora Gray is seen in a pleasing personation of Edith Marston, and the rôle of landlady is played with much ability by Miss Cicely Wade. Mr. Vivian Gilbert, Mr. Randolfe Reade, and Miss Beth Elliott are especially prominent. A diverting little farce, *My American Admirer*, is played as curtain-raiser.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R Ernest Liston.—Strong and satisfying melodrama continues to be the fare here, a new piece, under the title of *The Branded Woman*, being played this week by Messrs. Stillwell and Teulon's company. Miss Zanza St. George is the much-abused heroine, winning the sympathies of her audience by some fine acting. Mr. Paul E. Teulon represents the manly Philip Maurice with rare fidelity, and Mr. Harry Liddle is responsible for a clever and convincing effort as a scheming adventurer. Hr. Herbert Bentone, Mr. Guy Marvelle, and Miss Ethel Swaine are other members of a strong cast, and achieve notable success in prominent parts.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—That powerful melodrama, *The Grip of Iron*, sojourns here for a week. The many exciting incidents depicted therein are followed with intense interest. Jagon, he of the "grip," is depicted with rare power by Mr. Fred Powell, whilst the two detectives as played by Mr. John Brittain and Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood are convincing characters. That cunning dodger Loustalot is a really clever effort by Mr. George Denham, and Mr. A. G. Polson-Turner is well up to his work as an unscrupulous adventurer. Miss Rosabel Dodd plays with ability the rôle of Jagon's daughter, whilst Miss Minnie Inglis and Miss Violet Ingram are also pleasing in leading feminine rôles.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—Lil Hawthorne leads an attractive Empire bill, and scores the usual success with clever items; a remarkable illusion, Buddha's Blackboard, is arousing great interest, the procedure being novel and mystifying; Lilieth Leyton, assisted by John Spurling, again presents that entertaining item, *The Order of the Bath*; and that clever pair of one-legged wonders, Conway and Leland, earn the hearty plaudits of the audience. The Macarte Sisters are pleasing and accomplished in a novel wire act; a big reception is awarded Tom and Marie Motramo for their diverting comedy sketch; Beattie and Blanche are accomplished entertainers; the comedy contributions of Clark and Glenny are much enjoyed; and Ernest Torrence, illustrated vocalist, completes a good programme.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Managers Mr. Claude Shayler and Mr. Chas. Weldon.—The Smart Set are a company of accomplished vocalists, and their enjoyable turn also includes some smart dancing; Harwood's Juveniles are pleasing in a Christmas song-scena; success attends the efforts of the Sisters Marion, vocalists; Barton and Franklin find a ready acceptance of their excellent musical turn; and a clever cross-talk speciality by Williams and Warden proves a popular feature of the bill. Mons. Recco's humorous acrobatic speciality is thoroughly successful; and Babs Lloyd, juvenile artist; the Transfields, lady instrumentalists; and Bert Lytton, comedian, are also entertaining in their various lines.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Fred W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting Manager, Mr. Sam Jones.—At this popular hall, the Six Æolians are a big line, with specialty vocal and dancing business; Dora Lyric entertains in good style; H. Flockton-Foster's sketch company is seen in a diverting comedy episode; that popular comedian J. W. Rickaby is once more scoring a big success; Charles Mildare, the whistler, is well liked; and amongst other contributors, Culpitt, comedy and magic specialty; Edith St. Clare, burlesque actress; the Redfern Girls, banjoists; and Jack and Evelyn, comedy couple, are very successful.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business-Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—A return visit is being paid here this week of the evergreen drama, *A Royal Divorce*, under the direction of Mr. W. W. Kelly. Miss Edith Cole as Josephine plays with her usual conspicuous success, and Mr. Frederick Victor as Napoleon displays his histrionic talents in a manner worthy of all praise. Miss Agnes Imlay as Marie Louise is very good, and Miss Maggie Cardiff, a clever little actress, is well-placed as the King of Rome. Mr. Claude Agnew creates an excellent impression as Talleyrand, and Miss Helen Richmond as Stephanie is also to be complimented on a performance of much merit. Mr. Graham Woods as the Marquis de Beaumont, Mr. George Hudson as Grimaud, and Miss Gertrude Entwistle as Blanche D'Hervas are others who also merit praise. The play is mounted and dressed in the usual careful manner.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The attraction is provided this week by the first appearance of Mr. Harry Starr and his versatile combination in the musical comedy dramas, *Carl the Clockmaker* and *Otto the Outcast*, the former being played on the first three nights. The various songs and dances that are interpolated, combined with some very pretty music, add to the success of the dramas. Mr. Harry Starr displays great cleverness in his character impersonations of Napoleon and Nelson.

PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—At the head of a good all-round programme here is the charming actress, Mrs. Brown Potter, who is giving in a delightful manner a very fine scenic production of *Romeo and Juliet*. The gifted lady is supported by a carefully selected company, who do justice to their various parts, especially Mr. Esme Percy, who plays Romeo. Other characters are taken by Mr. Harold Carfox (Escalus), Mr. Eric Leonard (Paris), Mr. Walter Selby (Capulet), and Mr. Norman Wrightson (Friar Laurence). At the other end is Harriet Vernon, who is conspicuously successful with her songs, "Sunshine row," "When you are saying good-bye," and "Lilac Girl," the latter being set to an exceedingly pretty scene. Miss Vernon renders her songs in a manner calling for the highest praise, and mention must also be made of the delightful confections that adorn a very handsome woman. Los Granadas, the bounding boys and clever bar performers, score with a very smart turn; Hale and Francis display great cleverness in their hoop-rolling and club-juggling act; Jack Pleasants is a mirth-provoking comedian; Maudie Ford is a comedienne and dancer of ability; Althoffs, in a comical sketch of musical surprises, are entertaining; and the Moir-Palmer fight is shown on the American bioscope.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—For the fourth week in succession Mr. Fred Southern and his sketch company are providing the principal attraction here, and are giving, with their usual success, *The Night Watchman*, *The Masterpiece*, and *A Waif of the Sea*, the various parts being sustained in admirable style by Miss May Emery (Mrs. Southern), Mr. Percy Henry, Mr. Charles Ashwell, Mr. Fred Southern, Miss Gipsy Alexander, and Mr. Robert Seymour. The Jansons, speciality artists, are deservedly successful with a smart show; the Players are excellent duettists and expert dancers; Learto, an entertaining musical comedian, also introduces his well-trained dog Babs; Lester May is a capital comedian. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is again a special feature with up-to-date pictures.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—Miss Ada Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is occupying the boards here this week in the American success, *At Cripple Creek*. Miss Lily Beagle is charmingly attractive as Belle Gordon; Mr. Stanley Bedwell plays Joe Mayfield with a spirit and determination that gain many expressions of approval; Miss Agnes Verity is highly successful as Dynamite Ann; Martin Mason has a capable exponent in Mr. Chas. H. Lester; Mr. J. G. Maine is suitably placed as the Mexican bully Manuel Alverez. The comic element is well looked after by Mr. Will Hook as Reggie Harwood, Mr. Sydney Benson as Bon White, and Miss Daisy Carlton as Maggie Mason, who together keep the audience in good humour throughout the drama. Mr. Arthur D. Layland deserves praise as Wahketah, the Indian, and Little Rosie Hopkins is exceedingly clever as Little Tatto.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee, Mr. Ph. Bennett; Business-Manager, Mr. J. Larder.—A good all-round programme is submitted here this week. Messrs. Prince and Milnes are exceedingly clever on the tight wire; an excellent turn is that of Messrs. Ryde and Beeman, acrobatic eccentrics; Miss Bella Leaburn, comedienne, is appreciated; the Izons, duettists and dancers, are a good turn; as are also Messrs. Brull and Hemsley, in their laughable comedy act, *Fun in a Music Shop*. Akbar is a skilful performer on the silver rings; Mr. Rowland Hill, comedian, is droll; Miss Ada Clare, serio and dancer, is also enjoyable.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL. — The Sovereign Animated Picture Company is occupying this hall, and is giving one of the best entertainments of the kind seen here for some time.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Rehearsals for the forthcoming pantomime have restricted the ordinary performances to the first three nights of this week, on which the stage has been occupied by Messrs. Elliman's company with *A Heart's Desire*. The leading rôle of Jem Denman is effectively acted by Mr. Cecil Gray; Miss Dora E. Eastlake is successful as Oiya; and able support is given by Mr. A. W. Beresford Carl, Mr. J. R. Tyrrell, Miss Ada Salmon, and Miss Frankie Newcome, in the respective parts of Eric May, Bertie Beresford, Elsie Beresford, and Gwendoline Ross. Messrs. Booth Conway, J. Denham, Aubrey Denham, R. Stonehouse, and Arthur Jones, with Miss Marie King complete a good cast.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-

Joe Humphreys brings some of his latest hits, particularly "Actions speak louder than words"; as an eccentric comedian Harry Village acquits himself well; and Trick and Trixie are well received for their lively musical and comedy turn.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.— The frequenters of this popular resort have no reason to complain about the week's programme. At the top is Fred Storey, who, assisted by a capable company, produces three scenes from *The Merchant of Venice*, his impersonation of Shylock being recognised as a clever study; Syd May, although suffering from the effects of an injury to his knee, sustained while crossing from Dublin, gave in his inimitable style impersonations of well-known music-hall artists; Dan Crawley had a most hearty reception for his funny songs; Paul Conchas gave a remarkable exhibition of juggling; Petram's marionettes were cleverly manipulated by two ladies; Annie Nelson, possessor of a rich contralto voice, rendered several songs, much to the delight of her listeners; some particularly good banjo playing came from the Clarkes; and also in the bill of fare were Maud Marlow, comedienne, and J. H. Crewe, comedian.

HAYMARKET.—Licensee, Mr. J. S. Childs.—Harry Calden and company stay here another week, on the present occasion producing the sketch *Wealth*. A really clever show in juggling and hoop manipulating is given by Hurman; Blanche Gerard makes her first appearance here, singing in good style "My pal and I," assisted by "Hugo" and her dog "Jap"; G. H. Keith sings some of his latest successes; and a number of pretty coloured moving pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

OLYMPIA, LTD.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—Principal here this week are J. G. Grahame and company, with the dramatic sketch, *The Yellow Fang*, by John G. Brandon, which, considering the recent local agitation against Chinamen, has aroused a deal of interest; Matthews, Cowper, and company create endless laughter with their absurdity, *When the Clock Went Wrong*; some remarkable cycle riding by the Selbinis is loudly cheered; Mason and Bart, as the tourist and the tramp, prove highly amusing; another diverting item is *Rejected Remounts*, by Ginnett's Combination; Stelling exhibits an intelligent dog; the Delornes, capital duettists and dancers, introduce an original speciality, *The Phantom Clogs*; Tom Fancourt and Jennie Ruby have a neat musical comedy act, *Nursery Pets*; and Amy Marsden, comedy artist, also appears.

TIVOLI. — Proprietors, Liverpool Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. James Marks.—This newly-erected building opened its doors for the first time on Monday evening, with a two-houses show. Naturally, the audiences of the week have packed the place. Miss Vesta Victoria was the "star," and received a most cordial reception for her songs, having to respond to many demands for encores. Walton and Lester, "the world's worse wizards," were extremely droll; Alec Kendal kept his audience in capital humour with his funny sayings; Ruth Molloy gave some clever imitations of principal music-hall artists; Colby and May submitted an enjoyable ventriloquial turn; a neat acrobatic transformation dance was contributed by the Sisters Reno; and Gicardo showed himself a clever boy juggler; Henri Bekker performed a number of mystifying conjuring tricks; and the Bioscope pictures were up to date and pretty. The hall has an excellent orchestra, which is under the guidance of Mr. Tom Shaw, a well-known local musician.

ROSCOMMON.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Foremost here this week is Julian Mack, a smart patter comedian, with his song, "Up-to-date Doomsday Book"; that funny couple, the Brothers Hannaway, have fresh items in their song, story, and mirth turn; a lively comedy couple are the Cosmans, whose patter and dancing is much enjoyed; Charles Santos, male soprano, renders some popular pieces; Myles and May are "merry huntsmen"; and Mephisto, society contortionist, is in the list.

LLANELLY. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting Manager, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Miss Rose Faith's clever company is here this week in *No Cross, No Crown*. Miss Faith in the part of Lady Clare is most charming and very successful; the rôle of Sir Francis Luttrell is ably taken by Mr. Wm. Carriden; Mr. Herbert de Ville is good as Austin Blake; Mr. Harrison Chapman as Prof. Nebb and Mr. Fred Gresham as Dr. Ashby are both capable. Miss Green Stewart works hard as Lady Margaret and Mistress Gray; as Annabel Sylvester, Miss Corona Lestrange also deserves praise.

LONG EATON.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Wrestling is the feature of the performance at the theatre this week, Charlie Green, the heavy-weight champion, having issued a challenge to fell within ten minutes or forfeit £5. The opening bout was successful, a young man named Townsend being floored within the time. Amongst the artists are Miss Eva Frere and Mr. W. T. Burgess and company. A striking performance is that of Flemine, a one-legged acrobat, who is heartily applauded. A wrestling tournament is billed for Saturday.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards.—Mr. Edward Marris's company is presenting *The Duchess of Dantzic* here this week to large and delighted audiences. Miss Blanche Lynd deserves high praise for her delineation of the title-rôle, and evokes rounds of applause. As Napoleon, Mr. Frank Bradley is to be complimented on a portrayal of merit; Mr. Mansell Lane, as Francois Lifebone, is especially good, and sings well; Empress Josephine is in the capable hands of Miss Lillie Drake. The chorus is a powerful one, and sings with excellent effect.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Fred Karno's company in *Saturday to Monday* is playing here to good and appreciative audiences. Mr. Rolando Martin is irresistible as J. W. Jaggs, the bridegroom. He is ably supported by Messrs. Crawford, Patten, and McDonagh as Jaggs' offspring, and Mr. J. Fletch as Spinks. Miss Amy Rogerson, as Clorinda, the bride, sustained her part very successfully.

MACCLESFIELD. — THE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatten.—Messrs. Marlow and Douglas's variety company occupy the boards this week. The Leonards, in a scena, *The Children's Rehearsal*, cause much amusement; Mabel Wrey, comedienne and sand dancer, is well appreciated; Little Beattie gives a smart performance; and Arthur Groves (eccentric comedian), Arnold Bros. (patterers), Harry Norris (musician), Watson and Eastwood (in their latest success, *My Pretty Japanese*), Jack Shepperd (in a dramatic scena, assisted by the child actress, Miss G. Hunt), Henry Carlton (baritone), and Attola (the youthful Hercules) are all good turns.

DRILL HALL.—Signor B. Volpi, with the Royal Italian Circus, is here for two weeks. The performance is an interesting one, and an old Macclesfield favourite clown, "Nimble Nip," assisted by "Wee Willie," is vastly amusing; and a comic entry by Piccolo and Fiori is well received.

MAIDSTONE. — HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Miss Florrie Forde is at the head of the bill here this week, and is drawing crowded houses. Mr. Arthur Slater soon whistles himself into popularity, his artistic rendering of the *Poet and Peasant* overture being received with loud applause. Miss Millie Payne is on a return visit, and is as popular as ever; the Fitzroys are clever gymnasts and trapeze artists; Percy Maye, lady impersonator, gives a smart serpentine dance; the Randsfords (duettists), and Harry Lynx (comedian), also appear.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL. — Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmundstone Shirra.—The Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company opened here on Monday with a fine répertoire, a strong combination of high-class singers, and the usual elaborate mounting. Under Mr. Eugene Goossens an impressive rendering of *Tannhäuser* was given on Monday, with Mr. Julius Walther in the title part, supported by Miss Grace Nicoll as Elisabeth, Mme. Marie Alexander as Venus, Mr. Chas. Victor as Wolfram, and Mr. Arthur Winckworth as the Landgrave. A big house applauded the effort, and was markedly appreciative of the chorus and the orchestra in their difficult work. On Tuesday *Faust* provided Mr. Edward Davies, Mr. Dillon Shallard, and Miss Dorothy Mayfield (among others already mentioned) with opportunities to shine, Gounod's popular work being presented under the bâton of Mr. Walter Van Noorden. Other opportunities occurred during the week for Miss Dorris Woodall, Miss Elizabeth Burgess, and Miss Ina Hill, among the ladies; while Mr. Frederick Clendon, Mr. John Ebbeler, Mr. Charles Le Sueur, and Mr. Alec Richard were also heard to great advantage. To *Il Trovatore, Lohengrin, Carmen*, and *The Bohemian Girl* was added on Friday a brilliant revival of Nicolai's fine work, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, under Mr. Van Noorden's conductorship.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lew.—On Saturday last this theatre was packed by an enthusiastic audience, the occasion being Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore's special flying matinée of *David Garrick*, a delightful performance. The stage is occupied this week by the Ryder Boys Old English Comedy Company (a local combination), in aid of the Royal Schools for the Deaf and Dumb, Old Trafford, a very worthy and seasonable object.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Acting-Manager Mr. H. M. Thorburn.—Last week's attraction, the delightful *Raffles*, is here again this week, played by Mr. Frohman's company, including Mr. Leonard Boyne in the title part.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The stage here this week is occupied by Mr. W. H. Whitbread's company in a répertoire of Irish plays, comprising *Willy Reilly, The Irish Dragoon, Sarsfield*, and *The Colleen Bawn*. The company is of more than average merit, and good parts were allotted in the first-named play on Monday to Mr. R. Faulkner, Mr. D. Clarke, Mr. H. Forrest, Mr. J. Daly, Miss C. Dare, and Miss M. Hurst, while Mr. Jas. O'Brien and Miss J. Glenn supplied plenty of humour. The plays are attractive, well acted, and quite adequately staged.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Bert Barnard's company in *The Brewery* is the principal attraction here this week; and Gorman's youngsters in their *Waif* scena are also well received; a clever sketch is submitted by Diana Hope and company; the Monckton's are seen in *Are Wives Dummies?* and other good turns are added by Will Walton, comedian; Lady Julia, the educated ape; Jannette Hall, Vowles and Bryan, and Billy French. The animated pictures are a feature.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. R. Flanagan; Manager, Mr. Gus Flanagan.—Mr. John H. Negus's company is here this week in an effective domestic play, entitled, *A Miserable Marriage*. Mr. Tom Ronald's depiction of the heroic Arthur Cameron is an excellent piece of work, the corresponding part of Agnes, the gambler's daughter, being nicely rendered by Miss Patty Delahay. As Aaron Housemann, the villainous agent, Mr. W. Robert Barbour has capital chances; and pleasing impersonations are added by Mr. Arthur Britton as the humorous Joe Midgers; Mr. Kellen Taylor as Simeon, the golden dustman; Miss Mabel Rose as Lizzie Bowman; Miss Florence Vennimore as the stately Lady Cameron; and Mr. J. K. Woods as Jefferies, the gambler and tramp. The play teems with incident, and is very well staged.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. Samuel James's company is doing good business here this week in a brisk and exciting drama, *As Good as Gold*, described aptly as a story of what love will do. The usual subtle machinations of villainy are, of course, implied in the plot, which is cleverly and successfully carried out. Mr. William Heilbronn has a good part as Jack Stanton, and Miss May Hastings is quite successful as Nora Williams; while, among others, good work is done by Mr. Richard Ferris as Sir Richard Wharncliffe, Mr. F. Thorpe Tracey as Niss, the bailiff's man, Miss Kate Froude as Kate D'Arville, the prima donna, Miss Irene Tracey as Wharncliffe's son, and Miss Edith Carr as Madge Merry, Norah's maid. The scenery is varied and effective.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—A notice of the production of the pantomime of *The Sleeping Beauty* will be found in another column.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The top star here this week is the popular coster comedian, Gus Elen, who makes a big hit with his special song-scena, "Wait till the work comes round." Very popular also are Frank Bernard and company in a mirthful telephone sketch, *Hello!* Capital business is added by Henry A. Moore, monologue artist and mimic; J. A. Wilson and Private Towzer (a cleverly-trained dog); and Paulinetti and Piquo on the bars; while other good turns are Will Mitcham, the musical comedian; Maud Rose, a capable dancer; Rapoli, a smart juggler; and Lilian Warren, pictorial songstress. The Bioscope adds a series of interesting pictures.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—R. A. Roberts, the well-known protean actor, was announced as the principal attraction here this week, but owing to indisposition was unable to appear. His place was taken with credit by the Waldrons, who are giving a highly entertaining turn. Macdonald's Melody Makers appear with success in their phantom scena, *The Burglar's Dream*; and nicely varied business is contributed by J. W. Ellison, light comedian; Mack Ollive, an accomplished whistler; the Brothers Obo, patter comedians; the Dixie Girls, in a pretty dancing act; Woodhouse and Wells, comedians and cross-talkers; the Kentucky Four (including "Topsy," the whirlwind), coloured artists in a plantation act; and Nada Moret, Australian raconteuse and dramatic vocalist. The Palace Pictures show the first steerable balloon ordered by the French army.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Gadbin, whom no motor can crush, is surely the most wonderfully constituted man extant, and he is proving a big attraction here this week. His act is unique, and must be seen to be believed. Dennis Drew, assisted by Stedman's boys and the choir, presents an attractive military scena, *Back to Barracks*, in two scenes, in which Mr. Drew renders two capital songs, "The beat of the drum" and "Come and be a soldier," in fine style. The boys, who assist in the latter song, are decidedly smart. Clement's ventriloquial entertainment is exceptionally good; the Courtiers are first-rate singers and vaudeville entertainers of merit; W. T. Ellwanger and company are very successful in a humorous sketch, entitled *The Peacemaker*, which is well acted; L. W. Harris sings two songs in capital style, and is well received; Charles Frazer and company are seen to great advantage in an up-to-date show, introducing Iona the Enchanted; and a very funny and clever turn is submitted by Spissel Bros. and Mack, comedy artists. Two vocal items by the choir, excellent as usual, and "A Day on his Own," depicted on the Bioscope, complete a programme of all-round excellence.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The Metropolitan Operatic Quartette top the bill here this week, and render several delightful selections in excellent style. Mlle. Helene D'Aubigny is also to the front and sings charmingly. Brooks, Dale, and Blitz appear with success in a laughable sketch, *A Drive Home*; very clever are the Moet-Chandon Trio in a gymnastic display; Fred Erich, comedian, has some quaint business; Vosper in a good mimic; and the three Sisters Kilner are smart acrobatic dancers. Other good turns are supplied by Charles Faning, eccentric comedian; May Marton, dainty comedienne; and the Wilsons, patterers and singers. As usual, the programme is completed by some up-to-date Bioscope films.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Percy Honri, in his musical sketch, *Concordia*, tops the bill here this week to the delight of large audiences, and repeats his usual success. Haydee's Mannikins are manipulated in a wonderfully lifelike manner; Walter Munroe, Irish comedian, dances well; Master Joe Conway is a smart comedian; Maston is a capital mimic; May Zant and her clever juveniles are good in a scena, *Just out of School*; the Dancing Gilberts are clever lady dancers; Raglus manipulates tennis balls in a smart and eccentric manner; and Evelyn Taylor is a neat male impersonator.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Claude Ginnett and company are seen to advantage here this week in a capital equestrian spectacle, entitled, *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, which is elaborately staged, and introduces a wonderfully well-trained mare. Lillie Dean and Charles Dawson appear with success in an amusing skit, *Stage Aspirants*; and Little Tichborne, a diminutive artiste, makes a big hit in song and dance. *Another Man's Wife* is an amusing episode smartly presented by Hilda and Leigh; Mons. Slippere, assisted by Miss Ramsay, is an excellent blind pianist and baritone singer; and good turns are submitted by the Brothers Hampson, patterers and dancers; Charles Ridgwell, comedian; and Lilly Watson, comedy patter artiste. "Beware of My Husband" is depicted on the Bioscope.

HIPPODROME (HULME).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—*Office Hours* is the title of an excellent musical mixture presented by Messrs. Broadhead's powerful company, including Messrs. Frank A. Wood, Edgar Derene, George Danvers, jun., Arthur White, and the Misses Florence Lilgard and Jessie Wilton. The music is by Mr. Clarence C. Corrie, Miss Dora Kennedy is the principal dancer, the chorus is good, and the whole production greatly appreciated. Mr. Edwin Garth in his latest comedy creation, *Matrimonial Bliss*, causes roars of laughter, and is decidedly good. The Four Goldinis are wonderfully clever in their acrobatic carpet spinning and electric dance act; Clown Charlton, in an eccentric musical variety act, is successful, and good turns are those of Fields and Lewis, burlesque artists; Monty Walker, comedian; and the Elgars, vocal entertainers. On the occasion of our visit an extra turn in "Second Sight" (good and clever) was submitted by an unnamed lady, in the place of Beau and Belle, who did not appear. The Bioscope film, "Return of Sherlock Holmes," is thrilling.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield Theatre Company; General-Manager, Captain Cecil Clayton.—Mr. Dickie Clare's company has presented here the musical absurdity, *Lucky 'Liza*, in a capable manner. Miss Madge Brownie gives an admirable rendering of the title-rôle; Mr. Dickie Clare is successful in the part of Silas Slim; Mr. Leonard Maitland is amusing as Paul Pettitoe; William Biffins is admirably portrayed by Mr. H. A. Griffiths; Miss Vesta Brownie scores as Virginia Blatherwick, as also does Miss Bella Russell in the rôle of Marie Pettitoe. Dances are contributed by Miss Queenie Bell and the Sisters Mascott.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Tom Jennings.—Mr. Dennis J. McCarthy tops the bill here, and his sensational scena, *The Coastguard*, is loudly applauded; Sandes and Vincent, legmania comedy artists, are much appreciated; Miss Lena Page is the possessor of a nice voice, and gives some good songs; the turn of Mr. Will Saunders is amusing and successful. The bioscope continues to present up-to-date pictures.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Exclusive Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Business-Manager, Mr. A. Austin Leigh.—The stock company this week has made a successful appearance in Sydney Grundy's play, *A Bunch of Violets*. Mr. A. Austin Leigh has been exceedingly good as Sir Philip Marchant; and Mr. G. W. Elton, always reliable, has been all that could be desired as Mark Murgatroyd. Mrs. Cullen is seen to advantage as Mrs. Murgatroyd, her acting especially in the scenes with Sir Philip being particularly effective. Miss Katherine Harrington has done well as Lady Marchant and Miss Helena Millais has been a success as Violet. Mr. Frank Stone as Jacob Schwartz, and Mr. H. G. Mason as Harker being equally good.

HIPPODROME.—This week's programme includes among the list of turns Rita Resdan, character comedienne; Alf Davis, comedian; the Macdonald Trio, in their amusing musical act; Onda and Artell, aerial gymnasts; the Sisters Selwyn, duettists and speciality dancers; and Clown Herford, with his clever troupe of canine acrobats. The Hippodrome pictures are the concluding item in an interesting programme.

MERTHYR TYDFIL. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Lewis Gilbert.—By way of a change, instead of the usual drama, the management have this week substituted a variety programme, headed by C. Emlyn Jones and his Ladies Quartette of Singers; Freeman and Tench, in a comedy duologue, *The Broken Honeymoon*; Charles Russell, comedian and vocalist; Billy Ross and company in farce, entitled *Semi-detached*; the Two Browns, musical artists; Gladys Mavius, the Canadian girl; and a series of interesting Bioscope pictures.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—A strong bill is submitted this week. The artists include Hadley Bros., contortionist and acrobatic comedian; Little Dolly Robson; Mlle. Fontainbleau and her troupe of trick dogs; the Two Erralls; Tom Norman Mills, descriptive vocalist; Nellie Langtry, contralto vocalist; and Virto, in his drawing-room musical act.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company is this week playing here in the drama *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. Miss Ethel Bracewell gives an admirable interpretation of Molly Vernon, filling a trying rôle with great skill; Miss Bertha Norman is a pleasing Rose Seymour; Miss Lydia Mannington presents with intelligence the character of Marian Franklin; Mr. Frank Adair gives a vigorous rendering of the villainous Captain Caversham; Mr. Geo. Mitchell is well placed as James Sutton; a manly rendering of Private Johnson is given by Mr. G. W. Standing; Mr. Harold Macartney does well as the Rev. Everton; Mr. Geo. H. Asquin makes a humorous character of Dick Punch; and Miss Daisy Meynard is a sprightly Isabella Jones.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—A return visit of Messrs. H. Amitage and Arthur Leigh's company in Wilson Barrett's play *Lucky Durham* has proved a big attraction here this week. In the title-rôle Mr. Edmund Kennedy gives a fine and manly portrayal, and is ably seconded by Miss Louisa Gourlay as Durham's mother. As the Hon. Reginald Steighton Mr. Arthur Leigh is amusing. Mr. W. F. Clitherow figured prominently as Ben Verstein, and the character of Lord Mountfallon is in the safe hands of Mr. Robert Forsyth. As the latter's wife Miss Frances Wolviston is exceedingly good, and Mr. A. E. Walker does well as Mr. Vallerton. Miss Esther Belmore is pleasing as Helen Vallerton, and for the part of the Hon. Margaret Steighton a clever representative is found in Miss Florence Dulhunty.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. W. K. Chatto.—The Russell-Rosse Répertoire company opened a fortnight's visit here this week with a choice répertoire of well-known comedies. On Monday night Sydney Grundy's comedy *A Pair of Spectacles* was staged. Mr. David James plays with amusing briskness the part of Mr. Goldfinch, and as Mrs. Goldfinch Miss E. Nolan O'Connor inbues the part with all the humour and charm that can possibly be put into it. Mr. Norman Clark is amusing as Uncle Gregory, and Miss Ida Phillips is exceedingly pleasing and vivacious as Lucy Lorimer. Mr. Boyd Pearson is good as Percy Gregory, and Mr. James Gelderel does well as Dick. Miss Rachel De Travis is pleasing as Joyce, and Mr. F. J. Hampton does full justice to the part of Lorimer. Mr. W. E. Chance and Mr. Charles Pelham are also entrusted with interesting rôles. On Thursday and Friday T. W. Robertson's *Caste* was presented.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—The Abdullah troupe of Arabs are paying a return visit here this week, and give a clever acrobatic display. The Glenroy troupe submit a smart dancing turn, and the Chord Quartette render several songs in a delightful fashion. The Katos, Komical Kidgets, cause laughter, and Arthur Albert, vocalist, does well. Marco, the boy magician and illusionist, is exceedingly clever, and Daisy Morell, comedienne, also pleases. Other turns are provided by Ruby Holly and the Bioscope.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf. Graham.—The Ten Loonies head the bill here this week in their musical absurdity. The Hettas, a pair of talented singers, achieve considerable success in their charming vocal scena, *Home Again*, whilst Harry Taft, the whistling comedian, makes a welcome re-appearance. Will Driscoll, comedian and dancer, pleases, and Rosie Reval, comedy artist, does well. Other turns are provided by Mlle. Clark, dancer, Cyclos, comedy cyclists, and the Bioscope.

MOTHERWELL. — NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant.—*The Throne of Terror*, a play dealing with the period of the French Revolution, is here this week. Mr. William J. Miller ably sustains the rôle of the villainous Robespierre; Captain Eugene de Lisle has a fine exponent in Mr. Roy Milton; Mr. Frank Fuller as Comte de Roquefort is all that can be desired. Miss Katherine Maud Davies is a sympathetic Margaret de Roquefort; and Miss Ethel Lanyon Maude a sufficiently villainous Victorine. Welcome low comedy relief is provided by Mr. Bert Ellis and Miss Eva Norman, as Joujou and Peppiettia respectively. The last three nights of the week Miss Loie Esmond's company is appearing here in *The Anarchist Terror* and *The Sorrows of Satan*.

NEATH.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Haggar, jun.—The attraction here this week is *The Daughter of the Million* and *Oliver Twist*. In the former, Miss Jenny Lindon as Tress acts in a charming manner; Miss Frances Giddings scores as Hetty Norman; Miss Kate Sylvester is well placed as Mary Ann Tippets; Mr. Will Haggar as Adam Dare distinguishes himself by an impressive portrayal of the character; Mr. Jack Desmond as Captain Weaver acts well; as also does Mr. Geo. Templeton as Berkley Bingham; Messrs. James Haggar and Arthur Stanley are worthy of praise as Toby Short and Timothy Long.

NELSON.—NEW GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. George E. Mudd.—This week the Colne Amateur Operatic Society is presenting the charming comic opera, *Les Cloches de Corneville*.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. F. C. Sutcliffe.—To wind up a most successful season Mr. Cyril Keightley and company with *Miles Carew* are the last visitors before the production of the annual Christmas pantomime. The play was greatly appreciated by a good audience on Monday evening. Mr. Cyril Keightley plays the adventurer and the lover with equal and unfailing fidelity, and he is ably supported by Miss Haidee Gunn, who, as the Jewish maiden, invests the part with great charm. The Jewish moneylender is cleverly played by Mr. Alfred Harris; Miss Alice Ardo and Miss Ethel Dane are two sprightly dames *à la mode*; Mr. B. A. Pittar gives a good study of a country gentleman with a fondness for strong liquors; and Mr. Baliol Holloway, Mr. Iden Payne, Mr. Edward Harrison, and Miss Theresa Gregory also fill with distinction other parts.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clarke.—The sensational drama, *Ruined by Drink*, is being played at this popular house this week. Mr. Charles Carte, as Coupeau the stonemason, gives a capital account of himself, and is well received; he is ably assisted by Miss Doris Brookes, who is a delightful actress of great promise, and portrays the part of Gervaise the laundress in an adroit and captivating manner.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—The boards of this theatre are occupied this week by the first of the pantomimes, Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's company in *The Babes of the Wood*. It is played by juveniles, and very clever and successful they are. Miss Gerty McQueen as Robin Hood sings and dances merrily, and Miss Fanny Adamson makes a delightful Maid Marion. Specialities are introduced by the Four Emeralds, acrobatic dancers, and the Sisters McQueen, operatic vocalists.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Andrews.—The premier position on the bill is this week occupied by Henri Cot, the French giant, and Prince Colibri, the Russian Midget. Jordan and Harvey are Hebrew comedians who cause one continual ripple of laughter all the time they are. Another successful turn is that of Ryan and Hall, whose performance as an acrobatic comedy team is worthy of much praise. Albert Christian sings his song in fine style, and is well received. Frances Letty, comedienne and dancer, performs some wonderful things on electric tram rails, and scores heavily. In their sketch, *The Porter and the Professional*, the Hayes Bros. amuse in no uncertain way. Kate Cohen is a vocalist of exceptional merit, and Harry Leybourne as a comedian does well. The De Wynne Bros., head and hand balancers, and Baker and Balfe, expert xylophonists and dancers, complete the bill.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—A capital bill of fare is provided this week for the patrons of this popular hall. The Novellos come chief with their wonderful equilibristic act, *Europe in India*; Lottie Lennox is still a favourite; and Cordite and Buffalo are exponents of the art of rope-spinning and lariat-manipulating. The Silver Toned Quartette are a party of coloured gentlemen who have astonishing vocal talent; Helen Martin, ballad vocalist, renders her songs in charming manner; Harry Falcon is well received, his dancing coming in for special applause; Jennie Hartley, comedian, scores another success; Keen and Walker are a couple of clever pot-pourri acrobats. Cissie Dryden, vocal character actress, and the Barrascope pictures are the remaining items of a capital evening's entertainment.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Bulmer's company this week is presenting Mr. Frank Pateman's drama, *Sentenced for Life*. Mr. R. Brancepeth Nevill plays the part of Sir Wallace Stillwell with ability; Mr. Ernest Vaughan gives a clever impersonation of Capt. Paul Derrick; and Mr. J. F. Firth in the comedy part of Percy McGentle keeps the house in roars. Great praise isdue to Mr. Morris Maud, who brings out the sterling qualities of the Rev. Martin Orris; and Miss Madge Douglas as Adele Gray, Miss May Neilson as Kate Rennell and Miss Mary Dalby as Lady Stillwell do admirably.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—The Aurora troupe of cyclists are the star turn here; the Dandies provide a pretty turn, in which their dancing is attractive; James Stewart is an accomplished tramp piano player; and Billy Farrell, with plenty of patter, is exceedingly popular. Jimmy Shields, a one-legged comedian, gives an interesting performance; and Johnny and Charlie prove themselves smart comedy acrobats. The Amoros-Werner troupe give an up-to-date pantomimic juggling episode; and Andrew Roy sings a song (illustrated with pictures) that is warmly received. The American Bioscope shows up-to-date pictures.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—The Anglo-American play, *A Gambler's Daughter*, is being presented here this week by Adria Hill and Robert Ayrton's company. Miss Hill plays with pathos and tact as the gambler's wife, and gives a bright and hopeful presentation of the gambler's daughter. Mr. Robert Ayrton is good as the Irish emigrant, Desmond O'Dare; Mr. Arthur Lennard most effective as Ralph Gillman; and the minor parts are well sustained.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—Miss Nina Martino, a sweet chanteuse, is the bright particular star here this week. The Ford and Barris trio furnish clever eccentric dancing; Stylo's juggling with hoops is good; the Three Panamas give a smart pot-pourri of acrobatic dancing, &c.; Rose Tilley is a pleasing comedienne; Wright and Elton are expert dancers; John Alexander and company present a laughable sketch, *The Troubles of a Tourist*; and Mr. C. Vincent furnishes a fresh set of pictures of peculiar interest.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company with *Dare Devil Dorothy* has proved a great attraction here this week. Mr. Walter Ashley scores heavily as Captain George Fielding; Mr. Henry C. Ward is clever as Captain Edward Dudley; Mr. Arthur Hartley, in the rôle of Hawkins, is seen to advantage; and Mr. H. C. Barry as Silas Crump is very smart. As Dorothy Montrose, Miss Dorothy Desmonde meets with approbation; Miss Marie Vere is good as Ruth Montrose; Miss Nellie Harcourt makes the most of Judith; and Misses Mabel and Lillie Blake as Polly and Rosey Ann respectively are worthy of praise. The specialties introduced are received with favour.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Here we have the Alberto Troupe of equilibrists in a smart performance; Messrs. Kerr and Shaw, comedians, are loudly applauded; and Mr. Frank Caffrey, Irish comedian, has made a hit; Miss Nell Brough, burlesque artist, &c.; Mr. Ted Wooton, laughing comedian; Mr. Sid Deleval, speciality artist, and the Bio-photoscope are all successful.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Miss Ida Millais's company is this week presenting for the first time in Norwich the sensational piece, *No Man's Land*. The part of Harry Oaklands is well rendered by Mr. Henry Herne, and Mr. Frank Denis is successful as Silas Moore; Mr. A. G. Lytton as Mat Marsden acts with force; whilst Mr. H. P. Warburton ably doubles the parts of Gilbert and Norman Bathurst; Mr. William Mallalieu is good as Dr. Berxton, and as captain of the Enterprise; whilst Mr. Alfred Byron is amusing as Thompson. Miss Ida Millais charmingly portrays the character of Mary Bathurst; and Miss Nancy Mitchell causes fun as Bessie Poodle; Mrs. Mallalieu is very good as Widow Poodle. The stage effects, including the "real rain" in the second act, and the river of real water in the last act, are very effective.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Pitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Pitt.—Omoya San and company in their Japanese exhibition of Ju-jitsu and wrestling are the principal attraction this week. The Five Whiteleys are greeted with immense applause for their clever wire-walking and acrobatic display; Dorothy Dundas pleases with her singing; Bert Weston is a highly successful comedian and patterer; and Alroy astonishes with his juggling and hoop manipulation; Paul Courtney and company cause much laughter in their absurdity, *The Doctor*, and Will Vokes is an amusing eccentric dancer. The Hippo. bioscope pictures make up a capital programme.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robt. Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*Our Boys* is giving the greatest pleasure to large audiences this week. Mr. Thomas Thorne plays Perkin Middiewick with alertness and drollery; Sir Geoffrey Champney is capitally sketched by Mr. Norman Clarke; Mr. George Mudie, jun., as Talbot Champneys, and Mr. Thomas Holden as Charles, suggest exactly the tone of youthful independence adopted by these youths; Miss Madge Flynn looks and acts daintily the part of Violet Melrose; and Miss Marion Ripley is graceful and refined as Mary; Miss Bessie Harrison makes a spirited Clarissa; and an excellent character-study of the lodging house slavey is given by Miss Cissie Sephton. Mr. Alfred Harding neatly interprets Kempster. The play is preceded by *A Happy Pair*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Charles P. Cooke.—The City Amateur Operatic Society holds the boards here this week with *The Yeomen of the Guard*. Excellent representations are being given, thanks to the invaluable help of Mr. C. P. Cooke, the courteous manager of the theatre, and local charities should benefit largely.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Bowmaker.—George Gilbey has an unique style of entertaining; Arthur Reece, a singer of tuneful ditties, contributes a good turn; and Amy Sullivan is attractive. Barton and Ashley present a medley of comedy dialogue, singing and acting that is highly appreciated; Lucia and Viata are clever young ladies, who can do almost anything on the slack wire; and the naval act of Carlos Cæsaro has much to commend it; Mezzetti and Mora, on the triple bars, are clever; and the training of the cockatoos shown by Albertine Melich is of the very highest order. The Stein-Eretto troupe give a wonderful exhibition of hand-balancing. The programme is completed by capital pictures on the bioscope.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE AND

interpretation of Napoleon; Mr. C. Mannering makes an effective M. D'Alagro; Mr. Mansell Fane capably impersonates François; and Mr. Dan F. Roe is well placed as Papillon.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. F. Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Langdon Lee.—A well-filled house on Monday witnessed the first production at Plymouth of the dramatised version of Guy Thorne's well-known novel, *When It Was Dark*, as presented by Mrs. Morton Powell's company. The company, a capable one, includes Miss Eva Moss, a gifted young actress, as Gertrude Hunt; Mr. W. March as Sir Robert Llewellyn (excellently done); Mr. George H. Pitt as Constantine Schaube, cleverly played; Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee, a capable Rev. Basil Gortre; and Mr. George M. Hancock, a former Plymouthian, as Nunc Wallace.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—The Leslie Bros. are an easy first for popular favour at the Palace this week, with their musical sketch, *Music Mad*; Austin Rudd has lost none of his old popularity, his skit on "The Old Apple-Tree" being enjoyed immensely; the Crown Trio are harmonious vocalists; Fee Lung has some clever illusions; Billie Barlow has her customary fund of breezy patter; the Claymores are a youthful pair of dancers and jugglers; Will Cornish is a skilful handbell ringer; and Harry Bold's turn is acceptable. Vernon's Pictures complete the programme.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The attraction this week is Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company in *Her Nameless Child*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn is seen to great advantage as Anthony Ford; Arthur Ford is capitally portrayed by Mr. F. R. Gwyn-Richardson; Mr. Ellerslie Pine is admirable as Lord Henry Woodville; Mr. John A. Levey deserves credit as Mongoole; Mr. Alvin Sawyer is amusing as Tom Rivers; Phyllis Ford is admirably assumed by Miss Pattie Hastings; Grace Jones submits a capable rendering of Lady Sybil. Worthy of high praise also are Miss Madge Trevelyan as Crayout; Miss Beatrice Dover as Sarah; and Miss Grace Harlington as Bessie Brooks.

PORTH.—THE PALACE (LATE OPERA HOUSE).—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The bill here this week is headed by the famous Atlas Troupe, society athletes, including the beautiful Miss Vulcana; the Percys (Harry and Lillie), duettists and dancers, are exceedingly good; Cliffe Dover, eccentric comedian and dancer, scores a success; Lozelle, sensational gymnast, is highly appreciated; the Sisters Poole, society entertainers, are exceptionally smart; the Bradleys, novelty trick cyclists, are exceedingly clever; Alma Cuzon, refined comedienne, deserves a word of praise for her singing; the Bros. Zampah, the one-legged marvels, are popular; Mint and Mart make a decided hit, and some up-to-date pictures are shown on the bioscope.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree's company is here in *Oliver Twist*. Mr. William Mackintosh in the exacting part of Fagin is eminently successful; Bill Sikes has a powerful exponent in Mr. Cecil A. Collins; Mr. Tom Macfarlane as the Dodger, Mr. Christmas Gose as Charlie Bates, and Mr. Max Montesoll as Barney do good work; Mr. E. C. Baffum is a delightful Mr. Brownlow; Mr. T. P. Haynes's Mr. Grimwig is an admirable piece of character-acting; Mr. Frederick Clive acquits himself well as Monks; Mr. Harvey Braban is manly and sympathetic as Harry Maylie; Bumble Giles and Brittles are amusingly embodied by Messrs. Jacobs, Davidson, and Adamson; the little Australian artist Miss Wanda Radford plays the name-part in a wonderfully natural and pleasing style; the ill-fated Nancy is strongly and skilfully portrayed by Miss Marie Polini; Miss Elsie Carew is a capable Mrs. Maylie; Rose Maylie is charmingly impersonated by Miss Saville; and Mrs. Bedwin in Miss Helen Boucher's hands is a dear old lady.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company, in the exciting domestic drama *The Midnight Mail*, is here for the week. Mr. Fred G. Evison gives a clever portrayal of the serio-comic rescal Billy Brewer; the engine-driver, Harry Steyne, is realistically acted by Mr. Robert Grey; Donald Craig is characteristically well played by Mr. Charles McKann; Messrs. H. Dobell Lyle (as Leonard Royle) and Arthur Gilroy (as Hassan Padisha) carefully depict their respective parts; the misjudged wife, Mary Steyne, is sympathetically and convincingly acted by Miss Ada Oakley; Miss Mildred Carr successfully sustains the rôle of Nancy Brewer; and Miss Phyllis Dailley does well as Lady Phyllis Eustace.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Another capital programme is submitted here. Tom Davies Trio, motor cyclists, are giving a sensational turn, "Whirling the Whirl," which is highly appreciated; Tom Yorke, with his refined coster songs, is welcomed very heartily; Sadie Simpson, soubrette, gains approval for her efforts to please; Tom Parker, comedian and dancer, is genuinely funny; Edie King, comedienne and danseuse, contributes a capital item; Dome, comedy clay modeller, with his excellent and artistic portraiture is distinctly good; Nellie Coleman works most energetically in her impersonations of male characters; Reynolds' Minstrels, Christy's entertainers, are well received; Goodfellow and Gregson, vaudeville entertainers, Grey and Welford, in a comedy boxing act, and Payne's Bio-photoscope, with some amusing pictures, complete the bill.

RAMSGATE.—AMPHITHEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—Mr. Gerald Hunt and the Biograph have this week been revisiting the scenes of former successes. The films shown are of a thoroughly up-to-date character, and several good variety turns are also introduced.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—Mr. F. S. Gilbert's English Opera company is here this week. On Monday evening *Faust* was presented in a most delightful manner. Mr. F. S. Gilbert as Faust was in remarkably fine voice, his solos being admirably sung; Miss Faith Laborde as Marguerite sang with much charm, and her acting was also exceptionally good; Mr. Kneale Campbell made an excellent Mephistopheles; as Valentine Mr. H. Davies also did extremely well, singing and acting with earnestness and ability; Miss Doris Gilbert was good as Siebel; and Miss Arundel as Martha and Mr. H. Blagrave as Wagner were both most acceptable. The choruses were sung in praiseworthy style, and the orchestra was all that could be wished. The week's programme includes *Maritana*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *Il Trovatore*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Cowley.—*Two Little Drummer Boys* is being played this week in good style by a company under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley. The Drummer Boys are cleverly impersonated by the Misses Maggie English and Lily Beverley; Miss Edie Macklin is a charming Molly Meadows; and Miss Mildred Eversleigh plays well as the General's daughter.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*The Assassin*, a thrilling play of Nihilism, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Augustine Knight acts with power the part of Prince Demetri; Mr. Edward E. Ashley makes an impressive and manly Ivan Ipanoff; Mr. Theo Balfour as Duke Karl is all that can be desired; and Mr. Cecil H. Raymond makes the most of Baron Alphonse. Miss Hettie Senior submits a spirited portrayal of Connie Jonathan; Miss Francis Waring enlists sympathy in the part of Nita; and Miss Ella Vane cleverly enacts the title-rôle.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Co.—The Jones and Mansfield Trio were billed to appear in the vocal scenas, *Jack Sheppard* and *The Prodigal's Return*, but were unable (through a death) to do so. Halma, juggler, wins loud applause; York, Mac, and York, in *Widow Mac's Troublesome Boys*, create roars of laughter; and other turns are submitted by Olga Fane, contralto; Les Steckels, gymnasts; Stephen Blythe, actor vocalist; Barney Vox, ventriloquist; and Vernon's Bioscope.

EMPIRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Bella and Bijou top the bill here this week, their appearance being greeted with warm applause; Harry Grey keeps the house in a roar of laughter; and Frank Hope, trick cyclist; T. C. Callaghan, comedian; Baroni and Kemp, quick-change artists; the Zeloras, equilibrists; and the Empire Bioscope complete the programme.

RUGBY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Drew Mackintosh.—The Ashley Vaudeville company is appearing here this week. Mr. Harry Bentley, comedian, gives every satisfaction; and other good turns are Cissy de Preston, in an amusing sketch, Preston Holmes, musical expert, Dolly Boston, comedienne and dancer, Sam Frisco, The Two Sports, Miss Blanche Leroy and Evelyn Loraine, Beale and Bell, and Mons. Gounou, illusionist.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Messrs. Fred J. Webb and Wilson Benge's company is here in the military play, *The Two Hussars*. The hero, Harry Alford, was well sustained by Mr. Wilson Benge, and Miss Sadie Smith ably took the part of the heroine, Ellen Maythorne, afterwards known as Will Gunstock. Mr. J. Stuart made a first-rate Colonel Manners; Mr. Fred J. Webb successfully portrayed Capt. Paul Villiers; Mr. Louis Nanton as Robert Runn headed the comedy business, and was ably assisted by Miss Lallah Price as Molly Cutts. Mr. G. Paradise was good as Sergeant McFinnie. The third complimentary benefit to Mr. Harold Goulden, the energetic and genial acting-manager, was a brilliant affair. His brother, the proprietor and manager, had kindly agreed to both the matinée and evening performances of Wednesday being devoted to the purpose, and in addition to the play, *The Two Hussars*, a large number of artists engaged at the various theatres and music-halls in the Manchester district were kindly allowed (by their managers) to appear, amongst whom were Frank Lindo, the Belmores, Cullan and Carthy, The Merrions, Jack Lane, Florence Gwynne, Metropolitan Operatic Quartette, May Marton, Edwin Garth, Monty Walker, Ten Dixie Girls, Syd Downs, May Gibson and Dolly Dodds, Dacier, Little Pete, Charles Conway, Annie Martin, Brett and Payne, Serpentello, Lily Hayes, Jack Morriss. Messrs. Fred J. Webb and Wilson Benge kindly stage-managed.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—A capital programme this week includes Cullen and Carthy, with Little Cluley; the Merrions; Morny Cash, eccentric comedian; Princess Pauline; Serpentello, contortionist; Frank Boyce, vocal comedian; Florence Gwynne, clever soubrette; Minnie Wren, serio; and Jack Lane, a clever mimic and pianist.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—*Her Love Against the World*, one of Mr. Walter Howard's latest successes, drew a full house on Monday, who appeared to be thoroughly pleased with the acting of Miss Ellen Snow as Iris, and Mr. Walter Howard as the hero Eric. Vice was ably represented by Mr. Mayor Cook as Ulric, and Miss Hettie Ferguson as Corona, and the amusing incidents were introduced by Mr. Henry B. Lewis (Heinrich Pimpernickel), Mr. Richard Webb (Fritz Pimpernickel), Miss Lizzie Lennon (Katinka), and Miss Harrington Bailey (Gretchen). Miss Rosie St. John did well as Nello, and Colonel Easterhazy and Colonel Lindroff were respectively in the safe hands of Mr. John Chesson and Mr. A. B. Cushman.

SCARBOROUGH.—PEOPLE'S PALACE AND AQUARIUM.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Morgan; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—The chief attraction here is Grapho and Jackson's troupe of Pierrots, in songs, duets, dances, and sketches. Some of the artists are exceedingly clever, and particularly so in *The Doctor's Dilemma*. They give a change of programme every evening. Kyoto, the juggler, gives a meritorious turn; May Geraldine sings good songs well; Lucena Bros. give an acrobatic turn of a novel character; Vernon's Imperial Bioscope is an important feature of the programme.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Zalva.—A capital programme is again submitted at this popular place of amusement; Chant and Chant, comedy duettists, receive a welcome reception; Ray and Miles, comedy jugglers, are quite original in their many tricks; Craig, Roze, and Craig, novelty gymnasts, find great favour with an appreciative audience. This week an entire change of pictures is given.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Miss Annie Bell and company are here this week with *Sapho*. The title-rôle is enacted by Miss Bell with much earnestness and vigour; Jean Ganssin receives excellent treatment from Mr. Otto Minster; Mr. Oliver Rogers gives a traditional low-comedy impersonation of Father Legrande; Mr. Geo. Antley is responsible for a clever interpretation of Césaire; and Eugene Flamant is earnestly enacted by Mr. H. Langford.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. C. Harrison.—*A Woman's Past* provides a strong attraction here this week, the drama being presented by Messrs. Warden and Sandford's company. Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves plays David Heath with excellent effect; Mr. Charles V. Sandford as Frank Dellannoy keeps the house in continual good humour; Clement Harper is played with skill by Mr. A. Hamilton Warden; the Uriah Craven of Mr. G. Moreton-Williams is a capable performance; a charming and sympathetic Bessie is found in Miss Maisie Hanbury; Dorothy Heath is tastefully presented by Miss Violet Ennis Lawson; and Clara Darrell is carefully presented by Miss Eva Bertram.

SHEERNESS.—THE PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—Business at this old-established hall continues fair, and the capital company engaged includes Mr. Nick Ohlson, comedian and patter vocalist; Mr. Horace Leggett, comedian and dancer, who wins loud applause; Miss Josie Watson, serio, sings well; Maskell and Butler are a comical pair; and their clever burlesque conjuring causes loud laughter; Miss Topsy Levane, the popular comedienne, is making a big success with her well-rendered character songs and dances; the Holroyds, comedy entertainers, score in their funny act; and the Arundel company concludes the entertainment with the laughable comedy sketch, *Oh! What a Night*.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The amusing comedy *Beauty and the Barge* was again played on Monday to a delighted audience by Mr. Arthur Hardy's company. Mr. Blake Adams repeated his clever and characteristic impersonation of the amorous Barley; Mr. Edward Coventry was a dashing Lieut. Boyne; and amusing sketches of character were Mr. Fred Knight's Tom Cod, Mr. Thomas Pauncefort's Augustus, Mr. Chas. A. White's John Dibbs, Mr. Ewart Drake's George Porter, and Mr. Arthur Flinders' Ted. Miss May Fairclough made a pretty and engaging Ethel; Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite was a humorous Mrs. Porter; Miss Mary Pemberton a graceful Lucy Dallas; and Miss Mona Robin a good Mrs. Smedley. The curtain-raiser was *Jerry and a Sunbeam*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The popular domestic and sensational drama *The Blind Foundling* is the attraction here this week.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—On Monday a well-filled house welcomed the interesting drama *The Prodigal Parson*, presented by Messrs. Garrod and Northway's company. Mr. W. V. Garrod acted in a powerful manner as Tom Godley; Miss Vera Fordyce won sympathetic applause as the persecuted wife; the villain was played convincingly by Mr. Alfred Northway; and good comic relief was provided by Mr. Herbert Newton and Miss Lydia Hart; Miss Gladys Conover was good as the child; and Miss Dot Russell brightened up the biergarten scene by a well-executed dance.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The pièce-de-résistance this week is the screaming pantomime *Moving In*, which is smartly rattled through by Mr. Herbert Darnley's talented combination. The programme is also contributed to by the following well-known performers:—The Kellinos, in their picturesque Venetian acrobatic act; Miss Ethel Ra Leslie, vocalist; the three Sisters Chester; Miss Lena Brunton, serio; Mr. Barney Armstrong, comic vocalist; the Dolreans, in a novel entertainment; Mr. Dion Wade, Maxwell and Francis, and the Bioscope.

GRAND PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. R. Ralli.—The Treshams, Mr. T. W. Lenner, Mayon and Marie, Mr. George Phillips, Miss Florrie Wright, Miss Lily Le Breton, and Pallister's popular animated pictures are pleasing good houses nightly.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and his company are this week presenting Hall Caine's play, *The Manxman*. Mr. Cross appears as Pete, and gives a capital portrayal of the part; Miss Minnie Watersford is also seen to great advantage as Kate Cregan, and the other members of the cast are excellent in their respective parts.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. William Trussell.—Mr. Geo. Gray's *Fighting Parson* sketch is the star attraction here, and it wins loud expressions of popular approval. The Bioscope pictures of the Moir-Palmer fight are very fine, and other turns are given by Woodward and Walton, speciality dancers; Wallace Whitney, comedian; Beattie Foster, low comedy artist; and Bliss and Bliss, comedians.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold P. Howell.—Captain Develine's troupe of Zouaves are first favourites in their lightning drill act; Arthur Aldridge is a capital vocalist; and Tom Stuart scores as a character comedian; J. G. Grahame, jun., and Zerlina Harrington appear in a dramatic episode, *A Daughter of Pleasure*; and others who entertain are Nina Elmo, comedienne; Russell Carr, ventriloquist; and Arthur Boyne, comedian.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—An admirable interpretation of *The Christian* is being presented here by Mr. Wentworth Croke's well chosen company. Miss Grace Chalmers depicts the rôle of Glory Quayle in a brilliant and fascinating manner. The Hon. John Storm has an excellent exponent in Mr. Frank Tennant, who plays the part with powerful histrionic effect; Miss Vashti Wellborne acts the character of Polly Love with sufficient pathos and vigour; Miss Molly Haden submits a clever and dignified representation of Mrs. Callander; Mr. Frederick Scarth acquits himself with credit as Lord Robert Ure; Mr. Edwin Ling is a commendable exponent of Father Lamplugh; whilst Mr. W. Brisco Owen and Mr. Charles E. Dering, as Horatio Drake and Archdeacon Wealthy respectively, do well.

ALBERT HALL, WINTER GARDENS.—Lessee, Mrs. Charles Parker; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Mertz.—One of the principal items in the good all-round programme presented here this week is supplied by Joe Reichen's performing dogs, who give a remarkable exhibition of canine sagacity. Another prominent turn is that of the Seven Zerbinis in their latest creation, entitled *The Enchanted Glen*. The bill includes H. O. Wills, the curious comedian; Magna, in her artistic poses plastiques; Robin, an eccentric knockabout cyclist; Lambert and Hands, in vocal scenas; Jules Kiaro, hand jumper and pyramidist; Les Voltas, in mirth and mystery; Westland, Scotch comedian; and the Bioscope with the latest films.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Miss Bessie Elma and company are here in the drama *Sins of Society*. Miss Elma is seen to advantage as Mlle. Ilma de Fontaine and Mr. Alfred D. Adams is good as Henri D'Arville. The comedy element is well sustained by Mr. Geo. Scully as Timothy Twister and Miss Maud Le Ray as Selina Swizzle.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Quite half of the programme is taken up by Mr. Fred Karno's latest creation, *Moses and Sons*. In this sketch Mr. Albert Bruno causes roars of laughter. A refined musical act, introducing various instruments, is given by Florence and Lillian. Another amusing turn is provided by Techow's cats. As comedy acrobats Hall and Earle meet with approbation. Mr. Charles Pastor, laughing comedian, and the Bioscope complete an enjoyable programme.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. K. Hall and Jos. Sweeney; Business-Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—At the top of the bill is Harry Nelson, whose songs and patter are accorded a good reception. Good vocal scenas are given the Levans. An enjoyable mimicry show is contributed by the Sisters Terry. Operatic vocal selections are well rendered by Dan Robbins. Other good turns are Geo. Russell, vocal and character comedian, the Three Rolands, equilibrists, and the Bioscope.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarence; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—Mr. Linford Carson's Répertoire Company, under the direction of Mr. Charles Draycott, is here, and the pieces presented include *A Modern Adventuress*, *The Octoroon*, *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, and *The Heart of a Hero*. The visit opened with the first-named play, in which Mr. Draycott gave a highly picturesque and a delightfully pleasing study of Pietro Danelli. Miss Muriel Thompson's Violet Meredith was, on the whole, creditable. As Vivette, Miss Marie Robson deserved special praise. Messrs. Sydney C. Cranston as Harry Delby, Ernest J. Fare as Wallace Danton, J. Dobson Clyde as Walter Beale, and H. Scatchard as Steve Meredith filled their parts adequately. The comedy, in the hands of Mr. Will White (John Crompton) and Miss Nellie V. Warden (Sally Hodges), was exceedingly hilarious.

HIPPODROME.—This new place of amusement made a very auspicious opening on Monday night, when every available seat in the popular parts of the circus were occupied. The large audience appreciated to the full the long and admirable programme presented by the enterprising proprietors. Amongst the turns provided the following deserve special notice:—Poodles, the hurricane bar act rider; Miss Lillian Savado, a wonderfully clever gymnast; Miss Victoria, a graceful equestrienne; the Ladderites, in their marvellous ladder act; the Dunlops, in a comedy cycle act; and the Zaracs, in a funny absurdity, *Mashing the Barmaid*. The Hippodrome pictures were also sources of much delight.

STALYBRIDGE.—GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee Mr. Louis Ellison; General-Manager, Mr. Eugene E. Hardie; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. D. Oswald.—An excellent combination is appearing here, including Wheeler and Wilson, comedy acrobats; Emay Leycester, comedienne and dancer; John Walker, comedian; Two Volbecques, the comedy couple; Wirson, head and hand equilibrist; the Eltenas, globe speciality artists; Gillan, ventriloquist; the Allans, musical specialists, &c.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Loader.—Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company is presenting here this week the Anglo-Indian drama *A Traitor Prince*, which abounds with exciting situations. Mr. G. M. Montaini gives a powerful rendering of the rôle of Prince Rao, and receives able support from Mr. A. H. Porter and Miss Rose Routledge as the hero and heroine. The remaining characters are in the safe hands of Messrs. A. H. Langford, E. O'Grady, Sam Bogain, Miss Alice E. Livesey, Miss Kirby Thomas, and Miss Clara O'Grady.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. T. Barrasford, Will Sley, and Fred Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—A fine bill is headed here this week by Harry Cadle's Midget Mimes, in the funny act *Casey's Court*; at the bottom are John Terry and Mabel Lambert, who repeat their former success as character duettists. Others appearing include Lord, Murray, and Lord, in a clever gymnastic mélange, *The Intruder*; Miss Sylvia Martin, "London's lady horse trainer," who gives an excellent act; Mr. J. G. Aitken promises well as "the new comedian"; Mr. W. B. Raby is a capital comedian; and the Barrascope presents new pictures.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—*My Sweetheart*, with Miss Minnie Palmer delightful as ever as Tina, has attracted large audiences here this week. Mr. Wentworth Cooke's excellent company also includes Mr. Robert H. Howard, a pleasing and clever Tony; Mr. Richard Elliott, a most acceptable Dr. Oliver; and Mr. John T. McAllum, an effective Dudley Harcourt; Mrs. Fleeter has a charming representative in Miss Nellie Silvestre; Mrs. H. E. Russell acts ably as Mrs. Hatzell; Mr. Fred W. Leonard amusingly fills the part of Joe Shotwell; and the character of Farmer Hatzell is capably presented by Mr. Alfred Wray.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Black.—The chief attraction here is Zertho's Dogs, admirably trained animals; Onda and Leon are mirth-provoking gymnasts; Leo Tell's numerous imitations are appreciated; the Ringling Trio in their absurdity, *The Manager's Lunch*, caused plenty of laughter; Mlle Sylvia's vocal tableaux are most acceptable; Dave McNeil, versatile comedian, meets with much success; as do also the Brooklands, comediennes and dancers; and Harry Nation, comedian; the scena, *A Country Flirtation*, given by the Prinellas, is interesting and enjoyable. The "Empire" Bioscope continues to be a prominent feature.

MECHANICS INSTITUTE.—The New York Co.'s animated pictures are being displayed here this week with success.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin.—Miss Claudia Lasell's company is appearing here this week in *The Sweet Girl*. The Lola of Miss Lasell could not well be improved upon, and her vocal efforts are worthy of special praise; Miss Alice Lethbridge pleases by her excellent dancing, and also capably fills the rôle of Fritzi Weyringer; Miss Muriel Harding is a pleasing Countess Lizzi; Count Liebenberg is in the able hands of Mr. Fred Eastman, who is responsible for much of the fun; he is ably assisted by Mr. Geo. De Lara, as Posper Plewney; Mr. Douglas Phillips scores as Florian Lierlich; and Mr. Lister Morrah makes the most of his opportunities as Dick Kenyon; Messrs. W. H. Page and Algernon Newark capably fill their respective parts.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jos. Hemingway.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company, with *An Abandoned Woman*, is drawing crowded houses here. Mr. Walston Foster gives a capable impersonation of Captain Herbert Seaton; and Mr. B. J. Leill is a powerful Phillipe Malvoisin; as Paddy Boyle, Mr. Harry Foxwell proves himself to be a comedian of more than usual ability; Miss Georgette Thierry, plays Ninon Malvoisin in excellent style; and Mrs. H. Foxwell is a pleasing Eleanor Dean.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. Browne and Stringer; Taro Myaki, Ju-Jitsu wrestler, heads the bill, and provides an exciting turn. The programme also includes the Kents, in a musical absurdity; Jack Charman, vocalist; the Three Amaranths, acrobatic dancers; Dusty Rhodes, comedy artist; Elsie Earle, comedienne; the Clarions, in an absurdity, entitled, *The Would-be Tenor*; Griff, as *The Clown in Apartments*; and Vernon's Bioscope.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible-Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—The management has arranged an entire change of programme for this week by presenting a strong variety bill, topped by Mlle. Ella, who gives her astounding performance in a huge cage with six lions. Another very interesting turn is that of Attillas, the renowned strong man, all his feats being deservedly applauded. Yet another clever and daring item is that contributed by Blanche and Diacoff on their bicycles on the special track. Mme. Barrett Stone delights large audiences with her rich contralto voice; Will Hutchings proves himself particularly smart as a lightning cartoonist, and Miss Florrie Florence very entertaining as a coon impersonator. Others deserving special mention are Ashley and Knight, knockabouts; Mantell and Oval, and Ivy Gallard.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—This week Mr. Charles March's company is here, the principal attraction being *The Priest of the Temple*. Mr. March displays conspicuous talent in the part of Valerius; he is also excellent in his quick-change act, in which he impersonates nine different characters. The Colonials are well received in their musical comedy scene *The Tramp Intrusion*. Dick Thomas, the Welsh comedian, is amusing. The Bioscope presents an interesting series of pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Director, Mr. D. Taylor; General-Manager, Mr. H. Curline Baldry.—Rice, Rose, and Rozart, in their knockabout pantomime, *Always Moving*, are top of the bill here this week. Other turns include Alex Fox, ventriloquist, the Sisters Brenton, Harry Walker, Wisper, juggler, Beattie Bloom, the Bodey Bros., gymnasts, Brothers Alpine, in their high perch act, and the Four Zolas.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—The stage is occupied this week by the Wakefield and District Amateur Operatic Society in *Iolanthe*.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sidney Tolfree.—Mr. Charles R. Whittle, comedian, heads the bill this week and proves popular in his quaint style; Miss Maidie Scott, a charming comedienne, is highly appreciated; Miss Vera Mayne, comedienne, sings in good style; Mr. Frank Whiteley, negro comedian, dances well; Empress, lady handcuff manipulator, is smart; and Sphinx, magician; the Two S.T.'s in a jumping act; and La Belle Rosie, vocalist and dancer, contribute pleasing turns.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—A new departure is witnessed here this week, the theatrescope, with charming views of Scotland, finding especial favour. Miss Mary Bruce's charming soprano voice is heard to advantage; Prince Ishmaiel is a wonderful Indian fakir; and Mlle. Zelda plays capital solos on a number of unique instruments.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—Will Vay's Juveniles score a success here this week in the sketch *Life in the Slums*. The Gladenbecks are a troupe of novel acrobats; and Charles Valvo is a quaint ventriloquist; the Esdale Brothers are clever comedians; and Fatmah Diard presents a rich voice; George Jachins is good as a female impersonator, and the Campions, vocalists and dancers, also supply a good turn.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—Mr. Fred Darcey and Mr. Fred J. Little's company appeared here on the first three nights of the week in the clever musical drama, *On the Stroke of Twelve*. The part of Jack Rutledge was in the capable hands of Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle; while Mr. Fred Guinness was excellent as Geo. Bambridge; the somewhat thankless rôle of James Horton, the schemer, was admirably filled by Mr. H. Creagh Hunt; Mr. Fred Fern was good as Henry Rutledge; Mr. Syd T. Russell was a capital Jew; Mr. Fred J. Little scored as Jasper, the coloured gentleman; while Mr. J. F. Firman, as Van Dyke, convict No. 29, was very satisfactory. Miss Nellie Moon was charming as Jess Bambridge; Miss Beatrice Moore was equally effective; while Miss Madge Laverton, as Marie Bergerre, is quite capable.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Sites, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—There have been large houses all the week to welcome some old favourites and some new comers to the town. Under the direction of Miss Ethel and Mr. George Able is produced a striking and powerful sketch, *The Little Stowaway*, which is splendidly mounted and admirably played, the part of the Captain being in the capable hands of Mr. J. K. Walton, while Miss Eva Lumley makes a very pathetic stowaway. Jimson's novelty sketch, *The Burglar's Surprise*, introducing a remarkably clever dog as a canine policeman, is very popular; Edgar Marriott, the man in red, is smart, and his songs are clever; Mlle. Lucretia is a great favourite at West Bromwich, and comes in for a hearty reception; the Richards Trio, in their acrobatic sketch, *Giddy Golfers*, are well received; Tray and Rich create a good deal of fun; and the songs of Lloyd Morgan and Charles Woodward are capital. The Hippodrome pictures are also an attraction.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The Bros. Durant are as funny as ever in their airship and trapeze performance; the Steinway quartette, in "Songs of the Sea," are rapturously welcomed; J. C. Scatter is irresistible in comedy patter, and Charles F. Best has a screamingly funny act, "Macbunker, the Mountebank." F. H. Durham, actor vocalist, and Lily Currie, comedienne, are well received. The tumbling feats of the Almas are performed with remarkable neatness, and the Bio-tableaux add an interesting item to the bill.

WEST STANLEY.—VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Raws; Responsible-Manager, Mr. John Cassidy.—The variety bill here includes Mr. G. Martinengo, solo 'cellist, the Henderson and Stanley Quartette, Mr. Charles Danton, character comedian, the Deroneys, in a lively comedy sketch, Miss Daisy Almer, a clever comedienne, Wyman, an expert on roller skates, Barfoot and Carson, in their comedy act, the Five M.P.s, in their military musical act, Mr. P. J. Durney, globe walker, and Mr. George Martin, who renders some good songs in a fine baritone voice.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. Howard Hardy's company, in *The Days of Cromwell*, is here. The rôle of Ironhand is well handled by Mr. Henry Belding; Mr. Chas. Herberte is a fine Sir Marsden Mardyke; and Mr. Howard Hardy a clever Matthew Mardyke. Walter Clifford is well presented by Mr. Vernon Vane; Mr. G. P. Lester gives a good portrayal of the Protector; Mr. Geo. Evelyn is a manly Sir Wilfred Avondale; Miss Beatrice Hudson finely portrays the part of Mistress Judith; and the rôle of Ruby Avondale is admirably sustained by Miss Jeanne Hardy.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—Mr. Chas. Watson Mill's company is engaged here in *A Wrecker of Men*. Mr. F. Biron is a powerful Jim Murley; Mr. M. Noble is good as Pharosaphus; Mr. Stanley Champion is well cast as Guise Strange; Mr. Charles Earle acts capably as Karnaphus; and Mr. T. Carruthers is convincing as Eric Melville. Miss Cissy Podmore is sympathetic as Dora

PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

OPENING OF THE KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.

The beautiful new King's Theatre, Edinburgh, was opened last Saturday evening in the presence of a crowded audience. The house has already been fully described in these columns. When the musical conductor took his place in the orchestra, punctually as seven o'clock, the electric lights in the auditorium were turned on one by one, the strains of the National Anthem were struck up by the band, and the audience, upstanding, joined heartily in singing the words. The curtain then rose upon the first act of the pantomime, The Clematis Glade, where two of the immortals, Malevolentio and Icicle, enter, and scornfully speak of the inhabitants of the earth. The Fairy Godmother comes upon the scene, and defends the mortals from the aspersions of her fellow spirits, saying that she will make the experiment of asking a favour from some of the earth-born, and will shower her gifts on the one who shows a kindly heart. The scene changes to The Heart of the Forest, in winter, where the villagers come gathering wood, and break into song and sabot dance. The Fairy Godmother, in the guise of an old beggar-woman, finds her pleadings rejected, until Cinderella, daughter of the Baron, and Choddles, the Baron's retainer, enter. Cinderella pities the old mendicant, and gives her a bundle of sticks. This generous action touches the fairy, and, by a wave of her wand, she transforms the wintry scene into spring-time, with the brooks bursting their icy barriers and rabbits frolicking about the leafy glades. This ingenious effect, the pictures from the brush of Mr. Conrad Tritschler, was loudly applauded. Prince Rudolph and his courtiers appear in hunting garb, and the Prince, in a merry mood, induces his valet, Dandini, without much pressure, to assume the Royal name and privileges for one day. The party retire, to allow of the entrance of Archibald, Baron Lacklands, of Poldoody Hall, his wife, Daisy, and his two step-daughters, Mopsa and Arethusa. The fun now grows fast and furious. The Baron and his family make free in a very comic manner with the lunch, which the Royal party has left until their return. The Prince, coming back, finds Cinderella alone, falls in love with her, and, having previously, on learning of the disappearance of the victuals, invited his household to dine at the Baron's, now looks forward to meeting the sweet little wood-gatherer once again. The interior of the baronial hall gives the Baron (Mr. Dan Rolyat) an opportunity for the display of genuinely humorous acting, which stirred the audience to loud and prolonged laughter. The Baronial Kitchen shows Cinderella lamenting the fact that she cannot go to the ball at the Palace, to which her father, mother, and sisters have been invited. The Fairy Godmother arrives at this moment, and transports her to The Toilet Chamber, a charmingly arranged scene, in which various fairies bring Cinderella the necessary articles—ball dress, jewels, fan, and flowers, for her visit to the Palace. She is told to leave the ball before the stroke of twelve, and departs in a glittering carriage, drawn by four beautiful little Shetland ponies. This concludes the first act, and permits the audience to see the very complete arrangements for their comfort, in tea-room, smoking-room, and lounge. The second act begins with The Ballroom at the Palace, a gay and splendid spectacle. Cinderella, forgetting the injunction of the fairy, hears with dismay the clock striking twelve, and, stripped of her finery, rushes home in her old dress, losing one of her glass slippers in her haste. The remaining scenes of the pantomime follow the old story in the customary way. The Prince offers, as a reward for the owner of the slipper, his hand and a share of his throne, and the lucky maiden is, of course, found in the person of Cinderella, the curtain falling upon The Fairy Wedding, a lovely finale to a lovely pantomime.

The management has made a powerful bid for popularity in the company which has been engaged for the production of the spectacle. Miss Phyllis Dare is an ideal Cinderella. She plays with all the winsome grace and girlish freshness which have won so many hearts, and her acting confirms her rising reputation, and stamps her, young as she is, as a thorough artist. She sings with charm, and dances with exceeding daintiness. A specially delightful number is sung in the first scene of Act 2, in which Miss Dare has the assistance of a pretty child, who danced with the assurance of a grown performer. Mr. Dan Rolyat as Archibald, Baron Lacklands, and Mr. John Humphries as Daisy, are a tower of strength in the comic scenes. Mr. Rolyat is an excellent comedian, who commands the laughter of the audience at will; and Mr. Humphries assists, by his quiet, unforced humour, which never grows vulgar, towards the success of the production. Another very clever performance is the Choddles of Mr. Stephen Adeson. Mr. Adeson is not only an admirable comedian, but a good singer and expert dancer, and his work is thoroughly appreciated by his audience. Mr. Ray Russell is effective as Dandini. He is a vocalist of merit, and dances with grace Miss Violet Englefield makes a good appearance as the Prince, and her efforts were rewarded with many handsome floral tributes. Miss Gwennie Hasto as Princess Rexana looks extremely well, and acts with vivacity and finish. Her song and dance in the second part were one of the hits of the evening. Notable appearances are made by Miss Vera Vere and Miss Marie Rignold as the two daughters of the Baroness. The talents of Miss Dorothy Chard have little scope in the small part of the Fairy Godmother; but the young actress speaks her lines with telling expression. The retainers of the Prince find attractive representatives in Miss Dorothy Ward, Miss Margaret Webster, Miss Kitty Sparrow, Miss Rhoda Clighton, Miss Kitty Devlin, Miss Mabel Dark, and Miss Nita Yorke; while Miss Louie Lochner and Miss Delian Clark are satisfactory exponents of Malevolentio and Icicle. The scenery, designed and painted by Mr. Conrad Tritschler, Mr. R. McCleery, Mr. James Gordon, and Mr. W. R. Coleman, are felicitous examples of work. As already indicated, The Heart of the Forest is a singularly fine canvas; and equally good in the suggestion of the subjects are Mr. McCleery's and Mr. Coleman's interiors, and Mr. Gordon's pictures of Cinderella's garret and Hall at the Baron's. The special numbers, composed by Mr. Alfred Haines, are lively and tuneful; and the dresses and accessories, designed by Mr. Wilhelm, are blended with excellent taste in colouring.

At the close of the pantomime, which went with perfect smoothness from first to last, there were loud calls for Mr. Courtneidge, who expressed the pleasure it gave him in producing a pantomime in his native city, and said his thanks were due to the artists, who had worked so loyally to ensure the success of the piece. Mr. R. C. Buchanan was then summoned to the footlights, and read telegrams from Mr. Tree, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. George Edwardes, Mr. Martin Harvey, and Miss Ellen Terry, wishing the King's Theatre good luck Mr. Buchanan said that this was a memorable night, and he thanked the audience for their splendid reception of the pantomime. He did not intend to forecast the plans for the future, but the production of that evening was an earnest of what might be expected.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT GLASGOW.

On Thursday, the 6th inst., Mr. F. W. Wyndham produced his nineteenth pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, and the result of his completed labours was received with acclamation by a large and delighted audience. In choosing the popular subject of *Dick Whittington* for his pantomime, Mr. Wyndham doubtless felt himself on secure ground. It is one of the half-dozen themes which hold the record in pantomime annals, and the story, ranging as it does from London to Morocco, lends itself readily to the most picturesque attainments of the scene-painter's art. In the matter of scenery and dresses, the Royal has always been in the forefront of provincial theatres, and the present production is no exception. The action is divided into two parts, of seven and eight scenes respectively, and most of these are undoubtedly triumphs of scenic splendour, alike in regard to design and execution. The opening scene, the Village of Ellesmere, is an attractive set, and here we are introduced to all the principal characters, for the story is so far extended as to make Dick Whittington first be seen in his native village, where he rescues Alice Fitzwarren from an infuriated bull, then takes service with the Alderman, as does also Idle Jack, and the whole party then depart for Scene 2, Fitzwarren's Home in London, the reception hall of which affords the artist excellent opportunity for an impressive old baronial hall of ample proportions and luxurious style. Both scenes are by the resident scenic artist here, Mr. T. F. Dunn, who is responsible for another charming picture, Fitzwarren's Garden, and also for the opening scene of Part 2, The Port of Tangiers. This is another particularly striking set, and evoked the hearty applause of the audience. The concluding scene, The Betrothal, is a further example of Mr. Dunn's work, and, in addition, he is responsible for several fine cloths, notably On the Ocean Wave, Bluebell's Home, and the humorously labelled one, called A Mean Street. Mr. T. E. Ryan is well represented in the scenes representing Highgate Hill, "Turn Again, Whittington," and the Ante-chamber of the Palace. Two clever scenes are contributed by Mr. Ernest Glover—The Kitchen and Fitzwarren's Garret. The Coast of Ratland, by Mr. A. Glendinning, completes the list, and the several charming scenes form a fitting setting for the many and varied adventures of the *dramatis personæ*.

Among these, first mention might be made of Mr. Bransby Williams, who, as Alderman Fitzwarren, gives a performance which is a gem of neat and finished comedy, with just that *soupçon* of exaggeration to make it suitable for pantomime. The self-satisfied airs of the man who has risen in the world, the little tricks of speech and action which render the part distinctive, and the consistent way in which the type of character is always kept in view, make the performance fit to rank with anything Mr. Bransby Williams has yet played here, either in Dickens' or other parts. In the scene where he imitated various well-known actors, he aroused the enthusiasm of the audience to a great pitch, those of Messrs. George Alexander, Beerbohm Tree, and Martin Harvey being voted absolutely lifelike, and that of Sir Charles Wyndham almost perfect. In other scenes Mr. Williams hit off the style of R. G. Knowles to a nicety, and also reproduced with fidelity the methods of Tom Murray. Another clever comedian is Mr. Will Evans, who returns to Glasgow after an absence of several years. His idle Jack is a most amusing character, and from his first exciting entrance in charge of an angry bull, which he latterly fights, *à la* toreador, he keeps the audience in the best of humour. His antics as a piano-tuner were excruciatingly funny. Then, in conjunction with Messrs. Downes and Langford, he attempts to build a chicken-house, and the fun in this scene alone would equip many a pantomime. His shopwalker lesson, with Mr. Bransby Williams, was also extremely funny; while his own special item as a street minstrel who is rewarded with sundry offerings of old boots, tin cans, rags, &c., was one of the hits of the evening. Messrs. Downes and Langford gave with excellent effect some of their clever patter and cross-talk scenes, while their parts in the pantomime were both specially well done. Mr. E. Jerome Langford as Rupert Ruffles, the dude-like private secretary and Press agent of Fitzwarren, played an eccentric part with most humorous effect; and Mr. Wm. Downes as the bluff sailor, Captain Jack, with his propensity for advice, was also particularly good. In Mr. Will Evans' interpolated burlesque of a scene from *Robinson Crusoe* (in which he played Will Atkins and stage-managed), Messrs. Downes and Langford lent able assistance, the former as a burly and massive Polly Perkins, and the latter as an emaciated principal boy, being funny to a degree. Mr. W. F. Frame, the popular Scotch comedian, who had a most hearty reception on his first entrance, played Elizabeth, the cook, with much humour, and sang a lively ditty, extolling the talents of the said cook in all branches of the culinary art. Mr. Frame added his quota to the humours of the evening, one of his items being an exaggerated rendering of Vesta Victoria's tuneful song, "Waiting at the church." Miss Madoline Rees as Dick Whittington was a handsome principal boy, with lots of dash and go, and as a singer soon took the fancy of the audience. The pretty ballad, "Whispers of love," was especially well received, and another attractive item was "Good-bye, dear old London town." Miss Lena Vere made Alice Fitzwarren a more sedate young lady than we are accustomed to see, acting, however, with pleasant appreciation, and singing her various songs with much taste and expression. As the Prince of Morocco, Miss Edna Morgan brought a handsome and striking presence and a good voice to the part, and amply deserved the number of recalls she received for her spirited singing of "Hello, hello, it's a different girl again." Miss Mena Brae was an attractive Princess Zoe, and shared the honours in the love-making scene with Mr. Bransby Williams. She acted with much humour, and her "Zuyder Zee" song, with its accompanying sabot dance, was most enjoyable. Miss Aimee Grey was a charming Fairy Bluebell and a sweet singer, as her "Snowflake" song amply proved. Mr. Albert Felino as the Cat gave a clever performance as the harmless, necessary feline, who so faithfully follows the fortunes of Dick throughout the story. Mr. Arthur Burgoyne as the King of Ratland completed an able cast. The Tiller Troupe of dancers received quite an ovation for their various smart dances; and the flying ballet of Mme. Preciosa Grigolatis appeared in one scene with good effect.

As is usual at the Royal, the handsome and costly dresses were the theme of admiration from the first scene to the last, and the striking tableaux which conclude each part were equal to anything Mr. Wyndham has devised in the way of stage pictures. The book of the pantomime is again by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and affords the various characters ample scope for showing their ability. Mr. Alfred Carpenter has selected and arranged the music, which includes all the tunes likely to be popular during the Christmas season. The Royal stage staff deserve credit for their share in the general success, the properties by Messrs. George Sutherland and Duncan Wright, the machinery by Mr. Charles Penman, and the ingenious electrical effects by Mr. J. D. Milligan, being important factors.

Mr. F. W. Wyndham superintended the rehearsals and the production, and received a unanimous and hearty call at the conclusion. In thanking the audience, he alluded to the fact that they had a hard task trying to beat the Harry Lauder records in the pantomime of last year, but he felt sure they would run it a dead-heat. Mr. William H. Morgan as stage-manager has ably carried out his arduous duties, and the performance on the opening night went from beginning to end without a hitch. In response to loud demands, Mr. Bransby Williams and Mr Will Evans each thanked the audience for their enthusiasm; and Mr. W. F. Frame also endorsed their sentiments. Mr. Percy Humphrys, the courteous acting-manager at the Royal, had a huge audience under his control on Thursday, and doubtless will have for every performance from now onwards.

"THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT," AT GLASGOW.

On Wednesday, the 5th inst., the first of the Glasgow pantomimes made its appearance, the Grand Theatre again leading the way. This year's annual has been entrusted to Mr. Fred Karno, and, considering the reputation enjoyed by that gentleman as a fun provider, as witnessed by the numerous sketches constantly touring the theatre and variety halls, the success of the pantomime was practically assured from the first, especially when it was announced that Mr. Fred Kitchen would be seen in the leading comedy part.

A crowded and enthusiastic audience gave a hearty send-off to the production on the opening night, and enjoyed with the best of good humour one or two trifling mishaps (almost inseparable from a first night), which but served to emphasise the smoothness of the production generally. While it can be seen at once that fun, and plenty of it, has been aimed at more than scenic splendour, the pantomime includes some very picturesque sets, notably the opening scene, The Village of Happie Dayes, a beautiful scene with a charming background, "practicable" mill wheel, and real live ducks disporting themselves in the mill-race. Then another pretty set is The Home of Dame Trot in Shoeland, a humorous embodiment of the legend of the old woman who lived in a shoe. The cloth representing the interior of the Squire's ancestral halls, shows that—despite the poverty which dogs the footsteps of pantomime landowners—this gentleman rejoices in a ball-room which would not be out of place in Windsor Castle or Versailles. The concluding scene of the first part, The Home of the Water Lilies, with its revival of old-time "transformation" effects, and the final scene, The Prince's Court, are good examples of the scene-painter's art, and Mr. E. Grimani and his assistants deserve every credit for their share of the work. The book is by Mr. Harold Gatty, and, to suit the exigencies of modern pantomime, incorporates such nursery heroes and heroines as Jack and Jill, Dame Trot, and the Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe, under the protecting ægis of *The House that Jack Built*. Regarding the company engaged, Mr. Fred Kitchen has in recent years established himself a strong favourite in Glasgow, and on his first entrance as Dame Trot he received a vociferous welcome. His abilities as a comedian are well-known, and he soon had the house in roars with his quaint comments on things in general, and his humorous facility in the devising of business. His share in a love ballad sung by the Prince was most diverting, and the fun with the various callers at Dame Trot's door (including an unfortunate insurance canvasser, a butcher's boy, and a milkman), was the occasion for shrieks of merriment. Then a wealth of funny business was worked up between the Dame and her diminutive husband, played with much spirit by that clever young artist, Mr. Harry Lappo, who in facial make-up and moleskins made a typical labouring man. Prominent among the comedians are that smart combination known as the Harmony Four, and in their own musical speciality, as in their respective parts of Tommy Green, Johnny Stout, and the two broker's men, they were well to the fore in their efforts at fun-making. As the Prince Veritas of the story, Miss May Mars was particularly well suited. She is possessed of a handsome presence and a taking style, while her vocal items were given with much taste. She caught the fancy of the audience right away with "I love Molly," and had them joining lustily in the chorus at the second verse. In the tuneful ditty, "Waltz me around again, Willie," she is also provided with a number that is sure to catch the public ear. In the part of the hero, Jack, Miss Luna Love is another strong favourite. In her previous appearances here, as Mamie Clancy in *The Belle of New York*, and later in *The Duchess of Dantzic*, she showed herself a comedienne of decided ability, and the liveliness, humour, and sprightliness of her performance as Jack will still further enhance her reputation here. She installed herself in the good graces of the audience in the first scene, and improved in popularity as the night wore on. In the song and sabot dance, "The Zuyder Zee," she was particularly good, and was rewarded with several encores and two handsome floral offerings. Miss Frances Kapstowne as Jack's sweetheart, Jill, was a dainty principal girl, and acted, sang, and danced with commendable enthusiasm. Two clever little girls, Little Maudie Frances as Tommy Tucker and Wee Mona as Marjory Daw, made the dancing hits of the evening, the former in a neat step-dance (accompanied by the Cat) and the latter as a Hungarian top-boot dancer. The Cat was played with wonderful fidelity to nature by Mr. Fred Whittaker, and was voted the best example of this class of work seen here for some considerable time. Mr. Helier Le Maistre as Squire Squareface acted the bold, bad man with due emphasis, but was unfortunately not given a suitable opportunity of displaying the fine voice we know him to possess. Mr. Bob Sloan as the Squire's man, Sandy, made up in lurid red wig, and whiskers *en suite*, infused some Scotch fun into the pantomime, and in his comic recital of the demands made by the tenants who passed under his observation was seen at his best. Mr. Cattenack as Farmer Honeysett was good, and acted the much-tried father of the heroine with the necessary severity. A couple of attractive damsels were the Phyllis of Miss Agnes Lane and the Doris of Miss Ada Whittaker. Miss Genevera Tree as the fairy, depicted in this case in the allegorical rôle of Good Times, acted and sang with good effect. The Sisters Hopkins were seen to advantage as Princess Sincerita and the Enchantress. Other parts were ably filled by Mr. Dave Laird and Misses Flo Pragnell, Freda Vaughan, Helen Le Maistre, Lallie Forsyth, and Ianthe Gordon.

The pantomime has been rehearsed and produced by Mr. Harold L. Hilliard, who deserves the utmost credit for the way in which he has marshalled his forces. As stage-manager he is ably assisted by Mr. Kenneth McLeod, who remains during the run. The final rehearsals of the production were under the personal supervision of Mr. Fred Karno, and this gentleman, with the energetic manager-director of the Grand, Mr. R. C. Buchanan, had to respond to hearty calls at the conclusion of the pantomime, and to express their thanks in a few chosen sentences. Mr. Duncan Macfarlane, the new acting-manager at the Grand, enters upon his duties at a busy time, and the interests of Mr. Fred Karno are in the hands of Mr. J. B. Helm. Mr. H. Henderson, the conductor of the orchestra here, looks after the musical requirements with his accustomed ability. The ballets and processions were drilled and arranged by Miss Dollie Bell. The success of the latest Grand production is undoubted, and it should draw the crowds for a considerable time to come

"THE SLEEPING BEAUTY" AT MANCHESTER.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell introduced to Manchester on Monday last its first pantomime of the season at the Queen's Theatre, before a large and appreciative audience. The novel feature of Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's company is that it is made up largely of juvenile talent, and it is notable that the talent in question is of a peculiarly precocious sort, so that the production, as a whole, supported as it is by older hands, steers clear of the character of a children's pantomime, while appealing to children of all ages. The book is by H. B. Levy, and tells the story of the sleeping princess and her resuscitation, after a hundred years, with becoming regard to the easy demands of pantomime, whereby the progress of events shall be enlivened by the introduction of all manner of entertainment without any harassing subordination to the text. It is accompanied by incidental music of a lively character by G. F. Dodds, and the scenery and dresses have been provided on an elaborate scale. Twelve scenes depict the progress of the story, which is bodied up by a chorus of seventy voices and an orchestra of adequate proportions; added to which are specialities by the Marguerite Quartet of Dancers, a clever and graceful combination; La Belle Annette, speciality dancer; Miss Edie Camm, baton swinger; and wee George Wood, a truly remarkable comedian and mimic, not yet eleven years old. In the way of spectacular effects there are three ballets worthy of mention, namely, the "flower," the "musical," and that of "various nations." Here, it must be admitted, are the constituents of a success, and last Monday's audience gave the production a most promising start.

Miss Dolly Dodds as Beauty is a very pleasing figure throughout, and she earned considerable applause for all her songs, but chiefly for "Somebody's sweetheart"; her share in a duet with the Prince (Miss Kitty Trewhitt), "Will you love me in December as you do in May?" (a big success); and "I'm looking for a sweetheart," an appeal answered by an obliging gentleman in one of the boxes beside the stage. Miss Kitty Trewhitt filled the requirements of the part of Prince Florizel with a nice restraint, and, in addition to her success in the song named above, was heard to advantage in the successful Irish song, "Arrah Wanna." Governing the fortunes of these two, in spite of the machinations of the witch Maligna (Miss Beattie Townshend), is the good fairy Queen Claribel, a part very agreeably filled by Miss May Gibson, whose voice, a good one, delighted the house in "Fancies" and a ballad called "Return." Also prominent among the ladies are Miss Daisy Fielder as Sir Alfonso, valet to the Prince, and Miss Isa Gibson as Trixie, Beauty's maid-of-honour. Miss Isa Gibson sang "Good-night, Mr. Brown, I'm out," and afterwards joined Miss Daisy Fielder in "By the side of the Zuyder Zee," a well-sung duet, followed by a characteristic Dutch dance, which proved extremely successful. Among the laughter-makers little George Wood, a very diminutive comedian, to all appearances scarcely out of his nurse's hands, provoked the most amusement and applause. He has all the airs of a practised entertainer, and not only sang one or two songs in approved style—"Father coaxed it in," and "Eh, dad—don't you know?"—but, responding to an encore, gave a long dramatic recitation, "Kissing Cup's Race" (dressed like a jockey), in a fashion that speaks well for his future, if his sheer precocity is not allowed to kill the natural talent that is in him. Another embryo comedian, who is not without individuality, is Master Jack Harrison, the slender King Fearnought. He is active, spontaneously funny at times, and has a voice that will do him good service some day. His Queen, a large and terrible personage, is played by one of the Brothers Armstrong, who might cultivate a quieter style with advantage. The other of the Armstrong duo makes a good comic maid, Asbestos. Besides these are Colonel Dreadnought and Major Flashlight, two busy and humorous characters, cleverly impersonated by Messrs. Doyle and Gibson; and the fun is further augmented by the efforts of Messrs. Pat Sloan and Taylor Snowball as a couple of living Gollywogs.

In addition to the vocal numbers already mentioned, a duet, "Don't you remember?" is given by Master Jack Harrison and "Queen" Armstrong; a burlesque trio "Excelsior" by the same couple and "Maid" Armstrong; a quartet, "The House that Jack Built," by Misses Dolly Dodds and May Gibson and Messrs. Doyle and Gibson; and a song and dance, "My rag-time coon," by one of the Gollywogs. It should be mentioned that the scenery is from the brush of R. D. Graham (and assistants), and that the entire production is under the personal supervision of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy. The success of the production is certain.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

On Tuesday afternoon the pupils of Mr. John Francis Barnett gave a highly successful historical pianoforte recital. The works performed included examples of all the great composers, from Purcell (1658) to Jensen, who died in 1879. The recital began with Purcell's "Courante" and "Ground," played by Miss M. J. Powell. In "Sarabande" and "La Poule," by Rameau, Miss Nellie Atkinson displayed neat execution; and Miss Frances Fox was equally successful in a delightful "Pastorale" and Toccata in A by Scarlatti. Handel's Fantasie in C had an intelligent exponent in Miss Cady Hassell; while the difficult Chromatic Fantasie and Fugue of Bach was cleverly played by Miss Dora Beeson. A quaint Arietta by Leonardo di Leo and Paradies' Toccata in A were performed in quite the right spirit by Miss Margaret Gray; and Miss Beatrice Dunn was much applauded in Haydn's Fantasia. One of Mr. Barnett's most promising pupils was Master Mischa Levin (a prize-winner in 1906), who essayed, and with a fair amount of success, no less an important work than Beethoven's "Moonlight" sonata, the slow movement of which was remarkably well played, the youthful performer being warmly greeted by the audience. The first movement of Hummel's Concerto in A Minor was given with good expression by Miss Dorothy Ellis, the second pianoforte being played by Master Mischa Levin. Schubert's charming Impromptu in G Op. 90, was skilfully rendered by Miss Muriel Kingsbury; and the duet for two pianos of Mendelssohn's Allegro Brilliant was intelligently performed by Miss Frances Cox and Mr. Wallis Bandey. Miss Jessie Attwell played "Larghetto" and "Rondo," from Chopin's Concerto in E Minor, with considerable spirit, the second pianoforte being ably undertaken by Miss Dora Beeson. Other clever items by the pupils, who all did themselves and their esteemed professor great credit, were Mr. Wallis Bandey, heard in Schumann's Toccata, Op. 7; Mr. Walter Lawrence, in Liszt's Rhapsody Hongroise, No. 12; Miss Alice Edwards, in Scherzo in E Flat Minor of Brahms; Miss McKechnie; and Miss Beatrice Dunn, who played a clever Valse Caprice written by Mr. J. F. Barnett.

In the fine hall of the City of London School, the Guildhall students on Wednesday evening gave an orchestral concert which attracted a large number of visitors. Dr. Cummings conducted the orchestra, with the exception of the first item in the programme, a concert overture (MS.) written by Mr. W. E. Lawrence, which was conducted by its composer. The concert overture, on first hearing, reveals the fact that Mr. Lawrence has no small ability in writing for the orchestra. That the young composer is a lover of contrasts was evident, but the overture also has melody of a distinct character, while the scoring for the wind instruments deserves great praise. Mr. Lawrence is a pupil of Mr. J. Barnett. The other new work produced was a pianoforte concerto (MS.) in C minor (first movement), by Miss Ethel Scarborough, pupil of Mr. A. Barclay. The concerto has a consistent theme, and is written in a promising and musicianly manner. The composition was admirably played by its author, Dr. Cummings conducting the orchestra. Both Mr. Lawrence and Miss Scarborough were warmly greeted by the audience, and recalled several times to the platform. Included also in the programme was Max Bruch's violin concerto, Miss Doris Cloud giving an intelligent performance of the solo instrument, being ably supported by the orchestra. The vocal items were Donizetti's romanza, "Spirto gentel" (*La Favorita*), capitally sang by Mr. Wallis Anderson, and recitative and aria, "Ocean! thou mighty monster," and "Still I see thy billows flashing," from Weber's *Oberon*, sung with ability by Miss Eva Colton. Both vocalists, who were much applauded, had the advantage of clever orchestral accompaniment.

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"HOME, AGAIN, MY CHERRY BLOSSOM."
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
"MY SILENT SWEETHEART."

F. W. WYNDHAM'S PANTO, EDINBURGH.
"CHEYENNE."
"IT'S A DIFFERENT GIRL AGAIN."
"SNOWFLAKES."
"COME TO THE TREE-TOPS."

RICHARD WALDON'S PANTO, GLASGOW.
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"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE?"
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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Play, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE ETERNAL CITY."

A large and expectant audience took advantage of the opportunity afforded them on Monday of again seeing Mr. Lewin Mannering and company in Hall Caine's play, *The Eternal City*, notwithstanding the fact that this is the third visit since the opening of the theatre. Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is in every way a capable one, and the remarkably successful play is performed in an excellent manner. The Baron Bonelli of Mr. Lewin Mannering is quietly powerful, and throughout he succeeds in giving a most effective reading of this central figure. Mr. W. O'Flynn cleverly depicts Bruno Rocco; and Mr. J. Poole Kirkwood plays with subdued force the part of Commendatore Angelelli. Miss Sara de Groot, although plainly playing under difficulties through a severe cold, exhibits admirable method in her treatment of Donna Roma, her presentment of the part being both natural and intense. Mr. Henry Deas's stalwart appearance and robust style of acting are in admirable keeping with the character of David Rossi. Mr. Court (General Morra), Mr. E. Charles (Father Pifferi), Mr. K. Arthur (Colonel Cavilli), and Mr. E. Clowes (Tomasso) are each valuable factors in the general success of the play. Mr. Jack Fortescue imparts the necessary dignity to the rôle of Pope Pius XI.; and Mr. Edward Comberbach ably interprets the part of Charles Minghelli, the police spy. Miss C. Stokes as Francessa, Miss May Fortescue as Princess Bellini, the Misses Eva Stuart and Violet Campbell as Elena and Nattalina may be congratulated on their work; and the other numerous characters are all well placed. The incidental music, entrusted to Mr. Chas. Elcock and the Marlborough orchestra, is well rendered, Mr. D. Lewin Mannering is responsible for the management of the stage, and Mr. Arthur Hales is the business-manager for Mr. J. Bannister Howard.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

As an effective wind-up of the season no greater attraction than this musical comedy could have been chosen, and as the company is organised by the indefatigable Mr. George Dance, no further guarantee of excellence is needed. The crowded state of the King's on Monday evening proved this, and the audience enjoyed the piece just as much as on the previous visit, encoring the catchy songs and choruses of Messrs. Haines and Baker, smiling at the smart lines and sallies of Messrs. Seymour Hicks and Cosmo Hamilton, and being quite satisfied with the efforts of the talented company. The mercurial Duke of St. Jermyns was ably rendered by Mr. Frank Lincoln, who appeared to be the legitimate successor to the restless style of Mr. Seymour Hicks. Mr. E. H. Kelly made an exceedingly droll personage of Lord Dundreary; Higham Montague was racily played by Mr. A. R. Boielle; and Mr. Alfred Lloyd made an amusing Mr. William Gibson. A clever and delicate performance was that of Mr. Julian Cross as Sir John Crystal. Master Grata, a born comedian, won deserved success as the precocious page boy, Bucket. Captain Rushpool and Almeric Montpelier found capable representatives in Mr. Joseph Bruce and Mr. Vincent Lawson. Angela Crystal introduced a most bewitching young lady in the person of Miss Moya Mannering, who succeeded in making herself a general favourite by her refreshing naturalness and dainty singing. The Duchess of St. Jermyns was satisfactorily played by Miss Gwynneth Galton; and Miss Ida Mann impersonated Lady Crystal very capably. Miss Jane Eyre acted engagingly and sang brilliantly as Honoria Bedford; and Sophia Bedford was sustained very skilfully by Miss Margaret Savill. Miss Belle Napier repeated her artistic performance of Lady Caterham. The Gibson Girls were a number of fascinating young ladies, and the general chorus was quite adequate. Mr. J. A. Robertson conducted the orchestra with his customary ability.

THE CAMDEN.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Drama, by Frederick Melville, entitled
"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."

This is the last week of the season here, and the theatre will now be closed until Boxing Day, when it reopens with the annual pantomime. A special attraction is provided by the first appearance here of Mr. Frederick Melville's company, in *Her Forbidden Marriage*. Mr. Melville has been well schooled in the requirements of modern melodrama, and he has written a play which simply rushes along at a breathless pace, and bristles with thrilling scenes. The whole production is staged in a most complete manner, and it is small wonder that good houses are being attracted. Mr. Henry Lonsdale is seen to advantage as George Maddison, the much-wronged hero, a part that he plays with great force. Lucy is pathetically presented by Miss Nellie Bonser, who has a long and trying part to act; but she is equal to her task, and is most successful, winning full sympathy for the character. The rascally Charles Devereux is capitally depicted by Mr. Louis Hector, who plays in a most finished manner. Sir George Lancaster has an admirable exponent in Mr. Beresford Whitcomb, who plays the rôle with sincerity. Lady Lucretia Lancaster is ably depicted by Miss Octavia Noel, who acts with great skill throughout. Too much praise cannot be given to Miss Barbara Gott, who appears as the Mother Superior of the Convent. Mr. Fred de Vere is exceedingly humorous as Timothy Tuttut; and he is ably seconded by Miss Sybil Hammersley, a very bright Patty. The other characters are in capable hands, Messrs. Philip Renouf, Leonard Maxwell, and Bowdon Vivian especially lending valuable assistance. Mr. John A. Attkin is stage and general manager for Mr. Melville.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by James Willard, entitled
"A WOMAN'S PLUCK."

The attraction here this week is Mr. James Willard's original spectacular drama, *A Woman's Pluck*. The plot is of the simplest, but fullest advantage has been taken of the various episodes to make each scene thoroughly realistic, and, with the earnest and convincing acting of an excellent company, the interest of the audience is fully sustained. Miss Grace Lester is admirably placed as Grace Daremont, a part which allows full scope for her talents, and she achieves a distinct success. Miss Violet Carr as Jessie Pope makes a sweet, refined heroine, and her efforts receive due recognition. Warm praise must be given to Miss Tina Shaw, whose impersonation of the precocious boy, Bertie Daredevil, could scarcely be improved upon. Mr. Austin Mortimer is to be congratulated on a powerful impersonation of the villain, Dick Darrell; Mr. Harry T. Wood as Winston Dale, a young artist, acts with zest and sincerity; and Mr. Fred Norburn submits a finished study of the ex-convict, Jim Daremont. Mr. Harry Emerson's delineation of the blind basket-maker, Matthew Pope, is one of the leading features of the play. As Roger Pippin, Mr. Dicky Bird is responsible for a good deal of quiet humour, and is well supported by Miss Nellie Freeland, who looks and acts the part of Ophelia Pippin, the showman's wife, to perfection. Mr. John Compling is to be commended for a sound and natural embodiment of Sir John Daredevil; Mr. Frank Etheridge is a satisfactory Sir Noel Fordyce; and Mr. Highman Twyson a manly Rev. John Raymond. Miss Elsie Maitland capably sustains the part of Mrs. Pope; and Miss Helen Elmar is sufficiently dignified as Lady Daredevil. The play, which is produced under the direction of the author, is excellently staged and mounted. Mr. Harry Emmerson is business-manager and Mr. John Campling acting-manager, for Mr. James Willard.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Play, entitled
"EAST LYNNE."

Lovers of melodrama are well catered for this week, as the dramatised version of Mrs. Henry Wood's famous novel is being presented by Miss Dorothy Grimston and her powerful company. The piece furnishes a welcome interlude between the successful autumn season at this theatre, in which musical comedy has been interspersed with society plays and opera bouffé, and the Christmas pantomime of *Humpty Dumpty*, now busily rehearsing, and the development of the story was followed with the keenest interest by the audience on Monday night. The dramatic possibilities and touching pathos of *East Lynne* are too familiar to the theatre-goer to need comment here; suffice it to say that the play is one which affords a marked opportunity for the display of the highest histrionic gifts on the part of the actress who takes the rôle of Lady Isabel, and that Miss Dorothy Grimston fully rises to the occasion. In the third and fourth acts, when the erring wife returns in the guise of the governess, to watch over the last moments of her child, and pays the penalty of past folly with her life, Miss Grimston acted with wonderful realism. The death-bed scene was a fine piece of dramatic interpretation, and worthy of the daughter of the Kendals. Mr. Wilfred Beckwith had a difficult character to sustain as Archibald Carlyle, but played it with credit to himself. Mr. Eric Moxon made an admirable Francis Levison, his villainy being artistically presented. Mr. Guy Hastings was a manly Richard Hare; whilst Miss Ena Ferry sympathetically supported the part of Barbara Hare. A lot of fun was occasioned by Miss Blanche Stanley as Miss Carlyle and Mr. Walter Russell as John Dill, the quaint make-up and frank expressions of the former appealing to the risible faculties of the audience. As Joyce and Wilson, the servants, Miss Beatrice Bell and Miss L. Crampton did well; and Miss Dora Crisp made a pathetic figure as the dying child Willie. Miss Amy Peters (Susanne) and Mr. Albert Johnston (the detective) should also be mentioned. The piece was produced under the management of Mr. B. A. Meyer, and the dresses and accessories left little to be desired; but the change of scenes might have been more expeditiously performed.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Drama, in Five Acts, by Henry Arthur Jones, entitled
"THE SILVER KING."

After a long interval, the patrons of the Grand have an opportunity of renewing their acquaintance with this ever-popular drama, Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company presenting it. The large audience were soon completely engrossed in the play—a tribute to the excellent development of the plot and the clever character studies that are introduced. Mr. Herbert Ford as Wilfred Denver submitted a portrayal of great merit, completely in accord with the established traditions of the part. Mr. Austin Melford himself (though not billed), owing to the unfortunate indisposition of Mr. Osman, appeared as Combe and as Parkyn. In the first rôle a capital study was the result, grimly humorous; while as Mr. Parkyn he extracted far more than the regulation amount of humour, the scene proceeding to the accompaniment of unbounded laughter. Mr. Tom Paulton as the benevolent Jaikes was quite admirable, and speedily enlisted the sympathy of the audience; Mr. Charles Baird as Captain Skinner was clever in the heavy rôle, the cool, callous nature of the man being well depicted; Mr. Claude Fernon was commendable as the foolish clerk Corket; Mr. Arthur J. Rooke as Baxter gave a neat study of the detective; and Messrs. S. Burgham, Hatchway, and Manfree were acceptable in small parts. Miss Victoria Addison was sympathetic as the unfortunate Mrs. Denver, and made a good impression; Miss Violet Holland enacted the small part of Mrs. Skinner satisfactorily; Miss Margaret Rooke as Susi was good in a part of no importance; Miss Jessie Apted as Cissie and Master Eric Dene as Ned were natural as the children. A word is due to Mr. Charles H. Fenton for his performance as Cripps, and the remaining parts were all in good hands. The scenery and mounting are satisfactory, and the drama was received with enthusiasm. Mr. Burton is the general-manager of the company.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Historical Opera, in Four Acts, by Dr. Zaifert, entitled
"KING FLORODUS."

Standing-room was at a premium on Monday night at the Pavilion, when the Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company presented, for the first time, Dr. Zaifert's historical opera of *King Florodus*, which was received by an enthusiastic audience, who, by hearty and continued applause, testified their appreciation of a careful and intelligent interpretation. The piece is well mounted, and is most interesting, some of the scenes being exceedingly powerful, while the members of the company are all well suited to their parts. The performance went with commendable smoothness, due largely to the united efforts of Mr. Joseph Fineberg, the stage-manager, and Professor F. Staub, the musical director, both of whom must be complimented for the successful results achieved. Generous recognition was given to Mr. S. Feinman for his portrayal of Hurdus, which was a carefully-studied representation, being marked by much breadth of treatment. As Miriam, Mme. J. Kayzer once more proved herself a valuable acquisition; the varying phases of the part were given with subtlety and skill, worthy of unqualified praise. Miss R. Bryh was admirable as Tomor, all her scenes being invested with the requisite sparkle and vivacity; while Mme. Goldstein adequately impersonated Diana. The vocal and dramatic abilities of Mr. J. Goldsmith met with a well-deserved reception for his presentment of Avadia; and Mr. N. Hamburger was extremely good as Azricom. Mme. Berman displayed talent of a very high order as Schleimis; and Mme. Bloom was seen to advantage as Zole. Mr. S. Schilling was easy and natural, and gave a thoroughly appreciable rendering of Tarchus, which he played in splendid style. Excellent performances have been given during the week of *Against His Father's Will*, *Eve*, *Uriel Acosta*, and *Moshka and Mishka*.

LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Drama, entitled,
"AT DUTY'S CALL."

Though Mr. John Gerant, who is at the head of the excellent company performing at the Lyric this week, has played the part of Harold Allison nearly 2,000 times, and probably many of the members of the audience on Monday night had seen the drama before, yet he was greeted with hearty and evidently sincere enthusiasm. Mr. Harry Scott, who acts the part of Captain George Allison, makes a vigorously gallant hero. As Dora Drummond, Miss Lily Crammonde is highly successful; Mr. Ernest St. John gives a lifelike impersonation of General Gordon, and his make-up as the hero of Khartoum is admirable. Mr. Harry Ugar as Terry O'Hallaron, an Irish servant, is extremely amusing; and he is well supported by Miss Eva Belle as Mary, the maid. A clever character-sketch is given by Miss Beatrice Western as the slave girl Salema; Mr. Walter P. Carr makes a dashing and manly Jack Spencer; an amusing rôle is that of Joey Trott, an overgrown drummer-boy, whose clothes are too small for him. This part is creditably played by Mr Ivan Mavis. Others who rightly deserve praise are Mr. J. F. Lewis as Abdullah, Gordon's servant; Mr. Harry Austin as Sergeant O'Rell; Miss Hettie Poplin as Nurse Slater; and Miss Emily Cleveland as Merrua.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Drama, by John Rutherford, entitled
"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."

A crowded and delighted house welcomed Mr. Martin Harvey back to London on Monday, and testified to their appreciation by continuous applause and recalls innumerable. At the fall of the curtain the audience were so insistent that at length Mr. Harvey complied with their request in a few well-chosen words: "On behalf of Miss de Silva, my company, and myself, I thank you for the honour you have conferred on me in asking for a speech. All I have to say is, to express my gratitude for the very cordial way in which you have received us on our return home, and to hope that we shall always merit your approbation."

It is just about two years since Mr. Martin Harvey appeared here in his notable and artistic impersonation of "Rat" Reresby, and the excitement and glamour of the rôle, allied to its pathos and painful probing of the emotions, always with a grim humour lurking in the background, have lost none of their vivid intensity and realism. It is a magnificent rendering of a part which fits him like a glove. Half devil, half saint, dreamy, romantic, daring, and crafty, but, above all, loyal and innately honest, it is a character which irresistably appeals to the imagination and tugs at the heart-strings. Miss N. de Silva gives a splendid silhouette of character as the boy Batty, and very touching is his devotion to the "Rat." Mr. Charles Glenny is admirable in his display of craven cowardice and dastardly treachery as the pharisaical and traitorous Colonel the Hon. Clement Hungerford, and he certainly earns the execration of the audience in his low-down portrayal of the renegade officer. Mr. Alfred Mansfield as the saturnine scoundrel Captain Rashleigh and Mr. Philip Hewland as the craven cur Captain Stanhope, also Mr. George Cooke as the truculent scoundrel Corporal Lumsford and Mr. Leslie Palmer as Corporal Saxton, do excellent work in the depiction of different types of villainy and ruffianism. Miss Coleridge acts with winsome earnestness and sincerity as the simple and trusting Margaret Hungerford; and Miss Madge Fabian is a graceful exponent of the part of Mrs. Bagshaw. Mr. Albert E. Rayner is uncommonly good in the fine part of Colonel Sir Henry Curwen; Mr. Charles J. Cameron is duly impressive as the stern relentless Viscount Dorsington; Mr. Leonard Craske acts with verve and ability as Cornet the Hon. Francis Tresham; and other minor rôles are capitally rendered. Mr. Frank B. O'Neill acts as business-manager, Mr. Alfred Rivers as stage-manager, and Mr. Clemens Franckenstein as musical director for Mr. Martin Harvey.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Drama, by J. A. Campbell, entitled
"THE SIN OF HER CHILDHOOD."

This drama serves as an excellent foil to the musical comedy we had last week. Variety is charming, and plenty of it is provided at Mr. Sounes' popular playhouse. *The Sin of Her Childhood* contains many interesting situations, and it is an exceptionally strong drama. Miss Jennie Douglas-Hicks ably acts the rôle of Maria Haysel; and as Mary Haysel Miss Mary Fulton does good work. Miss Nellie Hook is exceedingly good as Eliza Muggins; and the youthful Ivy Rocheforte displays great cleverness as Eric Dugdale. Little Dott Moss is full of life and vivacity as Hannah Spry, her singing, dancing, and banjo solos winning her great applause. As Stephen Haysel Mr. Austin Milroy shows great force and earnestness; and Mr. Charles Fancourt as the Rev. Alan Grey is decidedly good. As Captain John Thornton, Mr. Wordley Hulse could scarcely be bettered; and the Barney O'Reilly of Mr. Hugh Brady is decidedly Irish, and full of native wit and humour. The play is capitally staged, and the whole production reflects great credit on all concerned.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Play, in Four Acts, by Fred Melville, entitled
"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."

This, the last week before the closing of the theatre in preparation for the annual pantomime, has been occupied by a visit of F. Melville's company, in his latest production, *The Beast and the Beauty*. There are some capable players in the cast, and they do their work well. Mr. W. S. Hartford played the young rake, Jack Barrymore, "the Beast." He is best in his more serious moments, in which he acted with uncommon tenderness and power, and a certain personal charm that made his performance singularly pleasing. In the rôle of a boxer, too, he acquitted himself very well. Mr. W. E. Passmore was successful as the stern parent, the Earl of Loman, and showed some power. Mr. Bernard Mervyn made an admirable villain as Henry Denver, playing it quietly and yet forcefully. As Ned Samson, the fighting man, Mr. Eric Campbell was very good, with his splendid physique, the part suiting him down to the ground. His acting was full of spirit. Mr. Harry Talbot raised many a laugh as Tom Chicken, an aspiring boxer of meagre proportions; and Mr. Harry Wimpenny was effective as the ruffian, Dick Soanes. The fighting men, Messrs. Ruggles, Franks, James Neal, Will Costa, and Howard, all played their parts manfully, and showed their skill with the gloves. Miss Mamie Rendle was humorous as Mimi; and Miss Daisy Gwynne was a capable representative of Delilah Vane, acting with all the necessary seductiveness. Miss Alice Bowes as the *ingénue* "Beauty" showed great charm and sincerity.

THE STANDARD.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Romantic Drama, in Four Acts, by Frank M. Thorne, entitled
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."

A highly meritorious performance of this play is this week being given at the Standard by the excellent stock company engaged there. Every possible detail in the mounting and staging has been well attended to, and the production is a conspicuous success. Mr. Roy Redgrave plays with admirable firmness and decided power as Napoleon. His make-up is good, and he scores an undeniable success. Mr. J. C. Aubrey plays the part of Col. Lavarennes with the necessary amount of villainy, and is well deserving of high praise; as Col. Jules Meuron, Mr. Wingold Lawrence supplies a careful and clever study; Mr. John Nolan suitably acts the rôle of Paul Laczinska; and Mr. Roy Byford proves of great service, and is wonderfully good as the bombastic Sergeant Choupin. As the Minister of Police, Monsieur Fouche, Mr. Jack Denton is well placed; whilst Mr. Austin Melford, jun., is all that can be desired as Claude of the Old Guard. The lighter scenes in the drama are capitally handled by Mr. Willie Reid as Pierre Pomponnet, and Miss Marie Kildare as Marcelle Choupin. The combined efforts of these two raise many a hearty laugh, and praise is due to them for their able performance. Miss Jessie Winter is a charming Mlle. Leonie Marboeuf, and plays her part with considerable pathos and feeling; Miss Polly Marsh contributes a humorous delineation of Mere Dumont; the Marie Walewska of Miss Hilda Beverley is a clever piece of work, indeed she deserves to be congratulated upon a sterling impersonation of a part containing many difficulties. The minor characters are ably supported by other members of the company.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Drama, by Fredk. S. Jennings and W. P. Sheen, entitled
"WHY WOMAN SINS."

In *Why Woman Sins* we have a dramatic dish exactly suitable to the appetite of a popular audience. The piece contains an abundance of thrilling incidents, and other ingredients that go to the satisfactory making of a popular sensational melodrama. Mr. Samuel James's company gives an interpretation of the piece which merits warm praise. Mr. John D. Saunders makes a spirited hero of Lieutenant Harry Maxwell; Mr. Jackson Hayes is a duly villainous Captain Herbert Carlton; Mr. George Ellis supplies a good sketch of the dude, Cecil Spencer; Jim Rainbird is excellently rendered by Mr. Alec Forbes; and Mr. A. P. Kay makes a humorous Sam Spavins, causing abundant amusement, and singing a clever topical song. Mr. Edwin Wilde does all that is possible with the rôle of Oliver Desmond; Miss Hilda Baynton acts with grace and tenderness as Nell Desmond; Miss May Seton is pert and amusing as the maid, Nancy Nibble; Miss Gertrude Netterville supplies a powerful character-sketch of Ida Valette; and Miss Bertha Baker is pathetic as the unfortunate waif Jack Smith.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Drama, in Five Acts, by G. Carlton Wallace, entitled
"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH."

For the close of the season, Mr. J. M. East has this week booked Messrs. Dottridge, Longden and Livesey's company in *The Village Blacksmith*, and a very strong finale it proves to be. Mr. Sam Livesey, in the title-rôle, is responsible for a forcible and convincing portrayal, his fine presence and great dramatic gifts are seen to great advantage. Miss Maggie Edwards makes an unaffected and eminently successful heroine as Mrs. Strong. Harry Strong, the child, as played by Miss Bertha Hanbury, is a bright and manly little fellow, who wins his way to all hearts. Mr. Joseph Carter makes Captain Leo the personification of gentlemanly blackguardism in appearance and gesture. Mr. Edwin Maydew gives a clever reading of Lucas Marlow, his accomplice; Mr. Thomas E. Marshall and Mrs. T. C. Livesey submit clever character-sketches as a travelling tinker and his wife; Mr. George V. Campbell as Billy Twigg, a country yokel, causes much amusement; he adopts a broad country accent which in a lengthy part he cleverly maintains. Mr. George Wilton is effective as St. John Harman, a music hall manager; Miss Cassie Le Grande does good work in the really pathetic character of Ruth Parkins; Miss Edith Giddens is entirely happy as Martha Mopps; Mr. Halstead does well as the landlord of the "King's Arms"; Mr. Gus Ratcliffe as Inspector Grant, Mr. S. Bale as a detective, Mr. E. Morris as P.c. Wilkins, Mr. A. Walker as Humpy Tom, and Mr. Bert Butler as a servant all do good work. The staging and general effects of the piece are excellent, such scenes as the Village Smithy—very pretty—and the stage of the Empire Music Hall show the greatest attention to detail. Mr. R. A. Neville is the courteous acting-manager here.

THE TERRISS.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Drama, by F. A. Scudamore, entitled,
"SETTLING DAY."

This week the talented stock company gives an excellent representation of the above drama, by the late F. A. Scudamore. It proves much to the taste of audiences here, and may rank among the list of the author's successful productions. The leading part in the play is that of Jesse Lugg, a pauper, who is afterwards made a millionaire. The rôle is excellently played by Mr. John Sargent, who is at times grimly humorous, and on some occasions pathetic. Mr. Sargent has not been seen to better advantage in any character during the stock season. Mr. Ashley Page is dashing and earnest as Arnold Avondale, but the part affords him somewhat limited opportunities. Miss Marion Denvil acts with vivacity and at times pathos as Winifred May; Miss Mattie Everett is coy and amusing as the artful music hall artist, Lottie Lark; and Mr. C. A. Chandler makes the most of the part of Lord Grey Washington. Mr. Johnny Chippendale is humorous as the love-stricken barber, Rufus Nubb; Mr. Alfred Harding is excellent as the villain, Jabez Wentworth; and Montagu Morgan is played with much cleverness by Mr. Fred Yarnold. Mr. Alfred Hicks as Philip Templeton, Miss Georgie de Lara as Lady Florence Dovecott, Miss Maggie Lindsay as Mrs. Lark, and Mr. Frank R. Robertson as Sir Razzle Prosser all contribute to the success. The scenery and effects are first-class. Special mention may be made of the illuminated fête in the first act.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Play, in Four Acts, by Dion Boucicault, entitled
"THE SHAUGHRAUN."

This famous Irish drama by the late Dion Boucicault was revived here on Monday by a capable company of experienced artists under the management of Mr. J. M. East, whose good work is too well known to need more than a passing word here. Suffice it to say that the play went smoothly and briskly from start to finish. Mr. Albert Ward was well placed as Captain Molyneux, and did full justice to the part; Mr. W. Felton played Robert Ffolliott with care and earnestness; Mr. H. Crane gave an excellent interpretation of the character of the lovable old priest, Father Doolan; Mr. Henry Hatchman presented Corry Kinchela boldly and characteristically; Mr. J. P. Dryden was seen at his best—which is very good indeed—as Harvey Duff; Mr. Gus Wheatman was an enormously popular Conn, the typical Irish boy; Mr. Roberts a good Sergeant Jones of the 41st; and a word of praise must be given to Mr. Edward Sheedy, who did all that was possible with the part of Sullivan; and the same must be recorded of Mr. E. Godfrey as Reilly, Mr. J. Murphy as Mangan, Mr. Ellis as Doyle, and Mr. P. Wells as Donovan. Miss Kathleen Russell was a charming Claire Ffolliott, and Miss Daisy Murch a pathetic and attractive Arte O'Neal, Miss Agnes Paulton being a delightful Moya. Mrs. Calhaem was very amusing as Mrs. O'Kelly, the mother of Conn, and gave an impersonation replete with character and cleverness; and Miss Daisy Marshall as Bridget, and Miss De la Rue as Nancy Malone played the two Keeners capitally.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Play, in Four Acts, by Paul Kester and Charles Major, entitled
"DOROTHY O' THE HALL."

Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry received quite an ovation at the Borough Theatre on Monday night where they commenced a week's engagement with their company in *Dorothy o' the Hall*. Many times at the conclusion of each act did the curtain have to be raised to the clamorous demands of the large audience present, and their splendid reception testified to the great appreciation of their histrionic ability. Miss Julia Neilsen is well suited in the part of Dorothy Vernon. In the comedy scenes she imparts those deft touches of sly humour and smart repartee for which she is so famous, and in the love passages she plays with all the tenderness necessary, making the wayward, impulsive girl a truly delightful characterisation. In Mr. Fred Terry is found a handsome and manly hero as Sir John Manners, and he bears himself with all the ease, fluency, and distinction required for so important a part. Miss Miriam Lewes contributes an extremely clever portraiture of the vain Queen Elizabeth; and Lilias Waldegrave is no less successful in her delineation of the deposed Mary Stuart Queen of Scotland. A very interesting and well-defined sketch of the dwarf Perkins comes from Mr. Horace Hodges; and Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw scores heavily as the traitorous Sir Malcolm Vernon. Mr. Frederick Groves admirably represents the Earl of Rutland; Mr. J. Carter-Edwards is seen to advantage as the autocratic Sir George Vernon; and Mr. D. J. Williams makes the most of his opportunities as Lord Burleigh. Mr. Malcolm Cherry is well placed as Sir William St. Loe, and Mr. W. A. Haines renders good service as Will Dawson. Miss Claire Pauncefort contributes a performance of much value as Lady Vernon, and Miss Mary Mackenzie plays brightly as Jenny Faxton. Minor parts are carefully handled, and the play is sumptuously mounted and dressed.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Frank E. Thorpe, entitled
"HER ONE GREAT SIN."

Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson's company is this week paying a return visit to the Stratford Theatre Royal with this popular piece, which is meeting with much success. Miss Lydia Donovan in the important rôle of Grace Warhurst plays with skill and tact, and enlists the sympathies of the audience throughout. Mr. John Cecil contributes a powerful performance as Ruben Warhurst, and an incisive portraiture of the villainous Arnold Thornhill comes from Mr. C. Quinton Fulford. Mr. Charles E. Lambert depicts Dan Humble exceedingly well; a sound performance as Jack Humble is contributed by Mr. Arnold B. Ford; and Mr. Fred Hudson provides plenty of mirth as Jerry Jumble. Miss Louie Walton gives a capital sketch of Bet Hundle; Miss Nellie Lambert is a pleasing Nancy Winpenny; Miss Phyllis Damian is a great favourite as the flower-seller, Charlie; and Miss Maudie Lambert shows much promise as Little Gracie. Other parts are all intelligently played, and the piece is well mounted.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Arthur Shirley and Sutton Vane, entitled
"THE SPIDER AND THE FLY."

Very attractive fare is provided by Mr. Bailey this week for his patrons, in the shape of Messrs. Shirley and Vane's play, *The Spider and the Fly*, which is full of those exciting episodes so dearly loved by Marylebone playgoers. Mr. Stanley S. Gordon is pathetic and piteous as Cyril Girdlestone; Mr. H. C. Lanceley tenderly portrays the Rev. Mr. McAllister; Mr. Ellis J. Preston is full of fire and energy as the rascally Welby Girdlestone; Mr. Fred Terris is indisputably successful as Romulus Roe; Mr. Charles A. Preece cuts a comical figure as Remus Roe; and Mr. Frederick Ross is responsible for a powerful and well-sustained embodiment of David Strong. Miss Nina Vaughton enacts Edith McAllister in such a realistic style as to fairly hold her audience spellbound; Miss Lucy Murray is kindly and homely as Molly Blake; Miss Marjorie May is precociously sprightly as Flipps; Miss Ada Palmer gives a characteristic representation of Jane Ellen Scriver; whilst Miss Amy Venimore sustains the rôle of the adventuress, Stella Grey, with so much fervour and realism as to quickly secure the disapprobation of the susceptible "gods." The play is well mounted and staged, Mr. Arthur H. Hill being the acting-manager for Messrs. Carpenter and Cooper.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
the Comedy, entitled
"DAVID GARRICK."

A very good representation of this evergreen comedy is being given at the Kingston playhouse this week. The title-rôle is filled by Mr. Walter Maclean, who makes a most creditable appearance in the part. Violet Gresham is portrayed charmingly by Miss Evelyn Mills; and a particularly fine piece of acting is given by Mr. W. T. Ford as Alderman Gresham. Other characters are ably filled by Mr. J. H. Brewer as Mr. Rumbelow, Mr. Burges Barrett as Mr. Sowerberry, Mr. C. Lionel Brocknor as Mr. Simpkins, Miss Clara Nicholls as Mrs. Rubelow, Miss Lily Edmonds as Miss Selina Sowerberry, and Mr. R. P. Hamilton as the Hon. Tom Tallyhaut. The comedy is prefaced by the comedietta *Mrs. Malone's Honeymoon*, in which the parts are taken by Miss Clara Nicholls, Miss Lily Edmonds, Mr. L. C. Brocknor, and Mr. Burges Barrett. To-night the theatre closes for a week for rehearsals for the pantomime *Bluebeard*.

THEATRICALS IN BEDFORD-STREET.

In the little studio of the Ben Greet Academy, situated in an upper storey of a house in Bedford-street, a very painstaking performance of *Pygmalion and Galatea* was given on Wednesday afternoon. The story and dialogue of Mr. W. S. Gilbert's clever mythological comedy are well adapted to bring into prominence the gifts of its exponents, and the performance revealed in most cases a decided aptitude for the dramatic art and carefully cultivated methods. Mr. Courtney gave a well-studied reading of Pygmalion, and though his delivery was unimpassioned, he was at all times distinct, and played with earnestness. A prepossessing and sweetly pathetic Galatea was found in Miss Marjorie Villis, who, however, in endeavouring to preserve a plaintive tone, became occasionally indistinct. She played prettily, and engaged the close attention of the audience throughout. An admirable embodiment of Daphne, the wife of Chrysos, was given by Miss Stella Cedron, who made a handsome appearance in the picturesque costume, which admirably became her tall figure. Miss Cedron has an imperious manner and a flashing eye, which were of inestimable value to the part, though her voice—probably on account of the severity of the weather—seemed a little wanting in flexibility; but she acted with a keen sense of humour, and, in contrast with most of her companions, seemed to realise the necessity of action, even when not engaged in speaking. A worthy coadjutor was furnished in Mr. Frederic, who, as Chrysos, revealed unmistakable talents as a comedian. His make-up as the parvenu art-patron was exceptionally good, and the clever lines, uttered with droll inflection, were ever an occasion of mirth. High praise must also be given to Miss Margaret Wiley, who had an intelligent appreciation of the part of Cynisca, and spoke with excellent elocution. Mr. Porter made the short scene of Leucippus even more brief by the rapid manner in which he took it, but he bore himself with true martial dignity, and looked the part to perfection. A graceful, though colourless, rendering of Myrine was given by Miss Dorothy Drewe; and Misses Maiva Herne and Cicely Oates, as slaves, helped creditably towards the effect of a performance that gave great enjoyment.

"THE JUNGLE."

A New Melodrama, in Four Acts, Produced at the Dalston Theatre, on Monday, Dec. 10.

Cyprian Randal .....MR. JOHN HOOD
Sir Martin Gerard .....MR. ALEXANDER BRADLEY
Simon Thyme .....MR. ALBERT BERNARD
Dr. Jacob Whitmarsh ....MR. C. W. SOMERSET
Nathan Shirer .....MR. SYDNEY SARL
Governor Beaumont .....MR. GEORGE BARRAN
Ikey Lemon.....MR. LAWRENCE STEVENSON
Obadiah .....MR. R. E. TREEVES
Ossage .....MR. FRED LAKE
Yap Doyle .....MR. HAROLD COTTER
Ted Simmons .....MR. MARK DALY
Convict 7 .....MR. ERRIC TERRY
Convict 9 .....MR. PING WATSON
First Warder .....MR. J. TEMPLETON
Second Warder .....MR. THOS. YOUNG
Barbara Whitmarsh ..MISS WINNIFRED PEARSON
Jessie Thyme .....MISS ADA HOMER
Mrs. White .....MRS. K. PALMER
Flossie Lloyed.....MISS OLIVE GRAY

The name of the author of *The Jungle* is omitted from the programme. Possibly he is not very proud of his work. The new play, produced at the Dalston Theatre on Monday evening, is unquestionably crude and unsatisfactory as a whole; but its weak points are in some degree redeemed by a powerful last act. As this is the predominant feature of the drama, it deserves first mention. The scene is the laboratory of Dr. Whitmarsh, commonly known as the "mad doctor." He has become a physical wreck through hard drinking, and his past has been an unhappy one. His wife, Barbara, left him some years ago, to join Sir Martin Gerard, the leader of a band of bank robbers, who, in order to get the husband out of the way, secretly placed some stolen banknotes in his pocket, and then gave information to the police, resulting in Whitmarsh's arrest and conviction. While attending a dying convict he becomes possessed of a letter which is evidence of the rascality of Martin Gerard, who is naturally extremely anxious to obtain possession of this compromising document. Barbara pays a visit to her husband's home, and makes an unsuccessful search for the letter. Here Jacob finds her on his return, and the scene which follows is intense and thrilling. The false-hearted woman pretends that she is repentant, and wishes to live with her husband again. But Jacob, drunkard as he is, is on his guard, and puts her to the test by snatching off her hat and asking her to remain with him that night. This proposal does not suit Barbara's plans at all, for she has arranged to accompany her paramour to France. Then Jacob plays a trick upon his wife. He agrees to give her the paper she has asked him for, and hands her an envelope. Believing that she has obtained her object, the woman turns upon him savagely, asserting with fierce emphasis that she never loved him, but only married him for his money—he is a sot and a fool. In reply he asks her to open the envelope, and she finds a blank sheet of paper. She has been trapped. Cursing him in the strongest possible terms, she flies from the room. Jacob has another visitor, Martin Gerard, who, however, finds the "mad doctor" in a dangerous mood. Jacob has resolved to have his revenge and the life of the man who has destroyed his happiness. He commits suicide, but in such a manner that Gerard is arrested on the charge of being his murderer.

The story opens with an attempted bank robbery at Durban, organised by Martin Gerard, and arranged to be carried out by him and his gang. Cyprian Randal, the manager of the bank, has secretly wedded Jessie, the daughter of Simon Thyme, the wealthy banker, and he promises to return to the premises at a late hour of the evening. He does so, and discovers the robbers at work. He is felled to the ground, two of the gang are taken into custody by the police, but the leader, Martin Gerard, escapes, and, returning, denounces the unconscious manager as one of the thieves. Jessie rushes forward and explains the reason of Cyprian's presence at the bank, and declares that he is her husband.

We next meet the hero of the story in Castaway Jail, he having been convicted of complicity in the bank robbery. The prison is an extraordinary establishment, inasmuch as the convicts seem to be able to quit their cell just when they please, and the warders are allowed to crack silly jokes with the Governor. In one of the cells lies Nathan Shirer, a member of Gerard's gang, dying of jungle fever, who makes a confession implicating the leader. Left alone with the dead body, Cyprian removes it into another cell, and takes its place on the stretcher. Two of the convicts throw the supposed dead body into the sea, and, dodging the sharks, Cyprian swims ashore and escapes into the jungle, where he and his wife meet with sundry exciting adventures. Martin Gerard and the Governor of the jail are in hot pursuit, but Cyprian, armed with a revolver, proves more than a match for them. Later, Gerard, who has pestered Jessie all through with his odious attentions, finds her alone, and behaves like the brute he is; but Jessie makes her escape on the back of an elephant, which opportunely is making its ponderous way through the jungle. Though an original device for getting the heroine out of a tight place, it did not prove very effective on Monday night, and the audience were left wondering how the half-fainting girl managed to mount the huge beast. In the last act, after the scene already mentioned, Cyprian's innocence is proved, and all ends happily for hero and heroine.

That well-known actor, Mr. C. W. Somerset, unfortunately does not get his opportunity until the last act. But here his impersonation of Jacob Whitmarsh, "the mad doctor," was an admirably impressive piece of acting. The physical ravages caused by drink were realistically indicated, and the sardonic manner in the presence of his wife and of her lover was cleverly assumed. High praise is also due to Miss Winnifred Pearson for her artistic rendering of Barbara, the intensity and passion shown by the desperate woman being depicted with remarkable ability and truth. Mr. Alexander Bradley played the villain, Sir Martin Gerard, on conventional but quite effective lines. Mr. John Hood portrayed with sincerity and earnestness the part of the hero, Cyprian Randal; and was ably supported by Miss Ada Homer as the heroine. Mr. Sydney Sarl gave a graphic and telling sketch of Nathan Shirer, the long death-scene in the prison being well acted. Mr. George Barran was satisfactory as Governor Beaumont; and Mr. Lawrence Stevenson scored as Ikey Lemon, a young thief, who being brought under the good influence of Cyprian, becomes a reformed character. Mr. Fred Lake was fairly amusing as Ossage, a comic policeman; Mr. R. E. Treeves did well as Obadiah, an old black servant; Mr. Albert Bernard carefully embodied Simon Thyme; Mr. Erric Terry and Mr. Ping Watson introduced some humour into their respective portrayals of a couple of convicts; other minor parts being assigned to Messrs. Harold Cotter, Mark Daly, J. Templeton, Thos. Young, Mrs. K. Palmer, and Miss Olive Gray. The new play was excellently staged, and the scenery, from the brushes of Messrs. Edward Nicholls, Julian Hicks, and Richard Douglass, gave complete satisfaction. Special music was composed by Mr. Denham Harrison.

MR. PERCY ASHDOWN writes:—"Now that I am again able to use my right hand and to resume work, may I ask you to allow me, through the medium of your columns, to sincerely thank all those friends in the profession who have shown me so much kindness during my recent illness (rheumatic gout)."

"THE LIGHT ETERNAL," a play in four acts, by Martin V. Merle, was produced for copyright purposes at the Adelphi Theatre on Monday.

"TODDLES" AT WYNDHAM'S.

Toddles, on his first appearance at the Duke of York's Theatre on Sept. 3 last, created something of a mild sensation. Mrs. Grundy, who had been but little exercised by the French plays at the Royalty in July, became quite minatory at afternoon at-homes concerning the actor representing the protagonist of a farce playing one whole act in pyjamas. But Brixton and Bayswater for once saw the real fun of the whole concoction, winked at the absurd prudishness of the dear old lady, and crowded the Duke of York's to applaud and laugh at Mr. Cyril Maude. The popular actor and his company have now gone round the corner to Wyndham's, where, on Monday night, they had the heartiest of welcomes from a crowded house giving full reign to expressions of enjoyment. An assured success—in which category we may place the clever and humorous adaptation of *Triplepatte*—has a magnetic influence on the acting, and the presentation of the farce is smarter, droller, and more enjoyable than ever.

The gaiety of the Mairie scene, which went somewhat slow on the opening night, has been well worked up, and the acting, which shows observation, is instinct with humour. Miss Gertrude Kingston and Miss Lottie Venne play admirably into each other's hands, the former as Lady Dover, a sharp, up-to-date representative of the smart set, and the latter as Mrs. Joblyn, an amiable parvenue, whose attempts at being quite "correct," are quite in the best vein of refined humour. Mr. Cyril Maude's Toddles is one of the most genuinely comic creations to be seen at present on the London stage, and it is immensely to his credit that he does not give way to exaggeration or overemphasis. An actor with less delicacy or refinement would entirely spoil the second act, wherein Mr. Maude is simply delightful in his capacity for inertness. Mr. Kenneth Douglas as Boolby is active and interesting in a part that has little opportunity; there are charm, and not a little *minauderie* in the rendering of Constance Joblyn by Miss Alice Crawford; and nothing in the piece is richer in its suggestions of fun than Mr. Alfred Bishop's elder Joblyn. Miss Helen Ferrers is irreproachable as the Countess de Chambry; Miss Nancy Price's Mrs. Bowler is acute in its perception of the worldliness of the character; Mr. Ernest Cosham's Mayor is an impersonation quite excellent in its way; Mr. Ivo Dawson's Dr. Baird is blessed with a perfect "bedside manner"; Miss Beatrice Terry is effective in the small part of the maid at the spring; and Miss Madge Titheradge's Cicely lacks nothing of charm.

In the opening piece, *The Scapegrace*, Miss Madge Titheradge now plays the title-part, created by Miss Pauline Chase, who has departed to embody Peter Pan. Miss Titheradge is a clever young actress, whose gesture play expresses the varying emotions of the character. The other members of the cast have much improved their original renderings.

MR. BLAKE ADAMS

AT THE LYCEUM THEATRE, SHEFFIELD. "BEAUTY AND THE BARGE" AT THE LYCEUM.

Cap'n Barley, of the Heart and Hand, is back again at the Lyceum Theatre, giving Sheffield another week of laughter. Cap'n Barley promises to rival *Charley's Aunt*. He improves on acquaintance. The old bargee is one of the best of the canal characters Mr. W. W. Jacobs has sketched. But even Mr. Jacobs would admit that the success of the character, so far as the stage representation goes, is mainly due to Mr. Blake Adams. Playwright and manager made a happy hit when they found so clever a Cap'n. Mr. Blake Adams has, in the highest degree, the merit of never-failing freshness. One does not see the actor; one forgets even Mr. Blake Adams. It is only Cap'n Barley who is seen—as fresh and original and captivating as when he first skipped on to the stage and encountered poor old John Dibbs. So long as Mr. Blake Adams is skipper of the 'Art and 'And, *Beauty and the Barge* ought never to cease sailing.—*Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, Dec. 11.

ACTRESSES' HAT COMPETITION.

A novel competition was held last month at the Modern Club, in Paris, when a "grand *concours de chapeaux*," or competition of hats, took place. No less than one hundred and fifty of the smartest women in Paris, comprising the most fashionable French actresses, took part in the contest, and the jury who adjudged the winners were three eminent French painters, namely, M. Carrier Belleuse, M. Gervoise, and M. Jean Berot.

The first prize, which consisted of silver plate to the value of £50, was awarded to Mme. Fontana, of the Paris Vaudeville. Mme. Fontana's hat was designed and made by Lewis, of 210, Regent-street, and Paris. The brim was composed of silver cloth trimmed with black tulle, with white spots, the crown consisting of three large roses made in tulle colours—pale blue, pink, mauve and grey—with a steel rose in the centre. The hat was embellished by three feathers, in pale blue, pink, and grey.

The second and third prizes were also given to creations of the Maison Lewis. Mlle. Carlier, of the Théâtre Porte St. Martin, who came second, wore a satin hat of Louis XVI. style, with velvet crown, satin brim, and four tips on right. Mme. Lutz, of the Parisiana, won the third prize with a pink hat trimmed with pink tulle and uncurled pink feathers.

Out of the fourteen prize-winning hats, eleven were the work of Lewis, and the names of the successful actresses who wore confections made by the famous firm referred to are as follows:—Mme. Riquier (Gymnase), Mme. Orsère (Antoine), Mme. Grandval (Porte St. Martin), Mme. Marion de Lorme (Folies Bergères), Mme. Harloff (Folies Bergères), Mme. Terence (Folies Bergères), Mme Ling (Théâtre Mathurin), Mlle. Martineau (Théâtre Odéon).

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

CHATS WITH DRAMATIC AUTHORS.

MR. TOM CRAVEN.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

Mr. Tom Craven produced his first play when he was fifteen. It was called *All Lost*, and was produced at Sadler's Wells under the management of the late Matt Robson. Mr. Craven admits that it was scarcely what would be called an artistic and financial success; but, at any rate, it helped to introduce him to the stage, though, for the matter of that, it would seem that he required little introduction when the name of his father is remembered. After various experiences, literary and theatrical, Miss Sarah Thorne engaged him, at a salary of 15s. a week, for "utility," and to use his pen in the work of modernising some of the old plays in her répertoire. It is to Miss Thorne that he attributes his knowledge of the legitimate drama. There is scarcely a play of Shakespeare's or of any of the other famous works in which he has not appeared. Leaving Miss Thorne, he joined another company, but, sad to relate, he couldn't get his salary, and for eight weeks his victuals were of the starvation order. His father, who had always set his face against the young man embarking upon a stage career, was glad enough to hear that the said young man was willing at last to follow his sire's advice, and Mr. Craven entered the service of the London Joint Stock Bank. But, after all, his theatrical inclination proved too strong, and within a comparatively short time he accepted an acting-managership under Mr. Fred Gould, who was then running Hermann Merivale's drama, *All for Her*, and *The Black Flag*, by Henry Petitt. Subsequently

MR. TOM CRAVEN.

Mr. Craven toured a piece of his own, *The Stowaway*, previously produced and written during his banking days. This play he sold to a well-known manager for £30, and the present owner, we are informed, has netted thousands by it. The author sold the American rights for another £30 to the late Mr. Jake Litt, who some years before his death acknowledged that he had amassed a large fortune out of the play.

"Then," says Mr. Craven, "I turned out drama like hot cakes. I have written about forty plays, many of which, I am proud to think, are still well remembered owing to their popularity. Among these were *The Ballad Singer*, *The Fugitive*, *The Miser's Will*, *Time the Avenger*, *Half-mast High*, *The White Star*, and *The Village Forge*. I have played in various companies in London and the provinces, and for over fifteen years was my own manager. I have also served most of the principal pantomime producers, from Sir Augustus Harris downwards, as principal comedian. Likewise have I undertaken the duties of resident-manager. I opened the Grand Theatre, Croydon, in 1895 with Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and retained the management of that playhouse until it was sold to Mr. George Edwardes. A little later it occurred to me that, as there was a slump in theatrical work, I would enter the variety lists, and I was engaged by Mr. George Adney Payne for the Tivoli, Oxford, Canterbury, and Paragon, doing single turns and monologues. Then I was engaged by the late Charles Morton for the Palace Theatre, where I introduced the song 'Dear reader,' written and composed by myself."

FRENCH ACTRESSES' HAT COMPETITION.

Finding, however, that he had more literary work to do than he could undertake while playing in the music halls, Mr. Craven relinquished the footlights for the desk, intending to stick to his pen for the future. But, apparently, the excitement of the stage is not a thing to be looked upon lightly, and lonesome and quiet evenings are not to be tolerated by the man who has lived among the whirl, the gaiety, the life, the gilt, and the glitter of the stage. "There is a chance," thought Mr. Craven, "for tabloid dramas and farces; and it was not long before I started off with a version of *Milky White*, which carried me up to the time that I produced *The Lady in Red*, which has been seen at various London music halls lately."

Presently Mr. Craven joined forces with Mr. Will Evans, and the two gentlemen have arranged to produce and tour several sketches during the next few months.

In his delightfully cosy and well-appointed house at Brixton-hill, Mr. Craven showed us many mementoes of famous literary, artistic, political, and theatrical people. Some of them are exceedingly rare, and of great value from a commercial point of view, though, of course, Mr. Craven scarcely regards them in that light.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 10, for the First Time in the London District, the Play, in Five Acts, by Dennis Cleugh and Cecil Jones, entitled

"ROBIN HOOD."

Richard Cœur de Lion ....MR. DENNIS CLEUGH
Lord Guy of Gisborne ....MR. NORMAN LESLIE
Sir William Trusty .....MR. BREMBER WILLS
Robin Hood .....MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN
Little John .....MR. KENNETH BRUCE
Will Scarlet .....MR. HOWARD BRENAN
Allan-a-Dale .....MR. FREDERICK LOCK
Harold Truelove .....MR. W. R. MARSHALL
Siegfried .....MR. S. GREENLEY
Hal o' the Wind .....MR. PHILIP PIMPERNAL
Will Wilding .....MISS LETTY RUSHFORTH
Friar Tuck .....MR. FRANCIS HOPE
The Abbot of Newark .....MR. ED. CARRTON
Simon Hardwryst .....MR. BREMBER WILLS
An Old Serf .....MR. BERNARD ELLIOTT
Sheriff of Nottingham ..MR. S. WILKINSON, JUN.
Clorinda .....MISS SYBIL RUSKIN
Pomona .....MISS HILDA GREGORY
Isabella .....MISS DOROTHY WEST-SYMES
Conrad .....MISS BETTY STANNARD
Phœbe .....MISS MONA GARLAND
Maid Marian .....MISS BEATRICE WILSON

Romance and Robin Hood are so intimately associated that it is little wonder that the redoubtable hero should figure frequently on the stage. The latest to be presented at the footlights is from the joint pens of Messrs. Dennis Cleugh and Cecil Jones, who have produced a work abounding in scenes of excitement, tempered by those of wholesome sentiment. The episodes are a little detached, but the chivalric atmosphere is well preserved, and the poetic quality of the dialogue serves to redeem the piece from actual melodrama. The play, which was first produced at Tunbridge Wells on Nov. 24 last, though it was written, we understand, last May, deals with the beginning of Robin Hood's outlawry, the opening scene revealing the interior of Huntingdon Hall, where an old lady sits crooning by the fireside. The burden of her chant is,

When Norman visits Saxon hall,
Then shall the House of Huntingdon fall—

or words to that effect. Sure enough, before many hours have elapsed, Lord Guy of Gisborne and Simon Hardwryst, both descendants of the Gallic invader, arrive with a warrant from King John, proclaiming Robert, the son of the Earl of Huntingdon, an outlaw. While the old Earl is in the act of reading the missive he is stabbed from behind by Hardwryst, who afterwards calls upon Robert to surrender. The youth, however, draws his sword, and, after a terrific combat with four armed ruffians, makes good his escape to Sherwood Forest, where he takes up a permanent abode, under the style and title of Robin Hood.

Round him he gathers a trusty band, who levy toll upon all who pass. An early prey is found in Hardwryst, who, with his niece Clorinda, are taken captive, closely followed by Lord Guy of Gisborne. After possessing himself of their valuables, Robin orders the miscreant Hardwryst to be tied to a tree and left to perish, and sends Lord Guy blindfolded back to Nottingham. One wayfarer at least is unmolested by the robbers, and that is the fair Maid Marion, of Clare, who comes upon Robin Hood while he is enjoying a noonday drowse. Marion wakens him to inquire the way, and, on learning that she is persecuted by the attentions of Lord Guy of Gisborne, Robin vows to protect her, and bids her blow three blasts on a horn, which he hangs on the greenwood tree, whenever she needs help.

Meanwhile Lord Guy has returned to Nottingham, and is found, in the third act, on the battlements of the Sheriff's castle, plotting with that worthy to capture Robin Hood. An arrow drops between them, and is found to bear a note, announcing the arrival of Robin, who speedily appears, having mounted the wall without so much as turning the feather in his cap. He encounters the Sheriff, to whom he is a stranger, alone, and induces him to believe that Friar Tuck, who comes in the disguise of an old apple woman, is the outlaw, and the spectacle is presented of the Friar careering round the battlements with men-at-arms in hot pursuit. Robin prevails upon the Sheriff to visit his forest home, under the promise of delivering up the outlaw, and great is the consternation of the dignitary when Robin reveals himself. Marion, who has been an unwilling guest at the castle, makes her escape clad in a suit of mail, and finds her way to the forest, where she tries in vain to blow the horn to summon Robin Hood. Unexpected assistance comes from a Red-cross Knight, who sounds the required call, whereupon the bold band appear, and are about to attack the strangers, when Robin recognises Marion in the younger knight, and the encounter is prevented.

A reward is offered for the head of Robin Hood, and Gisborne organises a large force, and invades his stronghold. Robin, overwhelmed by numbers, begs for time in which to wed Marion; but the concession is not required, for the unknown knight reveals himself as the doughty Richard Cœur de Lion, newly returned from the Crusades, who, after degrading Gisborne, restores the rank and estates of Robin Hood, and enrolls him under his banner.

Cordial applause marked the progress of the play, admirably acted by Mr. Norman V. Norman's company, most of whom are well practised in their art. Mr. Norman himself was a debonair Robin Hood, blithe and gay in the lighter passages, but admirably impressive in the more tender moods. He made a fine specimen of vigorous manhood, and declaimed the stirring lines with power and effect. Maid Marion was impersonated by Miss Beatrice Wilson with the requisite sweetness and modesty, her well-marked delivery and varied emphasis giving added value to the dialogue. She made a comely knight in her suit of chain mail, and the grace and refinement of the performance was well worthy of so finished an actress. A striking impersonation was also that of Mr. Dennis Cleugh, who acted with kingly dignity as Richard Cœur de Lion, and made his acting tone skilfully with the effects of the adversity through which the Royal adventurer had passed. He had a long speech about the King as a man and as a monarch, the delivery of which called forth a hearty outburst of cheers. A praiseworthy study of the crafty Simon Hardwryst, in whom the essence of spite and malevolence was contained, was given by Mr. Brember Wills, who cleverly doubled his part with that of Sir William Trusty, a loyal adherent of Richard. Mr. Norman Leslie realistically presented the unscrupulous Lord Guy of Gisborne, whose forbidding appearance well reflected his evil nature. The humour of the piece rested chiefly with Friar Tuck, played with a buffoonery that had a marked effect on the audience by Mr. Francis Hope, who also utilised a resonant tenor in a number of songs. Harmony was also promoted by Miss Letty Rushforth, who, as one of the merry men, sang a song of the woodlands melodiously. A diverting rendering of the Sheriff of Nottingham was given by Mr. Samuel Wilkinson, jun., whose make-up and facial expression were irresistibly droll. Miss Sybil Ruskin embellished her rendering of Clorinda, a Court lady who takes up her abode in the forest, with bewitching archness, and made the utmost of the opportunities of the part; and the haughty disdain of Isabella, wife of the Sheriff of Nottingham, was well assumed by Miss Dorothy West-Symes. Mr. Kenneth Bruce was a stalwart Little John; and Mr. Howard Brenan and Mr. Frederick Lock shared the responsibilities of Will Scarlet and Allan-a-Dale with credit.

"THE NEW YORK IDEA."

A Play in Four Acts, by Langdon Mitchell, produced at the Manhattan Theatre, New York, on Nov. 19.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mrs. Fiske has scored a brilliant success in this play, and the principal members of her supporting company, Messrs. John Mason, George Arliss, and Charles Harbury, have won high praise for their respective interpretations. "Marry the man you have a whim for and leave the rest to the Divorce Court—that is the New York idea correctly stated," so says one of the characters in the play; while another remarks that "New York is bounded on the north, south, east, and west by the state of divorce." Cynthia Karslake (Mrs. Fiske), divorced from a sporting lawyer who has spent a fortune on horses, is about to marry Phillip Phillimore, a Supreme Court Judge, who is also divorced from his wife. His family do not approve of Mrs. Karslake, who smokes cigarettes and "gets on their nerves"; but they make the best of things, and prepare for the wedding. The day before the interesting event is to occur Cynthia's former husband, John Karslake, drops in to see Phillimore on business connected with the selling of his stable, and comes face to face with his divorced wife. A few minutes later Mrs. Vida Phillimore calls to congratulate her former husband, the judge, and have a look at the bride-to-be. Then Sir Wilfrid Cates-Darby (Mr. George Arliss), an Englishman of some means and no conscience, and an easy prey to women, happens to come in. Sir Wilfrid promptly falls in love with Mrs. Karslake and Mrs. Phillimore, and is in a fearful stew all the next day as to which one he most desires to marry.

On the day of the wedding nearly all of the parties concerned meet again in Mrs. Phillimore's bourdoir, and after Karslake has refused to take his former wife's hand in friendship and accept her good wishes for his success with Mrs. Phillimore—who is openly flirting with him—the baronet asks Cynthia to take a trip to the races with him for the afternoon, and postpone the wedding until the evening. Cynthia has already invited her former husband to be best man and give her away, and has bet her wedding gown against his best saddle-mare that he won't dare do it—a bet he promptly takes. In a sporting spirit she accepts Sir Wilfrid's invitation, and leaves her former husband to inform her husband-to-be that the wedding will not take place until evening.

The third act shows the Phillimore home dressed for the belated wedding. It is 10 p.m. and there is no bride. Cynthia sends a telegram to say that she is delayed by an automobile breakdown, and marches in unconcernedly at 10.30. To the amazement of the pompous old judge, who forgives her escapade and prepares for the ceremony, Cynthia's former husband appears on the scene with a big bouquet for the bride, ready to act as best man.

"Who has a better right to be present at his wife's obsequies?" he demands when Phillimore questions the propriety of his presence. When the gay baronet, who eloped with Cynthia in his motor-car for the afternoon, comes in blithely he is shown the door, which he refuses to see; and the former wife of the bridegroom adds the sunshine of her presence to the scene. She continues her flirtation with Karslake, while the baronet calmly proposes that Cynthia shall cut it all and marry him. "An Englishman expects five things when he marries," he tells her, as she nervously watches her former husband and his new flame; "love, obedience, and three children." The unwelcome guests leave, and the ceremony is about to begin, but Karslake's departure with the divorced Mrs. Phillimore and Cynthia's belief that they are about to be married causes her to weaken. She seizes her wraps, calls a hansom, and bolts. Straight to her old home in Madison-avenue she goes, and arrives, as she supposes, too late. A wedding has taken place, Karslake's man assures her of that fact. But Sir Wilfrid and Mrs. Phillimore were the contracting parties. Before this is made clear to Cynthia, however, she and her former husband take part in a capital scene of cross purposes. Karslake believes she has married Phillimore, while she thinks he has thrown himself away on the other creature. She finds his room exactly as she last saw it on the day of their quarrel six months ago. Even the chair which she knocked over in her fury lies just as she left it. She explains that she has visited him at this late hour merely to save him from throwing himself away on Mrs. Phillimore. He asks her point blank about Phillimore. To gain time she rings for a hansom, and tells him that she isn't quite sure what she is going to do yet. Then they begin to talk over their quarrel, and fall to laughing over it; and he persuades her that she is hungry and must stay to supper. Karslake has learned in the meantime that his wife's Dakota divorce is invalid, so he sends the cabman away, and having assured himself that Cynthia still loves him, he slips upon her finger the ring that she threw away when she left him.

"THE notice given to Miss Lily Kirton at the Standard, Pimlico, in last week's issue should have been credited to Miss Kitty Gresham, as I deputised all the week for her.—Yours faithfully, KITTY GRESHAM."

WE regret to announce the death of Mrs. Jones, professionally known as Miss Ada Mansfield, the beloved wife of Mr. Theodore Jones, which took place at 88, King-street, Southport, after a painful illness. Miss Mansfield was well known in both the dramatic and music-hall professions, and her many friends will deeply mourn her loss.

"IT'S A DIFFERENT GIRL AGAIN"

(Hello! Hello! Hello!)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO

Pantomime Producers, Managers, Conductors and Artistes.

The above Song cannot be sung in Pantomime unless a stamped assignment bearing the signature of

"FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER"

is first obtained, no one but ourselves having any right whatever to arrange for the use of this Song in Theatres.

(Signed)

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE, who with such *éclat* opened the New Theatre at Cardiff on Monday, was entertained, with the members of his company, at a complimentary banquet on Thursday, by the commercial men of Cardiff. Miss Viola Tree, Miss Constance Collier, Mr. Lionel Brough, and Mr Henry Dana were among those present. The toast of Mr. Tree's health was enthusiastically honoured, and in reply the popular actor-manager expressed the delight of himself and the company at the way they had been received on their first visit to the metropolis of Wales. Especially were they gratified that there should have been such appreciation in the cheaper parts of the house of that wonderful work *Hamlet*.

AFTER eulogising the attractiveness of the new theatre, Mr. Tree continued, "There are those apostles of dullness, who imagine that the dull have a monopoly of godliness. I said the other night, quite simply and naturally, 'God bless this house.' Some people seem to have been surprised at such an utterance, but to me it came quite naturally. There is even a kind of feeling that people must be ugly to be good. It is pleasant to think, however, that this city recognises the enormous importance of having beautiful buildings. While our children look on beautiful things their minds become more beautiful, and it is on that score that the theatre gives sweetness and light to the people." We are able to announce that Mr. Tree and his company will shortly give a benefit performance in aid of theatrical charities.

MISS JESSIE BOND, the original Phœbe Meryll, was among the brilliant audience at the Savoy on Saturday, and received a hearty welcome from those assembled. Miss Geraldine Ulmar, Miss Fortescue, and Mr. Henry Lytton, other popular Savoyards, were also present. The distinguished assemblage also included the Earl of Kilmorey, Sir Anderson Critchett, Sir John Wolfe-Barry, Sir Bruce Seton, Sir John Runtz, Sir George Lewis, Lady Katharine Coke, and Sir Marcus and Lady Samuel. Among the hundred or so telegrams of goodwill received by Mrs. D'Oyly Carte were those sent by Miss Leonora Braham, Mr. George Grossmith, and Miss Rosina Brandram, whose names recall the best days of the Savoy.

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT and Mr. Edward Terry were amongst those who helped to swell the total of the subscription list at the annual festival in aid of the Infant Orphan Asylum, Wanstead, held on Wednesday at De Keyser's Royal Hotel, and presided over by the Lord Mayor. The amount realised was over £3,000.

MR. CHARLES FROHMAN, who arrived in London on Wednesday from America, has a busy time immediately before him. His work starts with the revival of *Peter Pan*, due at the Duke of York's on Tuesday. Following in quick succession is *Nelly Neil*, the attractiveness of which will be heightened by a number of American belles selected by Mr. Frohman from his musical companies in New York. After that comes the installation of *The Beauty of Bath* in her new home in Shaftesbury-avenue, with Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Ellaline Terriss, the appearance of Mr. John Hare as Napoleon in *La Belle Marseillaise*, and the presentation of Miss Marie Tempest in a new play. In addition to the foregoing important enterprises, Mr. Frohman has a number of original pieces in hand which are to be produced as occasion serves.

MR. LEWIS WALLER has fixed upon Monday next for the matinée of *Robin Hood*, at the Lyric Theatre, in aid of the Lord Mayor's Cripples' Fund, a certain number of seats being reserved for such of the little ones who are able to be moved. The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs will be present. The only seats available for the public on this occasion will be those in the upper circle (reserved) and gallery (unreserved).

MRS. S. BERKSTON DOUGLAS, who had the privilege of having Mrs. Kendal for her patron at her pupils' performance at Queen's (Small) Hall on the 3rd inst., received a letter wishing her success from Sir Theodore Martin, who was unavoidably prevented from being present. Encouraging messages were also sent by Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Mr. George Bancroft, Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, Mr. Pinero, Mrs. Arthur Bourchier, Mrs. Cyril Maude, Mrs. Seymour Hicks, and Miss May Moore. The dramatic students, it is gratifying to record, received double and treble recalls.

THE Council of the Actors' Association held an especial meeting on the stage of the Comedy Theatre on the 6th inst., when there were present Mr. Cyril Maude, V.P., in the chair, Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman of Council), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy chairman of the Council), Mesdames Kate Bishop, Beatrice Lamb, and Saba Raleigh, Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Acton Bond, Burton Cooke, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, Quinton McPherson, E. Story-Jofton, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). The questions under discussion had reference to arrangements in connection with the forthcoming Irving Memorial meeting, which will be held at the Garrick Theatre next Tuesday (the 18th), at 3 p.m.

THE Irving Memorial Committee, represented by Messrs. Cyril Maude, Laurence Grant, Acton Bond, Lewis Casson, and the secretary (Chas. Cruikshanks), met some of those who were invited to co-operate with them in certain matters in connection with the forthcoming Garrick Theatre meeting, the convention taking place on the stage of the Comedy Theatre on the 6th inst.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER has acquired the rights of *Le Voleur*, the new play by Henri Bernstein, which was produced with pronounced success at the Paris Renaissance last week. It is to be adapted by Mr. Cosmo Gordon Lennox, and is designed for future representation at the St. James's. A detailed account of the French production is given by our Paris correspondent in another column.

"PETER'S MOTHER" was performed by Royal command at Sandringham on the 7th inst., when the company then playing the piece at Wyndham's appeared before their Majesties the King and Queen and the King and Queen of Norway, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princess Victoria, and other distinguished guests. Miss Marion Terry repeated her artistic performance of the title-rôle, and the cast also contained Mr. Norman McKinnel, Mr. A. E. Matthews, Miss D. Drummond, Miss Alice Beet, Mr. Frederick Kerr, Mr. E. J. Garden, Mr. Alfred Bucklaw, Mrs. Edward Saker, Miss Hilda Trevelyan, Mr. Reginald Eyre, and Mr. M. Elphinstone. Before the play began the Queen payed a surprise visit to Miss Terry in her dressing-room, and after the performance the King received and thanked all the principal members of the company.

MONDAY evening marked the 101st performance of *Peter's Mother*, when Mrs. Henry de la Pasture's comedy was transferred from Wyndham's to the Apollo, the event being celebrated by the presentation of a souvenir copy of the book on which the piece was founded. The members of the company, with their Royal honours fresh upon them, played in finished style, and the piece went remarkably well. A change was made in the representative of Sarah, that character, hitherto sustained by Miss Hilda Trevelyan, being taken up with the most successful results by Miss Nina Boucicault.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY'S announcement of his intention shortly to revive *Richard III.* has been received with quite a remarkable show of satisfaction. The central figure is much in the public eye at the moment—what he was, and what he was not—and it will be exceedingly interesting to find out by how much Mr. Harvey in his reading allows hoary tradition to be tempered by modern research. To-night Mr. Harvey, at the Coronet Theatre, concludes one of the most successful tours, both artistically and financially, he has ever undertaken.

THE Garrick Theatre has been thrice patronised by Royalty this week. On Monday evening the Prince and Princess of Wales were present at the performance of *The Morals of Marcus;* on the following afternoon Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, accompanied by Princess Victoria and Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein, witnessed Mr. Bourchier's production of *Macbeth;* and the same piece was honoured on Wednesday by the presence of Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll.

MR. CHARLES MANNERS, whose able opera company played at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, last week, responded to a strong demand for a speech on Saturday evening after the fall of the curtain. He thanked Liverpool for the support that had been accorded to them, but regretted that operatic novelties were not more appreciated. It was strange that *Romeo and Juliet*, by the same composer as *Faust*, should have attracted only half the audience drawn by the latter opera. Then he was sorry that people had not come to see *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, which had been the greatest success elsewhere, and had been liked by all who had seen it. The next time, however, he visited Liverpool he would try it again, and also produce Verdi's *Aida*.

TERRY'S THEATRE is to have a pantomime at Christmas, Mr. Samuel James, the well-known suburban theatrical manager, having arranged with the management to produce there on Boxing Day his grand children's pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*. Miss Lily Harold will be principal boy. Mr. James is responsible for no fewer than eight other pantomimes this season, so that his hands are fully occupied.

THE Princess of Wales, accompanied by Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck, was present at the Court Theatre on Wednesday, and witnessed the performance of *Man and Superman;* and on the same evening the Duke and Duchess of Connaught saw *Raffles* at the Comedy Theatre.

MISS CONSTANCE CRAWLEY, the English actress, who is making such a great sensation in California by her productions of literary plays by modern authors (Ibsen, D'Annunzio, Maeterlinck, &c.), played *The Midsummer Night's Dream* last month in the Greek Theatre, Berkeley, to the largest audience ever played to in America. It numbered nine thousand, which was two thousand more than Sarah Bernhardt's record at the same place. Their enthusiasm was as inspiring as their numbers, and they called Miss Crawley again and again. Miss Crawley is preparing a gigantic production of D'Annunzio's *Francesca da Rimini*, and after Christmas will start for the East, probably appearing in New York and London next year. Mr. Arthur Maude, who was with Mr. Martin Harvey some years, is Miss Crawley's leading man and stage-director.

IN the competition for the prize of five pounds, given by Mr. Norman Forbes for Shakespearean dramatic recitation in both comedy and tragedy, at the Academy of Dramatic Art, 62, Gower-street, Mr. John Hare, as judge, awarded the prize to Miss Beatrice Smith.

PATRONS of the drama in Aston-under-Lyne deeply regret the retirement of Mr. Armstrong Fairbairn, formerly acting-manager of the Theatre Royal, who has obtained an appointment under Government, and consequently leaves the dramatic profession. During his management of the Theatre Royal, under the proprietor Mr. Charles Revill, he made many friends, and he has received on leaving many valuable tokens of regard in the shape of presents from personal and business acquaintances, as well as from the permanent staffs at the Theatre Royal and the Empire Hippodrome. He is succeeded as acting-manager by Mr. William Revill, from the Stockport Theatre Royal, the proprietor's eldest son.

MR. WILLIAM MOLLISON can claim a rare distinction among living actors, viz., that of having performed the trying part of Macbeth for twelve consecutive weeks in one provincial city (Manchester). It is not surprising, therefore, to find that Shakespeare's great tragedy will be included in Mr. Mollison's répertoire during his forthcoming tour.

MR. PHILIP LESLIE'S friends will learn with regret that, in consequence of his mother's ill-health, he has been obliged to beg Mr. J. C. Williamson to release him from the long engagement on which he was about to enter with him at the termination of his contract with the Brough-Flemming company, and return to England. He brings with him from Australia the good wishes of a host of friends, and of many more who knew him only as "Absolutely" Duff Wynterden.

AN encouraging début was made at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, on Monday, by a young Australian artist named Miss Wanda Radford, who appeared as Oliver with Mr. Beerbohm Tree's company of *Oliver Twist*. The little lady had only a week to learn the part, but played it in a manner which secured high praise. She is but ten years of age, and her initial performance, which demonstrated the possession of more than ordinary talent, gives promise of a bright future.

MISS GRACE LESTER concludes to-night her third engagement with Mr. Willard, and commences on the 17th a special re-engagement with M. Auguste Van Biene, in *The Broken Melody*.—Mr .Charles Boult will terminate to-day twenty-two weeks' successful engagement as Ra Goonga, in *The Indian Mutiny*, with Mr. Frank E. Burdett, he having been kindly released by that gentleman to undertake the general-management of Messrs. Little and D'Arcy's *Sinbad the Sailor* pantomime.

RAPID strides are being made with the New Theatre and Opera House, at the Spa and Gardens, Bridlington, and Mr. Henry Hague and his directors have lost no time in getting the work in hand. We understand the house will seat 1,200 persons, and, at ordinary prices, £100. The stage will be 36ft. deep, with an opening of 30ft. wide, and 26ft. high. The theatre is to be ready for opening on July 22 next.

THE British Empire Shakespeare Society will continue their series of dramatic readings at the Kensington Town Hall on Monday afternoon, when *Henry VIII.* will be given. Miss E. Wynne Matthison, Mr. Walter Hampden, and Mr. Acton Bond will take the parts of Katherine, Buckingham, and Wolsey respectively; and also included in the cast will be Messrs. Kenyon Musgrave, Lewis Willoughby, William Burchill, A. Bristowe, J. Fritz Russell, Charles R. Hann, and F. Stuart Willson, and Miss Mary Barton and Miss Enid Rose.

THE veteran comedian and burlesque actor Mr. Edwin Danvers (late of the Strand and Royalty Theatres) died at Haywards Heath Asylum on Wednesday last. Mr. George Danvers, comedian, is a son of the deceased actor.

MR. ARTHUR ROBERTS told a lively tale of misadventures with a motor-car at Westminster on Thursday, when he was sued by his former chauffeur, for £6 wages and £1 17s. 6d. for petrol, &c., purchased for his master's machines. The defence was that plaintiff had smashed up two of defendant's cars, and had been dismissed in consequence, but had been taken on again after the lapse of a month, when he met with another accident at Margate. After the comedian had given evidence, the Judge said that Mr. Roberts seemed to have acted with very great consideration, and he could not understand how the plaintiff had been so ill-advised as to bring this action. Defendant had fairly agreed not to dispute the £1 17s. 6d. which plaintiff said he had expended, but no wages were due, and plaintiff would therefore have judgment for the £1 17s. 6d.

AT the Royal Academy of Music the Sainton Dolby prize for contraltos has been awarded to Edith Kirk (a native of Leicester), Marie I. Wadia being very highly commended and Mary A. Davies highly commended. The examiners were Mrs. Julia Franks, Mme. Edith Hands, and Mr. S. Ambler Brereton (in the chair). The Bonamy Dobree prize for violoncello playing was secured by Edith J. Evans (of London), Edgar Fawcett being very highly commended. The examiners were Messrs Prosper Burnett, F. Edward Hambleton, and B. Patterson Parker (chairman).

THE R.A.M. Club prize for organ playing was awarded to Montague F. Phillips (of London), the examiners being Messrs. G. F. Huntley, Charlton T. Speer, and F. A. W. Docker (chairman). The Rutson Memorial prize for sopranos was won by Ida Kahn (of London), Selina Pitt Soper being highly commended; and that for tenors was taken by Hubert Baker (of Kirby Misperton). The examiners were Mme. Kate Cove, Miss Beatrice Stanley Lucas, and Mr. Gwilym Richards (in the chair). The Westmorland Scholarship for vocalists fell to F. Percival Driver (of Leicester). The examiners were Messrs. F. Corder and Fred Walker, and Sir Alexander C. Mackenzie (chairman).

MR. ALFRED MARTIN has been again engaged by Mr. Milton Bode as advertising manager for his pantomime at the New Theatre, Cardiff. This will be his third pantomime season at Cardiff, and his seventh pantomime engagement with Mr. Milton Bode.

THE Metropole Theatre, Gateshead, on Saturday afternoon rang with the merry laughter of 3,000 poor children, who were given their annual treat by Councillor Sidney Bacon. The delight taken by the youngsters in the juvenile pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, was evident throughout.

"THE SILVER STICK," an entirely new Cornish musical play, in two acts, written by Alfred England, the music being by Carl St. Amory, was produced at the Opera House, Northampton, on the 8th inst., for copyright purposes.

MESSRS. MURRAY KING AND CLARK will reopen the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, on Christmas Eve, with *The Gay Parisienne*. The theatre has been lavishly redecorated, the dressing-rooms made more comfortable, the stage improved, and extra electric lighting installed.

AT the Theatre Royal, Jarrow, on the 6th inst., Mr. J. E. Reed, the popular acting-manager for Mr. Hugh Robertson, entertained the inmates of Harton Workhouse to an excellent evening's entertainment. Musical numbers were submitted by the members of the local operatic society, and a one-act play was given, with Mr. Reed in the leading part, supported by the local dramatic club.

MR. JOHN CHILD, the popular member of the Moody-Manners opera company, sang "Sound an alarm" and "Native Worth," at St. James's Church, Burnley, on Sunday. Mr. W. M. Chapman Huston, the general-manager of the company, read the lessons, and an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. B. Winfield. A collection for the Actors' Benevolent Fund realised over £10. Among the congregation were Mme. Fanny Moody, and other members of the company, along with Mrs. Child.

MR. FRANK BERTRAM'S company will play *The Breed of the Treshams* for the three-hundredth time to-day at the Theatre Royal, Worthing, in which town, it may be remembered, Mr. Bertram opened with the play. Of the company numbering twenty, seven have not missed a single performance, namely, Messrs. George Traill, Oswald Lingard, Cecil Klein, Gerald Clarke, Wilfred Compton, and Fred Stone, and Miss Celestine Bertram. The company will rest next week, opening at Torquay on Boxing Day.

MISS OLIVE WADE, who made a successful first appearance only last February in the exigent part of Hermia, in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, at the Midland Theatre, Manchester, and afterwards appeared in *The Dairymaids* throughout its long and successful run at the Apollo Theatre, has been engaged by Mr. Robert Courtneidge to play second girl in his forthcoming pantomime, *Aladdin*, at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Mr. F. R. Benson was desirous of securing her services for his production of *The Dream* at Leeds in January but the contract with Mr. Courtneidge had already been entered into. As Miss Wade will not reach her eighteenth birthday until March next, her progress must be accounted wonderfully rapid.

THE New Prince's Theatre, Poplar, now nearly a year old, will close its doors for the first time next week, but only in order to give the final touches and rehearsals to Mr. Sounes' second annual pantomime. This year he produces *The Forty Thieves* with a capital cast. Two lines of motor-'buses now serve this district, and to-day the L.C.C. electric trams start running from Aldgate to Poplar and the "Prince's."

MR. STANLEY ROGERS, who has resigned the managership of Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle, is an extremely busy man, and in addition to being lessee of the Opera House, Workington, and the Athenæum, Lancaster, is also managing-director of the London and Provincial Pantomimes Co., Ltd., and is the author of, and producing for them this season, no fewer than five pantomimes. He will, however, continue to reside in Carlisle. Mr. Rogers has engaged Mr. Frank Stanley, late acting-manager of Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle, to act in a similar capacity for the London and Provincial Pantomimes Co., Ltd.'s panto. *Jack the Giant-killer*.

MR. WILLIE CLARKSON has just returned from Paris, where he has been bewigging and beautifying the heads of Mme. Rejane's production at her own theatre of Sardou's new play, *La Saville*, due this evening. The piece, which deals with the early part of Napoleon the Third's reign, is being done on a magnificent scale. Mr. Clarkson has also been presiding over the coiffeurs of *Les Bouffons*, the new play in which Mme. Sarah Bernhardt is to be seen in the comedy part of a boy.

THAT striking play, *The Shulamite*, which was adapted by Claude Askew and Edward Knoblauch from Alice and Claude Askew's novel of the same name, and successfully produced at the Savoy Theatre with Miss Lena Ashwell in the leading rôle, has been winning golden opinions in the principal cities of the United States this autumn. It has been recently produced in Italy, and before the end of the year it is to be presented in Russian at the Théâtre Litteraire et Artestique in St. Petersburg, where a great success is anticipated.

THE Scala Theatre has been the scene on several occasions this week of the representation of two plays given by Society amateurs, under distinguished patronage, in behalf of the Kensington General Hospital. The first was a little children's opera entitled *Under the Greenwood Tree*, by Major Philips Trevor, brother to Mr. Leo Trevor, and music by Howard Carr, in which no fewer than seven of the first-named gentleman's own little girls and boys appeared. The second piece, *Humpty Dumpty*, a fairy comedietta, in three acts, by A. C. G. Grylls, with music by Hubert Colegrave, was sustained by a goodly company of ladies and gentlemen, numbering upwards of 200.

MR. LOUIS CALVERT, who is busy with his elaborate production of pantomime at the Broadway, particulars of which appeared in a recent issue, is in negotiation for another theatre to which to transfer the successful comic opera *Amasis* when Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry return to the New Theatre, on Dec. 31. Miss Neilson and Mr. Terry's opening production will be *Dorothy o' the Hall*, and their new play, *Matt of Merrymount*, produced at Newcastle on Oct. 11 last, will follow in due course.

MR. OSWALD BRAND, who, we regret to learn, is still in indifferent health, encouraged by the ready sale which awaited his souvenir programme at his recent benefit at the King's, Hammersmith, has issued a new and improved edition, which he calls "The Oswald Brand Souvenir Reciter." It contains a large number of recitations from Mr. Brand's pen, together with pictures and scenes from his plays. It is an admirably got-up booklet, the elegant covers of which are decorated in a gold design, printed in purple ink, and tied with ribbons of the same colour. Members of Royalty and the aristocracy and other distinguished persons are already subscribers to the work, a copy of which has been graciously accepted by the Queen. The "Reciter" can be obtained through the Army and Navy Stores, Victoria Street, W.

MR. JOSEPH SAINTON (musical director of the Crystal Palace Theatre) has been appointed, by unanimous vote, musical director to the Bridlington Corporation at a salary of £300 for the season—March 25 to Oct. 13. Mr. Sainton has held a similar position this year for the Clacton-on-Sea Council

OWING to the great success of the previous performances, the English Drama Society will repeat their representations of the Chester Mystery Plays at the Bloomsbury Hall, Hart-street, on the 21st, 22nd, and 24th inst., at 3.30 and 9 o'clock. The plays will be produced as heretofore under the direction of Mr. Nugent Monck.

CLEVER little Gladys Rose-Jones, the well-known child reciter, has been engaged by Mr. Robert Arthur to play the part of Leslie Tremaine in his forthcoming pantomime at the Kennington Theatre.

MR. WALTER EVERARD has just arrived home after an interesting trip to the West Indies, Jamaica, and America. Mr. Everard made good use of his time while in the United States, having witnessed the initial representation of Haddon Chambers's *Sir Anthony* in Boston, as well as Mr. Willard's fine impersonation of *Colonel Newcome*, Miss Lena Ashwell in *The Shulamite*, and Mr. H. A. Jones's new play, *The Hypocrites*. He arrived in London in time to find his old chief, Sir Charles Wyndham, playing Garrick. America, according to Mr. Everard, is teeming with English actors, but his own reputation in the States was sufficient to secure him the offer of a good part, which, however, he deemed unsuitable to his personality.

MISS TOPSY SINDEN has terminated her engagement in *The Beauty of Bath*, and began a new contract immediately with Mr. George Edwardes. She now goes on a short tour with *See-See*, opening in Glasgow on Christmas Eve.

MR. LEWIS WALLER sustained a grievous loss in a fire which occurred on Wednesday at the timber store of Messrs. L. Whitehead, builders, in Dorset-road, Clapham, by which the scenery for *Othello*, *Henry V.*, *Brigadier Gerard*, and *Monsieur Beaucaire* was totally destroyed. Happily, the damage is covered by insurance, but the loss of so many artistic sets is greatly to be deplored.

TO-NIGHT sees the termination of T. Edward Ward's very successful autumn tour of Nita Rae's play *Her Fatal Past*. From Christmas onwards Mr. Ward is running a revival of Walter Howard's *Man and Wife*, for which a powerful company has been engaged, including Miss Ward as Marcelle.

MR. DUDLEY CLINTON, who left England two years ago for the antipodes, under contract to Mr. George Musgrove, has been specially engaged by Mrs. Fiske, the famous American actress, for her New York season, to play the Rev. Matthew Phillimore in Langdon Mitchell's comedy *The New York Idea*, which has obtained a phenomenal success. Mr. Clinton writes that he had a glorious time with Mr. Musgrove in Australia and New Zealand, and played in every theatrical city of note. He found the audiences, down under, most enthusiastic, and socially the most hospitable people in the world. At the conclusion of the season in Sydney last Christmas he accompanied Miss Nellie Stewart, as principal comedian, to America, opening at San Francisco with *Sweet Nell* at the Majestic Theatre, and escaping the earthquake by only four days.

DISTINGUISHED artists contributed to a matinée given at the St. James's Theatre on the 7th inst. in aid of the Western Skin Hospital. Mr. Alexander appeared in his finished study of the poet in Mr. W. Courtney's one-act play *Kit Marlowe*, and had an enthusiastic reception. Miss Lilian Braithwaite was a sympathetic and graceful Nan, Mr. Fulton, Mr. Brydone, and Mr. Reynolds supplied picturesque sketches of Marlowe's boon companions, and Mr. Lyall Swete played the brutal innkeeper Archer with the utmost effect. A feature of the afternoon was the appearance of the famous tragedienne, Miss Genevieve Ward, as a humorist. She recited a little piece called "Corncha's Comforter," and delighted the audience. Mlle. Otta Brony sang Arditi's valse, "Se Saran Rose," artistically, and the programme was also contributed to by Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Mr. Philip Lewis, and Miss Gwladys Roberts.

OPERATIC amateurs will figure prominently at the Crystal Palace Theatre next week. On Tuesday evening the Norwood Operatic Society will give a performance of Auber's grand opera *Fra Diavola*. The entertainment will be under the direction of the veteran Mr. Valentine Smith, and there will be a full orchestra and chorus conducted by Mr. Stephen R. Philpot. On Thursday and Saturday evenings the Catford Operatic Society, by arrangement with Mr. Bannister Howard and by permission of Mrs, D'Oyly Carte, will give performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's opera *The Gondoliers*.

A NEW one-act play, entitled *That Impious Piano*, by Lyddell Sawyer, will precede the performance of *The Red Lamp*, given at the Scala Theatre on Monday by the Wyndham Dramatic Club. Mr. Sawyer has been awarded upwards of fifty medals and diplomas for grouping and genre work generally in photography, and the opportunity thus afforded of observing how far he has been able to adopt these principles to the moving groups and situations of the stage will be interesting.

A DEPUTATION from the Special Committee attended the Touring Managers' Association at their meeting on the 7th inst., and were cordially received. Questions in connection with payment for rehearsals were discussed, and favourably considered, the precise terms and conditions under which the proposed scheme should operate were not definitely fixed, it being agreed they should be dealt with on some future occasion.

THE "Commissioners'" Committee held a meeting on Monday last, when there were present Mr. Cecil Barth (in the chair), Mesdames Georgina Hamilton, Rose Mathews, Blanche Stanley, and Lucy Sibley, Messrs. F. J. Arlton and Leslie Carter, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary). Mr. Frank G. Dunn and Mr. Clive Currie were elected members of the Committee. A question as to the holding of "social" meetings on the Fridays in January next, between four and six, was under discussion, and ultimately referred to the Council. The establishment of a reference library of dramatic works, dealing with costume, elocution, history of the drama, &c., &c., was suggested, gifts of books having been promised. It was suggested that a Social and Library Committee be formed, and the following names were proposed:—Mesdames Georgina Hamilton, Rose Mathews, Margaret Parker, Kathleen Russell, Hylda Franklin, and Lucy Sibley, Messrs. Cecil Barth, A. E. Drinkwater (or C. Aubrey Smith), Clive Currie, F. H. De Quincey, Frank G. Dunn, and Arthur Morris.

THE usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held on Tuesday last, when there were present Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy chairman), Mr. Henry W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Miss Kate Phillips, and Messrs. Cecil Barth, J. Cooke Beresford, Clarence Blakiston, Burton Cooke, F. Cremlin, William Devereux, Lawrence Grant, Spencer Trevor, Fredk. Volpe, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary).

THE hon. solicitors reported they had advised several members, and they were requested to take proceedings against a manager in the event of non-payment of an artist's claim. The present scheme of insurance was discussed, and ultimately it was agreed that in 1907 the Association should not only arrange for the insurance of members against death by accident, disablement, &c., but also against loss of luggage and loss of salary (due to such loss of luggage), and the secretary was instructed to carry out the necessary negotiations with the insurance company who covered the risk. Hamilton Deane, Fred Lewis, and Evelyn Maxwell were nominated for election, and three former members were reinstated. Cases of alleged insanitation against five provincial theatres were under consideration, and the secretary received instructions. Mr. Lawrence Grant was elected a member of the "Selection of Plays" Committee. The Commissioners' Committee's report was taken. It was agreed that "social" meetings might be held on two Fridays in January, between four and six, of which due notice would be given.

THE secretary reported the following, as received from a member:—"Many thanks for forwarding letters with so much care and promptness." Reports of the Finance and General Purposes Committee were given. The suggestion-book was considered, and entries made. The following gentlemen were elected as hon. medical officers to the A.A.:—Dr. E. Arthur Dando, Dixon's Green, Dudley; Dr. R. Craig Rodgers, Stoneclough, Burnley; Dr. Carter, 155, Uxbridge-road, W.; Dr. W. B. Secretan, Reading; Dr. Phillips, Eastbourne; Dr. R. Marshall, Douglas, Isle of Man.

THE pinions of the *Pelican* have this year spread over a vast surface, the ever-welcome Christmas annual, issued at 6d., including contributions from leading managers, actor-managers, variety magnates, and stars of the stage. Sir Edward Moss, the Empires' knight, starts off with a droll anecdote of a Scotch servant; Mr. George Edwardes follows with "What the Butler Did"; Mr. Frank Curzon has resource to rhyme fitly to describe "The Critic"; and Mr. Arthur Bourchier has a little comedietta called "Reserve Force," in which he uses a satirical pen with force not reserved. Mr. Arthur Collins gives reminiscences of his recent visit with Mr. Hall Caine to Sicily, Mr. George Alexander warmly advocates the claims of the Academy of Dramatic Art, and Mr. Seymour Hicks writes in his merriest vein. A pretty romance of "Cupid and the Celibate" is furnished by Miss Edna May; Miss Mabel Love neatly describes a mysterious admirer; and contributions are to be found also from Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Miss Ellaline Terriss, Miss Millie Legarde, Miss Marie Dainton, Mr. Frederick Harrison, Mr. Geo. Grossmith, Mr. G. P. Huntley, and many others, accompanied in each case by the latest photograph of the writer.

MR. SERVAIS LE ROY, having been unable to cancel several long-standing foreign contracts, has been obliged to postpone the reproduction of *Lady Kinton's Necklace* until July 27, 1907, when the play will visit No. 1 theatres only.

MR. W. PEACOCK takes a complimentary benefit next Wednesday at the Harrogate Opera House, on which occasion he will have the services of a large company of stage favourites, Mr. John Hart and Mr. Robert Courtneidge having given all their available artists liberty to assist Mr. Peacock. Among these are Miss Ada Blanche, Miss Violet Lloyd, Miss Florence Smithson, Miss Edith Blanche, Miss Carrie Moore, Mr. Neil Kenyon, Mr. Albert Le Fre, Mr. Fred Allandale, Mr. Edward Staples, The Burnells, and Mr. Witty Watty Walton. Mr. C. L. Naylor will conduct the augmented orchestra. Assistance in the special entertainment will be given by a number of local artists, including Miss Lilian Payne and Mrs. Peacock, whom we remember as Miss Addie Blanche—a very juvenile Dick Whittington—at the Avenue Theatre in 1882. The third act of *The Second in Command* will also be performed by amateurs.

THE Elephant and Castle pantomime will be *Cinderella*, by Brian Daly and J. M. East. Miss Gracie Taylor will be principal boy, Miss Alice Digby principal girl, Messrs. Willie Scott and Arthur Watts the two ugly sisters, and Herbert Rule as Dandini. Mr. J. Nurnberger is responsible for the music, and the staging and effects are to be on an elaborate scale.

THOSE two favourite artists, Mr. Bert Sinden and Miss Topsy Sinden, will have the deepest sympathy of all in the loss which they have recently sustained by the death of their father, Mr. Augustus Sinden. The deceased gentleman was suffering from an acute attack of influenza, and passed away suddenly of heart failure.

THE Victoria Club for lady members of the theatrical profession has been opened in the Regent Rooms, 234, Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow. The object of the club (which is the first of the kind in Scotland) is to provide a centre of social life and friendly intercourse among lady members of the theatrical profession. The club is under the auspices of the Scottish Christian Social Union, of which the Hon. the Lord Provost of Glasgow is president, and has the cordial approval of the managers of the various theatres. Lady members of the profession have adequate representation on the committee of administration. The club is open every week-day from twelve noon to five p.m. Papers, magazines, and writing materials are provided, and afternoon tea, &c., is served. All lady members of the profession are cordially invited to join the club, even though they may be resident in the city for only a few days.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

MR. LAURENCE HOUSMAN, the author of "An Englishwoman's Love Letters," has been having his "baptism of fire" as a librettist. Resenting the "cuts" and alterations in his book of *The Vicar of Wakefield*, which was produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Wednesday, he withdrew his name from the programmes, as far as the libretto was concerned. Mme. Liza Lehmann, the composer, has given the *Daily Chronicle* the following description of her troubles with Mr. Housman:—"When I received the libretto, I wrote to Mr. Housman, asking him for extra numbers for certain characters. This request, usual enough between collaborators, did not apparently meet with Mr. Housman's approval, for he wrote back and said that he did not approve of the 'star' system. He also said that he removed his veto from alterations and cuts, and did not wish to attend rehearsals. At the eleventh hour, however, when we were practically ready for production, he turned up at the rehearsal, and expressed himself as being very dissatisfied with the way his play had been altered. He wanted things set back according to his wish, but, of course, it was impossible to begin rehearsing the opera afresh in a new way."

MR. DAVID BISPHAM, also interviewed, told his story thus:—"The libretto, as I first received it, was, frankly, impossible, owing to its length. There were 16,000 words in the MS., about double the length which I required. It would have played from eight until two, instead of for three hours. Also, certain parts were not, in my opinion, large enough. When there are songs occupying a considerable time, one can understand the author of an opera losing a little his sense of proportion, so I asked Mr. Housman to cut and alter as I thought best for the good of the play. He gave me permission to do as I wished, and now we have brought it down to about 8,000 words." What Mr. Housman evidently wants is a course of training under Mr. George Edwardes.

IBSEN'S manuscript remains contain some amusing maxims and reflections, among which is the following:—"'Free-born men' is a phrase of rhetoric. They do not exist. Marriage, the relation between man and wife, has corrupted the race, and impressed the mark of slavery upon all." This was very hard upon Mrs. Ibsen, who "humoured" the "master" to the extent of letting him sew on his own shirt-buttons—after a fashion—the considerate spouse then taking them off again in private and putting them on properly.

MR. W. S. GILBERT has written denying that he looks upon artists as "so much material to be moulded to the purposes of the playwright." This, he says, is "very far from being the case." He would, he says, gladly welcome suggestions and counsel from consummate artists with established reputations—he gives a list of examples—but he objects to do so from "people who began in the chorus, or with £3-a-week parts at the Savoy, and are now commanding salaries of from £20 to £80 a week." There is one thing, at any rate, for which both players and public ought to be very grateful to Mr. Gilbert—he insists on clear, distinct, and everywhere-audible delivery. His patient persistence, and his determination to have his own way at rehearsal, are so well known that it is generally assumed by artists that "resistance is hopeless."

THERE is a legend—probably with the usual insufficient foundation—of an actor who once opposed his opinion, at rehearsal, to that of Mr. Gilbert, who is said to have made the following remarks:—"Mr. Blank, you are a very irritable man; so am I. You are a very obstinate man; so am I. But *I* am a very clever man—and you are *not!*"

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM, at any rate, places great store upon stage-management. "My school," he told a *Daily Chronicle* representative the other day, "has always been the simple one of experience in front of the public. I learnt a good deal from the French stage, and not a little, too, from Lester Wallack, the American; but I should say that there are just three things that can help to teach a young actor his art. They are, nature, the audience, and the tyranny of the stage-manager. Any other kind of school seems to me very little use—though, of course, I am friendly with existing 'schools of acting,' and anything serves when one is young."

MR. E. EDMONDS sends us the following anecdote apropos of Mr. Arthur Bourchier's fine production of *Macbeth*. Mr. Charles Calvert had a capital stage-carpenter at Manchester, but the man had one failing; like our army in Flanders, he "swore terribly." This Mr. Calvert was determined to put an end to, and he said—"The next time, Drummond, you use a bad word on the stage we part!" This was during a performance of *Macbeth*. "Orl right, guv'nor," replied the god of the machinery; "orl right!" Then, with a voice as gentle as any sucking dove, he addressed his flyman, Bill, thus:—"My own sweet William, will you lower out that *blasted* heath!"

THE same correspondent forwards the two anecdotes which follow:—When the *Voyage en Suisse* was put in rehearsal at the Gaiety Theatre, the explosion was not loud enough to please John Hollingshead, the then manager, who, seated in the dress circle, said to the property man satirically:—"Well! Go on with the explosion; we're all waiting!" "It's gone, sir!" replied Props. "I never heard it," said John, chaffingly. "All right," answered the nettled property man, adding *sotto voce*, "You *shall* hear it *next* time!" So he sent to the Lyceum, the Lane, the Adelphi, and elsewhere, and borrowed a dozen batteries; and, when they were charged, asked from the stage "if the guv'nor was ready?" To which practical John, seated negligently with one leg over the dress circle pad, replied, "Yes, and waiting; go ahead!" It "went." The noise was deafening; the orchestra and company fled; dust arose and came down in clouds; Hollingshead fell over backward on to the floor of the circle, from whence he arose with "swear words" on the tip of his tongue. Then were heard the dulcet tones of the property man, who enquired innocently and sweetly, "Did you hear it *that* time, sir?"

ON one occasion the late "Johnny" Toole opened at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, immediately after the walls of the pit and circles of that theatre had been covered with looking-glass. He did not arrive in the city until the evening of the performance, so was ignorant of these mural innovations. In the farce of *The Steeplechase* Toole had to don a jockey's red jacket; and, to his intense surprise, saw his reflection moving about at the back of the pit. So he sent round to the front of the house for George Loveday, his manager, and said:—"George, go to the back of the pit; there's a soldier in a red jacket walking about there; every time I move, *he* moves; go and stop him; he's worrying me frightfully!"

MRS. D'OYLY CARTE writes:—"The recent statement by the Press to the effect that I had given permission for messenger boys to reserve places in the queue at the Savoy Theatre is incorrect. No such permission has been given, and so long as I believe the practice to be distasteful to the public I will do my best to discourage it." The system of substitutes has often given offence to the public. A disgusted playgoer, writing to the papers in 1776, protested against the custom of "permitting a footman to sit for an act or two of a play next to a woman of the first quality by way of securing a place for his absent master."

GILBERT-SULLIVAN REVIVAL.

On Saturday Evening, Dec. 8,
at the Savoy Theatre, the Opera, in Two Acts,
Written by W. S. Gilbert, Composed by Arthur Sullivan, entitled

"THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD; OR THE MERRYMAN AND HIS MAID."

Sir Richard Cholmondeley..MR. ALEC JOHNSTONE
Colonel Fairfax .....MR. PACIE RIPPLE
Sergeant Meryll .....MR. OVERTON MOYLE
Leonard Meryll .....MR. HENRY BURNAND
Jack Point .....MR. C. H. WORKMAN
Wilfred Shadbolt .....MR. JOHN CLULOW
The Headsman .....MR. H. M. WHITE
First Yeoman .....MR. FRANK BECKETT
Second Yeoman .....MR. LEO SHEFFIELD
First Citizen .....MR. RICHARD ANDEAN
Second Citizen .....MR. ROWLAND WILLIAMS
Elsie Maynard .....MISS LILIAN COOMBER
Phœbe .....MISS JESSIE ROSE
Dame Carruthers .....MISS LOUIE RENE
Kate .....MISS MARIE WILSON

There could be "no possible doubt whatever" about the success of the revival of *The Yeomen of the Guard* at the Savoy Theatre on Saturday evening last. The audience, many of whom had gathered outside the doors for hours before their opening, was in a wildly enthusiastic mood. They encored the well-known "numbers" again and again; they applauded whenever there was the least excuse for applause; and at the conclusion they called for Mrs. D'Oyly Carte and Mr. W. S. Gilbert with uproarious enthusiasm, insisting on a second appearance of the genial librettist, who, with his ruddy complexion and military bearing, looked remarkably "fit" and hale. A good deal of this enthusiasm, it may be imagined, was a revival of old admiration and enjoyment; but, besides this, there was a genuine satisfaction with this revival of a unique and intelligent form of amusement. When *The Yeomen of the Guard* was produced in 1888, some of the patrons of the Savoy were surprised, if not disappointed, with Mr. Gilbert's new departure. After a long string of successes with purely ironical and satiric themes, Mr. Gilbert turned his attention to dramatic construction and interesting incident, and built around a good old melodramatic motive a most effective and agreeable little plot, admirably fitted for musical purposes. A composer is necessarily limited or inspired by the nature of his libretto, and Sir Arthur Sullivan's music for *The Yeomen of the Guard* is undoubtedly of a higher class than any other of his Savoy scores. The opera is, consequently, better suited for revival than many of the series. It never became as hackneyed as *Pinafore*, and its success depends less than usual on the form of pleasantry known as "Gilbertian humour," which had such an amazing "vogue" in the eighties. The libretto is a genuinely clever and ingenious piece of work, and the dialogue and lyrics are "replete" with Mr. Gilbert's peculiar literary and humorous qualities. The revival, therefore, does not "date" unpleasantly, and *The Yeomen of the Guard* will not suffer, as some of the other Gilbert-and-Sullivan operas might, from the extraordinary success of their original productions.

It is inevitable, perhaps, that those who bear indelibly imprinted on their memories the original performances of the principals in the cast of 1888 should make those comparisons which are proverbially odious, and never more so than in connection with acting and singing. But there are many of the rising generation whose estimates of the present cast will not be influenced by any such recollections, and they will find, in the company now at the Savoy, a party of players, "sober, clean, and perfect," and not so much exercised by unconquerable individuality as to refuse to be moulded into the appointed shape by Mr. Gilbert's experienced hand. The only part in *The Yeomen of the Guard* which demands distinctiveness in its exponent is that of Jack Point; and for this Mrs. Carte was fortunate in having at hand such a clever comedian as Mr. C. H. Workman, who made a decided hit at the Savoy on Saturday. A better reading of the rôle could not have been desired. Its mixture of humour and sentiment was most effective. Mr. John Clulow as Wilfred Shadbolt was in every way excellent, and his performance was thoroughly sound, able, and characteristic. Mr. Alec Johnstone as Sir Richard Cholmondeley was thoroughly satisfying, and his rendering of the part was worthy of warm praise. Mr. Pacie Ripple as Colonel Fairfax acted and sang in a manner which won for him general commendation; Mr. Overton Moyle contributed a most satisfactory embodiment of Sergeant Meryll; and Mr. Henry Burnand's depiction of Leonard Meryll was all that could be desired. Mr. H. M. White made a duly stern and solemn Headsman; and Mr. Frank Beckett, Mr. Leo Sheffield, Mr. Richard Andean, and Mr. Rowland Williams were seen to advantage in minor rôles. Miss Lilian Coomber as Elsie used a sweet and strong soprano with skill, and acted agreeably. Miss Jessie Rose, the Phœbe of the revival, was full of piquancy, vivacity, and spontaneous archness, and sang prettily. Miss Louie Réné as Dame Carruthers did her work remarkably well; and Miss Marie Wilson showed decided promise in the little part of Kate.

The whole production bore the impress of the artistic feeling and painstaking thoroughness which we always expect in a Savoy production; the mounting, the dressing, and the stage-management being almost flawless. This result was obviously due to the liberality and enterprise of Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, to the supervising solicitude of Mr. W. S. Gilbert, and to the thorough knowledge and ripe experience of Mr. François Cellier, who conducted the performance quite unimpeachably, and who is so steeped in Savoy tradition, and so familiar with the score and its treatment as to be able to carry out in detail every desire of the deceased composer. The revival of *The Yeomen of the Guard* had, in addition to the services of a very clever and competent cast, the advantage of the very best kind of rehearsal. It was not surprising that all this labour and talent met with their due reward of wildly enthusiastic applause. Even after the fire-curtain had been lowered the audience remained clapping and cheering, until absolute physical exhaustion put an end to their demonstrations. Mrs. Carte should feel fully satisfied with her courageous and well-carried-out experiment, and we congratulate her on its triumph.

"MACBETH" AT THE GARRICK.

On Tuesday Afternoon, Dec. 11,
Revival of Shakespeare's Tragedy.

Duncan .....MR. LEVESON LANE
Malcolm .....MR. WALTER PEARCE
Donalbain .....MR. DOUGLAS IMBERT
Macbeth .....MR. BOURCHIER
Banquo .....MR. SYDNEY VALENTINE
Fleance .....MISS PAMELA GAYTHORNE
Macduff .....MR. MATHESON LANG
Lennox .....MR. WILLIAM BURCHILL
Ross .....MR. ACTON BOND
Angus .....MR. ALFRED BRISTOWE
Siward .....MR. REED
Seyton .....MR. DOUGLAS
A Doctor .....MR. CHARLES V. FRANCE
A Porter .....MR CHARLES GOODHART
First Murderer .....MR. LAWSON BUTT
Second Murderer .....MR. FRANK LACY
The Three Witches .....MR. H. NYE CHART, MR. ARTHUR WHITBY, MRS. H. NYE CHART
Apparitions .....MISS OLIVE TERRY, MISS EVELYN BATEMAN
Lady Macbeth .....MISS VIOLET VANBRUGH
A Gentlewoman .....MISS NORA GREENLAW

Mr. Bernard Shaw in one of his prefaces regrets that the text of Shakespeare did not come down to us accompanied by the author's stage-directions and instructions as to "business." Had this happened, it would have simplified the task of revival immensely. On the other hand, there is something attractive in the idea of each fresh producer of a Shakespearean play having a "clean sheet," and full scope for the exercise of his imagination and ingenuity. Each successive reproduction of a famous play is adorned with a multitude of happy inventions, embellishing and illustrating the original idea in a wonderful way. Mr. Arthur Bourchier's revival of *Macbeth* at the Garrick Theatre on Tuesday afternoon is full of suggestive additions; indeed, there are so many of them, that some may easily escape notice and enumeration. When Lady Macbeth, *solus*, is meditating on her husband's future greatness, she sits by the fire in her hall, making a most picturesque figure, with her long hair and flowing robes. Macbeth writes the letter to his wife on the stage, in the midst of the soliloquy about the witch's prophesy; and between the two lines,

"Away, and mock the time with fairest show,
False face must hide what the false heart must know,"

Mr. Bourchier goes off the stage, and Duncan and some of his attendants enter, and are led by Lady Macbeth to the banqueting hall. On the line, "We are yet but young in deed," she starts back as if she had seen a ghost, and falls in a faint, while he leans over her affrighted. After the murder of Banquo and the flight of Fleance, the murderers leave the stage, and the lad creeps out from his hiding-place in a bush to weep over his father's corpse. Glamis is pronounced "Glarms." And there are other fertile contrivances, too numerous to mention in detail.

And now as to the general complexion of the revival. *Macbeth* is a play about which much has been written; and there will always be argument about the characters of the two leading personages. The practical dramatist, however, will at once perceive Shakespeare's difficulty. He wanted to write a play with a "murder motive," and to make it a Soul Drama, not merely one of action and incident. His only chance, therefore, was to endow his homicide with more feeling and imagination than is possessed by the ordinary criminal. The average man-slayer, if we may judge from the accounts in the "Newgate Calendar," is not troubled with "brain-sick" thoughts. Indeed, nothing is more remarkable than the clumsiness with which most murders are committed, the careless way in which detection is almost courted, and the callous contentment of the murderer until detected and punished. To supply a Soul Drama, then, Shakespeare had to make his murderer a man of brains and imagination. The chief difference between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth is that of intelligence. When Lady Macbeth says her husband has too much of the milk of "human-kind-ness"—*i.e.*, what is called "common-sense," the inherited experience of the race—she unconsciously pronounces a criticism on herself. Macbeth is clear-sighted, considerate, rational. He does not believe in a next world; but he is quite awake to the uncomfortable consequences of crime in a society, at any rate, semi-civilised. He is ardently desirous of being King; he is as confirmed a regalo-maniac as his wife. But the difference between them is that he has brain as well as will-power, while she is will-power untrammelled by foresight. The only weak point about Lady Macbeth is her nervous system; that of Macbeth is his imagination. She does not share with her husband the hallucination which leads him to see Banquo's ghost; but when the troubles which he foresaw—but she did not—have worn her out—and to live with an anxious, remorseful, and morbidly-moralising criminal is enough to wear out the strongest woman—then, and only then, she succumbs to nervous breakdown, and commits suicide in a fit of melancholia.

Lady Macbeth is, in short, intensely and essentially feminine. Under the dominion of a passionate, but not personal, ambition, she can quell the tender feelings natural to woman; but it should be noted that her share in the crime has to be committed under the influence of drink. Her limited intellect sees only the immediate results of Duncan's murder, i.e., the pomp and pleasures of sovereignty. She thinks no more of a murder than Nora Helmer does of forging a cheque.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh give readings of the two rôles quite in accordance with these theories. Mr. Bourchier's Macbeth carries out with admirable care and consideration the view of the Thane as a bold and courageous man, whose intelligence, after a poisonous idea has once taken root in his mind, is ever at war with his overmastering desire. Miss Vanbrugh does not make Lady Macbeth a stately, "stand-offish," dignified dame, but a passionate, affectionate woman, engrossed by the one idea of her husband's coming greatness, intense, earnest, and sensitively expressive. The part of Lady Macbeth has been so often stalked through in the "tragedy queen" spirit, that we need to be reminded that the greatest exponent of the personage on record, Mrs. Siddons, was a handsome and pliant performer, whose reading was "full of subtle and delicate touches, and of exquisite passages of tenderness." The tendency of Miss Vanbrugh's treatment of the character is quite in this direction, and her performance is replete with details significant of her view. At certain points she lowers her voice a little too much, and her delivery of the verse has a suspicion of monotony; but these are things which can easily be altered, and we only allude to them in the actress's interest. Mr. Leveson Lane's Duncan is a thoroughly sound and artistic piece of work, full of dignity, benevolence, and kingly ease. Mr. Sydney Valentine's Banquo deserves very warm praise, not only for its excellent technical qualities, but for the subtlety with which Mr. Valentine suggests the gradual growth of suspicion in Banquo's simple and honest nature. Mr. Matheson Lang's fine delivery and manly vigour well fit him for the part of Macduff, and he sustains it with marked success. Malcolm and Donalbain have competent and careful representatives in Mr. Walter Pearce and Mr. Douglas Imbert; and Miss Pamela Gaythorne is an innocent and expressive Fleance. Mr. William Burchill is very commendable as Lennox; and Mr. Acton Bond's Ross is a performance worthy of very warm praise—well-considered, and carried out with all this well-trained artist's genuine ability. Mr. Alfred Bristowe plays Angus effectively; and Mr. Reed does good work as Siward, Mr. Douglas being efficient as Seyton. Mr. Charles V. France plays the Doctor neatly; and Mr. Charles Goodhart does what can be done with the quaint character of the Porter. Mr. Lawson Butt and Mr. Frank Lacy make the murderers a pair of picturesque and resolute ruffians; and Mr. H. Nye Chart, Mr. Arthur Whitby, and Mrs. H. Nye Chart are very weird and awful Witches, Miss Olive Terry and Miss Evelyn Bateman doing well as the Apparitions, and Miss Nora Greenlaw speaking her lines creditably as the Gentlewoman. Mr. R. C. McCleery's scenery is very artistic, and in this connection there are some pretty and poetical lighting effects. Mr. Percy Anderson's designs for the costumes are worthy of his practised pencil. The smoothness and completeness of Mr. Alan Mackinnon's production is partly due to the assistance rendered by Mr. Arthur Whitby. All lovers of Shakespeare must feel grateful to Mr. Bourchier for giving them an opportunity of again seeing a play so seldom acted as *Macbeth*.

"THE VICAR OF WAKEFIELD."

A new Light Romantic Opera, in Three Acts, founded upon Goldsmith's novel; lyrics by Lawrence Housman and others, music by Liza Lehmann, produced for the first time in London at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, on Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Dr. Primrose .....MR. DAVID BISPHAM
Mrs. Primrose .....MRS. THEODORE WRIGHT
Sophia .....MISS EDITH CLEGG
Moses .....MR. ARTHUR ELDRED
Dick .....MASTER GORDON TRAVIS
Bill .....MISS ELFIN ARTHUR
"Mr. Burchell" .....MR. RICHARD TEMPLE
Squire Thornhill .....MR. WALTER HYDE
Mr. Jenkinson .....MR. CHARLES LANDER
Farmer Williams .....MR. POWIS PINDER
Lady Blarney .....MME. AMY MARTIN
Miss Carolina Wilhelmina Amelia Skeggs .....MISS VALERIE DE LACY
A Gipsy .....MISS BELLA WALLIS
Olivia .....MISS ISABEL JAY
1st Harvester .....MR. PERCY BATES
Dan o' the Mill .....MR. W. FORD-HAMILTON
A Gossip .....MISS BEATRICE JEFFREYS
1st Villager .....MR. MARCH HARDING
2nd Villager .....MR. THEO MOSS
Sally .....MISS PHYLLIS TAYLOR

The favourable verdict of Manchester has been thoroughly endorsed by London playgoers. *The Vicar of Wakefield* was first performed in the Midland town just a month ago; and the enthusiasm then displayed by the audience at the Prince's Theatre was, if anything, exceeded by that shown by those who witnessed the new romantic opera at the London house on Wednesday evening. Mme. Lehmann's music was found to be exceedingly bright and harmonious, and all the principal numbers were so persistently encored that the performance did not conclude until an inconveniently late hour. Perhaps the gem of the new opera was a quartet, which came at the close of the first act, "All day at ebb and flow," which had to be repeated no fewer than three times, and was a perfect vocal triumph for all concerned. The choruses were, without exception, tuneful and pleasing. Mr. Laurence Housman contributed many of the lyrics, but there were also additional lyrics by Oliver Goldsmith, Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, and others. The story of *The Vicar of Wakefield* is too well known to require repetition. It is sufficient to say that the leading incidents are included in the present version.

With the important exception of Miss Isabel Jay, who succeeds Miss Violette Londa as Olivia, the cast is the same as at the original production of the piece at Manchester. Miss Jay is as dainty and charming a representative of the Vicar's pretty daughter as could be wished for. She fully realised the innocent country maiden with no knowledge or experience of the wiles of the town-bred young man of fashion, of which Squire Thornhill is the type. Olivia's trustful innocence, her girlish coquetry with her handsome lover, and finally her keen sense of shame when she returns with her father to the home of her childhood were each in turn delightfully expressed. Miss Jay also had a large share in the musical honours of the evening, giving with much brightness and spirit the song in which she foretells by means of a blade of grass whom she is going to marry. Another well-rendered ditty in the second act was "My heart was at rest," and she also scored in the love duet with the deceptive young squire. Mr. David Bispham repeated his admirable embodiment of Dr. Primrose, a touching and delicate performance that greatly impressed the audience. As the kindly, God-fearing country vicar, blessed with a good wife and a healthy, happy family, he was excellently suited, and as the father suddenly bereaved of his favourite child the old man's grief and despair were most naturally and vividly depicted. Fortunately, Mr. Bispham can not only act well, but is an accomplished vocalist, and his services proved of the utmost value throughout. Early in the first act he has a capital song, "Go Fortune, Fortune turn thy wheel," in the refrain of which he is joined by the youthful Dick. Mr. Bispham made one of the most palpable hits of the evening with a neat musical setting of Goldsmith's well-known verses concerning the man of Islington who was bitten by a mad dog. The words were cleverly accompanied by appropriate action in amusing illustration of the incident; and as the Vicar approaches the comic climax of the story the country lads and lassies and the harvesters gather around. It was indeed remarkable what Mr. Bispham made of Goldsmith's lines, so that every point told. Mr. Walter Hyde was a handsome and gallant Squire Thornhill, passionate in his courtship of Olivia and duly repentant in the last act, when he returns to ask pardon of his bride and her father and mother, whose hospitality he has so basely abused. Mr. Hyde's tenor voice was heard to great advantage in the music which fell to his share. A chorus song, "Oh, life is made of ups and downs," was well received, and he was even more successful with the love ballad, "There are birds in the valley." He also contributed to the success of the duet between the lovers, already mentioned, and of the part-songs. Mr. Richard Temple played the part of "Mr. Burchell" in a manner that was thoroughly in keeping with the character, and very successful was he in his rendering of "With my pack on my back I go" and other numbers. Miss Edith Clegg did all that was possible with the part of Sophia, and both as actress and vocalist deserves warm praise. Mrs. Theodore Wright's ripe experience as a player was of great value in the part of the Vicar's wife, whom she presented as a cheerful, motherly dame with some amiable weaknesses. Mr. Arthur Eldred was well placed as Moses, and Master Gordon Travis as the lad Dick proved he was the possessor of a delightful tenor voice by his artistic rendering of Shakespeare's verses, "It was a lover and his lass." Mr. Charles Lander gave a convincing character-sketch of Mr. Jenkinson, and Mr. Powis Pinder was sufficiently bucolic and uncouth in the part of Farmer Williams as to render Olivia's objection to marrying him quite reasonable. The so-called Lady Blarney and Miss Skeggs had excellent exponents in Mme. Amy Martin and Miss Valerie de Lacy. Little Miss Elfin Arthur was pleasing and natural as the boy Bill, and Miss Bella Wallis appeared as a gipsy. Mr. Hamish MacCunn, the musical conductor, performed his duties efficiently, and Mr. Richard Temple was stage-manager, assisted by Mr. Arthur Willerby. The pretty scenery was from the brushes of Messrs. Joseph Harker, W. T. Hemsley, and Harry Potts.

"THE WEAVERS."

A Translation, by Mary Morison, of the Drama, in Five Acts, by Gerhart Hauptmann, Played at the Scala Theatre, at a Matinée, on Monday, Dec. 10.

Neumann .....MR. CECIL ROSE
Weaver's Wife .....MISS MARGARET MACKENZIE
Pfeifer .....MR. G. KAY SOUPER
Apprentice .....MR. A. G. MELFORD
Becker .....MR. PHILIP KNOX
First Weaver .....MR. ROBERT BOTTOMLEY
Old Baumert .....MR. FRED GROVE
Reimann .....MR. FRANK COLLINS
Heiber .....MR. HENRY KITTS
Dreissiger .....MR. KENYON MUSGRAVE
Old Weaver .....MR. W. H. ROTHERHAM
The Boy .....MISS BERTALDA VAN RAALTE
Mother Baumert .....MRS. STANISLAUS CALHAEM
Emma Baumert .....MISS PENELOPE WHEELER
Bertha Baumert .....MISS ELLY MALVON
August .....MR. A. G. MELFORD
Fritz .....MISS IRENE ROSS
Old Ansorge .....MR. H. R. HIGNETT
Mrs. Heinrich .....MISS BERTALDA VAN RAALTE
Moritz Jaeger .....MR. ARTHUR WONTNER
Welzel .....MR. HENRY KITTS
Wiegand .....MR. JAMES R. SINCLAIR
Mrs. Welzel .....MISS ANNIE HILL
Commercial Traveller .. MR. LANGHORNE BURTON
Hornig .....MR. ATHOL FORDE
Anna Welzel .....MISS LILIAN TWEED
Forester .....MR. W. E. HOLLOWAY
Peasant .....MR. FRANC STONEY
Wittig .....MR. CALEB PORTER
Kutsche .....MR. BURTON COOKE
Pastor Kittelhaus .....MR. CECIL ROSE
Weinhold .....MR. ROBERT BOTTOMLEY
Mrs. Dreissiger .....MISS ELLY MALVON
Mrs. Kittelhaus .....MISS PENELOPE WHEELER
Heide .....MR. LANGHORNE BURTON
Maid .....MISS MARGARET MACKENZIE
John .....MR. W. E. HOLLOWAY
Old Hilse .....MR. ROBERT FARQUHARSON
Mother Hilse .....MISS ISABEL GREY
Luise .....MISS HUTIN BRITTON
Gottlieb .....MR. A. G. MELFORD
Mielchen .....MISS IRENE ROSS
Schmidt .....MR. FRANK COLLINS

It is a curious feature of modern "realistic" art that most of it is an indictment of the existing order of things. Without exactly advocating Socialism, it is bitterly dissatisfied with the system of capitalistic production, and it devotes much of its strength to an exposition of the evils of present arrangements. The process of "rubbing it in" to the middle and upper classes, who are the chief supporters of the theatre, still goes on in foreign lands; and, though many things have happened since *Die Weber*—or *De Waber*, as it is called in Silesian patois—was first performed at the Deutsches Theatre, Berlin, in the February of 1893, there is such a strong appeal in the piece to the elementary instincts—pity for the starving and sympathy with the oppressed—that we can quite believe that a first-rate revival by German actors would affect an audience in the same way as did the original performance.

Vivid as it is in the remorseless actuality of its details, *The Weavers*, as a work of art, is unsatisfactory. It is a historical sketch, dealing with a phase of industrial life. Hauptmann took for his subject a period of sore distress in a certain trade; distress such as was felt in England in the Napoleonic times, when the Orders in Council brought many manufacturers to ruin, and hundreds of factory workers to the verge of starvation. But the distress came to an end; it was only a phase, after all. There is no glimmer of hope, however, in Hauptmann's piece. On the contrary, such is the "inspissated gloom" of his view that he does not even give his indignant audience the satisfaction of shooting the manufacturer. The person whom the audience see slain is a harmless old man, who sticks to his work and does not join the rioters. Previous to this, our feelings have been deeply harrowed by the spectacle of the privations of the helpless mechanics. Their work is found fault with by a malicious manager; their pay is cut down to starvation point; and they consider roast dog as a rare and dainty luxury. At last they rise in crazy despair, storm the manufacturer's house, and smash his furniture. But nothing comes of it except the accident to the old man who stops at home and sticks to his loom. In a work which depends on its effect upon realism, an impression of reality is the first requisite; and that the Stage Society's revival of the piece at the Scala Theatre on Monday afternoon certainly did not create. Careful and conscientious as the acting all round was, it had not that quality of engrossing conviction, which alone could have made *The Weavers* interesting and enthralling. Amongst the performances which stood out from the background in excellence was that of Mrs. Calhaem, whose Mother Baumert was a graphic and pathetic picture of miserable and garrulous old age, full of truth and character. Mr. Kenyon Musgrave was capital as the hard, polished, and self-satisfied manufacturer; and Mr. G. Kay Souper gave a striking embodiment of the harsh and cruel manager Pfeifer, Mr. Cecil Rose being quite satisfactory as a cashier and a clergyman. Mr. Fred Grove put plenty of senile shakiness into his performance as Old Baumert; and Mr. H. R. Hignett did good work as Old Ansorge, Mr. Arthur Wontner giving a spirited reading of the rôle of Moritz Jaeger, and Mr. Philip Knox making a bold, defiant, and demonstrative Becker. Mr. Henry Kitts supplied a neat rendering of Welzel; and Mr. Athol Forde was highly commendable as Hornig, Mr. Robert Farquharson and Miss Isabel Grey, as the Hilse couple, also deserving praise. The production of the piece, by Hans Andersen, was creditable.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

An orchestral concert was given at the Royal College on Tuesday evening. The concert commenced with Mendelssohn's fine overture "Hebrides," in which the young students, led by their accomplished conductor, Sir Charles V. Stanford, did themselves no little credit. In the Three Elizabethan Pastorals, "An Idyll," "Amongst the Willows," and "The Morris Dance," by A. Herbert Brewer, the most effective was "Amongst the Willows," which, however, suffered in some degree by the clever, but over-elaborate, orchestral accompaniment. The Pastorals were admirably sung by Mr. Denis Byndon-Ayres. Dvorák's Concerto for Violoncello in B minor was played by Miss Beatrice Jones, who in the opening movement was slightly rough in tone, but in the beautiful Adagio, with its plaintive melody, both soloist and orchestra were in more perfect harmony, and at the close Miss Jones received a most hearty recall. Max Bruch's scene, "The Battle" (Die Schlacht), was sung with real dramatic feeling and power by Miss Dilys Jones, who possesses a fine mezzo-soprano voice; and the concert concluded with a clever performance of Brahms' Symphony No. 2 in D. A large audience were present.

A GRAND orchestral concert will be given by the Crystal Palace Orchestral Society, assisted by the Palace choir of 300 performers, this afternoon at the Crystal Palace. The programme will include selections from Weber, Beethoven, Liszt, Cowen, and Massenet. Herr Vigge Kihl will give pianoforte solos, and Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock (musical director of the Palace) will conduct.

MR. FORBES-ROBERTSON, being unable, owing to a temporary affection of the throat, to play his part of Cæsar in *Cæsar and Cleopatra*, at the New Amsterdam Theatre, New York, on Wednesday, Nov. 28, his understudy, Mr. Halliwell Hobbes, took up the rôle for three performances.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

The statements of accounts issued relating to the Stage Employees' Concert is as follows:—

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
By sale of tickets	143	16	0
Programmes and cloak-room	6	4	2
Donations, less amounts deducted for tickets supplied	20	10	0
	170	10	2

Payments.

To rent of theatre	30	0	0
Services of front house staff and floral decorations	10	10	2
Hire of orchestra, accompanist's fee, music, and instruments	69	8	0
Press advertisements	22	6	0
Printing	14	15	0
Postage, stationery, bill distribution, and sundry items	6	19	0
	153	18	2
Balance	16	12	0
	170	10	2

Tickets sold by the following, as stated:—Mr. Harry Norton (stage-manager), the Haymarket Theatre, £14 9s.; Mr. E. Dagnall (stage-manager), the Criterion Theatre, £7 12s.; Mr. R. Affleck, Opera House, £1; Mr. A. Palmer, Comedy Theatre, £1 0s. 6d.; Mr. A. Spaull, Tivoli, 5s.; Mr. A. Jones, Opera House, £1 9s.; Mr. Sinkins, Comedy Theatre, 15s.; Mr. J. Cullen, St. James's, £3 7s.; Mr. G. H. Dyball, Tivoli, £1 4s.; Mr. Papworth, Tivoli, 5s.; Mr. Earnshaw, Paragon, 5s.; Mr. Ashburner, Broadway Theatre, 14s.; Mr. H. J. Powell, Prince of Wales's Theatre, £1 19s.; Messrs. McMullen and Keating, the Court Theatre, £3 15s. 6d.; Mr. G. Poynton-Applebee, Gaiety Theatre, £1 1s.; Mr. C. Thorogood, £3 2s.; Mr. P. Thomas, Alhambra, £4 6s. 6d.; Mr. Taylor, Alhambra, 17s.; Mr. J. Haley, Alhambra, £1 5s. 6d.; Mr. E. Stow, New Theatre, £1 19s. before the day and £1 18s. on the day; Mr. H. Bowmer, Gaiety Theatre, 10s.; Mr. W. G. Farrell, Criterion Theatre, £4 18s.; Mr. J. Atterton, £1 19s.; Mr. G. T. Dalgarno, Empire, £2 3s.; Mr. W. C. Weaver, Lyric, £1; Mr. G. Palmer, Paragon, 8s. 6d.; Mr. W. J. Hindley, Vandeville, £2 9s. 6d.; Mr. C. Terry, 2s.; Mr. J. Phelps, Drury Lane, £1 15s. 6d.; Mr. B. J. Taylor, Comedy Theatre, 6s.; and Mr. J. Hands, Pavilion Theatre, 5s. Receipts at office, per Wm. Johnson, £37 17s. 6d.

The sales before the day were some £32 less than the previous year, although the receipts were slightly more than the 1904 receipts.

Mr. Ballard, late master carpenter at the Colliseum, has been appointed master carpenter at the Aldwych Theatre, and will accompany Mr. Hicks to his new theatre in Shaftesbury-avenue. Mr. G. H. Darer, who was recently wtih Mr. Hicks at the Aldwych, is now master carpenter at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, and Mr. Fred Lersh has been appointed property master at that house. Both were former members of Sir Henry Irving's staff.

On Sunday evening last the first of a series of concerts for members, their wives, and friends of the Musicians' Club was given in the club's new premises in Trafalgar House, Newport-street. There was a good attendance, and an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered. Mr. James O'Grady, M.P., was to have presided, but was unable to be present. Mr. J. B. Williams, the general secretary, from Manchester, was present. The club committee have issued an invitation to the heads of the various stage departments to become members of the club. The secretary, Mr. C. Jesson, L.C.C., will be glad to show visitors over the rooms.

At a meeting of the provisional committee of the Daymen branch of the National Association Theatrical Employees, held during the week, a draft of the by-laws for the branch was considered and copies issued to members. It was decided, owing to pressure of work in connection with the Christmas productions, to adjourn the meetings of the committee to the first Friday in January. The general meeting of members will be held on the second Sunday in January.

The action of the Variety Artists' Federation in connection with the Brixton Empress and Hippodrome has aroused great interest among the members of the Stage Employees' Association and the Musicians' Union. This feeling has been increased by the proceedings at the meeting of the "V.A.F.," held in The Horns Hotel, Kennington, on Sunday last, at which Mr. J. B. Williams, general secretary, Mr. C. Jesson, London secretary of the Musicians' Union, and Mr. William Johnson, secretary of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, spoke, and were warmly welcomed by the large and enthusiastic meeting. Since that day an informal conference of representatives of the three societies has been held, at which a recommendation was agreed to for submission to the Executive Committee of each Society, which has been ratified by the committees concerned, and will pledge these societies to joint action in the present dispute.

A general meeting of the Carpenters' Branch of the "N.A.T.E." will be held on Sunday evening in the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane, at eight o'clock. All members are urged to attend. Among other matters to be considered is the question of federation with the Musicians and Variety Artists' Societies.

A meeting of stage employees will be held in the Hare and Hounds Hotel, Upper-street, Islington, at eight o'clock on Sunday evening, The action of the variety artists and the candidates for the L.C.C. election are among the subjects for consideration.

SALE OF THE LYCEUM.

Mr. Brougham Glasier, of the firm of Glasier and Sons, of St. James's-street, S.W., offered the Lyceum Theatre for sale at the Auction Mart, Tokenhouse-yard, on Thursday afternoon. On a previous occasion, it will be remembered, no sale was effected, the property being withdrawn at a bid under reserve price. The auctioneer, after an eloquent description of the property, stated that the sale was made under order of Mr. Justice Kekewich. In addition to the theatre, with its seating capacity of 2,750 people, there was included in the property shop and business premises at Nos. 33 to 37, Exeter-street, and No. 21, Wellington-street, Strand. The purchase had to be completed by March next. The rebuilt theatre had been passed by the County Council, and was ready to be re-opened. The reserve price was fixed by order of the Court. The land on which the property stood was undoubtedly of high value, and in the Strand it realised 15s. to £1 per foot. Mr. Glasier suggested that the site value was worth £6 per foot for the freehold. There was a total of footage equal at that value to not less than £141,000. They ought to add to that at least £50,000 as the cost of the theatre, while the contents were "thrown in," and were worth £4,000 to £5,000; so that they got near to a total of £200,000. The first bid was £100,000, followed by one of £105,000, then by one of £110,000, it being decided to take rises of £5,000; then £115,000 was bid, next £116,000, £117,000, and £118,000, and the auctioneer objected to £1,000 rises. Then came £119,000 and £119,500, at which the property was sold. The name of the purchaser was not made public.

THE NEW TIVOLI, LIVERPOOL.

Miss Vesta Tilley has had a wide, but none the less pleasant, experience in connection with the ceremonial of launching new enterprises, and the pleasant little function of Saturday afternoon, when the popular artist laid the commemoration stone of the New Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Liverpool, will be sure to be numbered among the happy events of her life. "I declare this stone well and truly laid, and I wish the Tivoli every success," were the words uttered by Miss Tilley as she gracefully performed her pleasant duty in the charming vestibule of the new house. The company then adjourned to the auditorium, where a little speechmaking was indulged in. Mr. J. Kiernan, on behalf of the promoters, thanked Miss Tilley for her kindness in gracing the proceedings that afternoon, and referred to the fact that theatres of that description, with their two houses a night, had done much to provide entertainment for a class of people who previously were unable to afford to pay a big price for their amusement.

Mr. Walter De Frece remarked that they had every hope that the new theatre would be successful. To-day there was fierce competition in the music halls, but the Tivoli was not intended to compete against any existing theatre of its kind in the city. Its object was rather to satisfy a long-felt want in this part of Liverpool. He had pleasure in announcing that when Miss Vesta Tilley had fulfilled her present engagements, she would appear on the boards of that theatre. He assured them that nothing would occupy that stage that they would be ashamed to bring their wives and sisters to witness, and he hoped that twelve months hence the directors would be able to say that they had kept their promise to provide a bright and refined entertainment.

The Tivoli Palace of Varieties will accommodate 1,500 people, viz., stalls 150, circle 300, pit 500, and gallery about 600. No attempt has been made in the exterior appearance of the theatre in the way of elaborate ornamentation, but inside nothing has been left undone which would tend to appeal to the artistic eye as well as the comfort and convenience of the audience. In fact, it has been aptly described as the most luxurious and the cosiest house of varieties in Liverpool. The decorator has shown his skill to the best advantage in a scheme of blue, pink, and gold, while the upholstering throughout is of a rich and attractive character. The proscenium, which is 20ft. wide and 24ft. deep, is adorned by large heavy plush and old gold tableaux curtains, which enhance the general beauty of the internal fittings.

It is interesting to note that, with the exception of the doors, windows, barriers, and seats, there is no wood in the building, everything practically being of concrete, this safeguarding the theatre against risk of fire. The main entrance to the stalls and circle is from Lime-street, that of the pit and gallery being gained from Back Lime-street. Ample provision has been made in regard to exits, and the whole building is liberally lighted by an electric installation. The theatre is a two-tier house. On the ground-floor are the stalls and pit; the first tier is devoted to the dress circle, above which is the gallery. The stage "gives on" to seven dressing-rooms, with excellent accommodation for the artists. The fact that the Tivoli has been erected on the site of the long-popular St. James's Hall, where Sam Hague's Minstrels performed so excellently in days gone by, is looked upon, at any rate, as a happy augury of the success of the new hall, which was opened to the public on Monday. The old site has been retained, but nothing whatever remains of the old structure, and Mr. Bertie Crewe, the architect, who designed the new Lyceum, the Standard, and planned the Bedford, may be congratulated upon having realised so many possibilities in the new building.

TOURING MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION.

A general meeting of the Touring Managers' Association was held at the premises of the Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, on Friday afternoon, Mr. E. Lockwood (the president) occupied the chair, and the following gentlemen were present: Messrs. J. Bannister Howard, G. M. Polini, Wentworth Croke, Cecil Barth, Luscombe Searelle, Rollo Balmain, Michael Dempsey, Muskerry Tilson (hon. solicitor), and G. B. Lambert (hon. secretary).

IRVING MEMORIAL.

It was decided that the Touring Managers' Association should be represented at the meeting to be held at the Garrick Theatre on Tuesday next by eight members of the Association.

The question of payment for rehearsals, which has been put forward by the Actors' Association, was discussed, and the secretary was instructed to forward to the secretary of the Association the conditions agreed upon for the consideration of the Council, and, if approved of, they are to be included in the form of joint contract now existing between the two Associations.

The subscription of members of the Touring Managers' Association to the Club was considered, and it was decided that no advance should be made in the subscription, notwithstanding the success that has attended the establishment of the club. A vote of thanks to the chairman, hon. solicitor, and hon. secretary terminated the meeting.

A meeting of the committee of the Managers' Club was afterwards held, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. J. Bannister Howard for having on Sunday last so successfully inaugurated the social evenings. It was decided that the second social evening should be given on Sunday, Jan. 20, Mr. E. Lockwood will preside, and has undertaken all the necessary arrangements for the programme. All members of the club are cordially invited, and each member has the privilege of introducing two friends, provided the secretary is duly notified.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.
BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—The late Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Contains in a handy compass and in a clear style the law relating to theatres and music halls. The book is well up to date.—*Law Times.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. A. A. Strong has compiled an exceedingly useful volume dealing carefully, intelligently, and fully with the law bearing upon things theatrical. As a book of reference this excellent digest will be found invaluable.—*The Era.*

Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, accompanied by Princess Victoria, witnessed the performance of *The Yeomen of the Guard* at the Savoy Theatre on Thursday evening.

Mr. H. Leslie Bell has had an entirely new and startling finish arranged for *Are You a Gentleman?* by its author, Mr. John Lawson. It will be played at the Macnaghten halls for the next five weeks, commencing at the Surrey on the 24th.

"A Game of Spoof," a new comedy sketch, will be produced at the Palace Theatre, Manchester, this (Saturday) afternoon, by Leonard Yorke and Mary Hardacre.

"EAST LYNNE" IN MINIATURE.

On Monday, Dec. 10,
a Sketch, in Three Scenes, arranged by Mrs. Bennett from Mrs. Henry Wood's story,
entitled
"EAST LYNNE."

Archibald Carlyle .....Mr. E. E. Norris
Francis Levison .....Mr. Walner Gregory
Detective Brown .....Mr. Jack Scott
Barbara Hare .....Miss Florence Harcourt
Little Willie .....Miss May Madeson
Lady Isabel .....Mrs. Bennett

A speciality is being made by Mr. Jack Woolf at the Queen's, Poplar, of the production of dramatic sketches on an elaborate scale, and this week has witnessed the staging of *East Lynne* in a manner which would reflect credit on a West End hall. The playlet is confined to three scenes, and portrays the flight of Lady Isabel in response to the persuasions of the unscrupulous Francis Levison. The story of her degradation is alluded to in the third episode, which depicts the arrest of Levison for the murder of John Hallijohn, and the final scenes are those of the death of Little Willie and his devoted mother. Mr. Woolf, under whose supervision the piece was produced, has mounted the sketch with a liberal hand, taking full advantage of the facilities for effective display presented by the enormous stage, and studying every detail, however minute. The drawing-room set is lavishly decorated, a handsome tapestry carpet combining well with the massive furniture and elegant appointments. The lighting effects are also skilfully utilised, brilliant electric light chandeliers setting off to advantage the handsome interior. Effective music has been supplied by Mr. Fred Venton, the conductor of the hall.

In the selection of the cast Mr. Woolf once more shows the possession of an experienced eye, and by the engagement of artists of ripe experience and practised methods has secured a performance which is wholly admirable. Mr. Ernest E. Norris, who rendered invaluable aid in the supervision of rehearsals, gives distinction to the part of Archibald Carlyle, suggesting with perfect conviction the nobility of nature of the injured man. Every scene in which he takes part is acted with rare finish, and to this effect Mrs. Bennett as the woful Lady Isabel contributes in no less degree. Mrs. Bennett and Mr. Nelson have been long associated in triumphs in melodrama in the past, and their performance of the telling scenes in the present production fully maintain their reputation. The pathos of the parting with the dying child is delineated with deep poignancy, and the subsequent reconciliation between husband and wife is made equally acute. Miss May Madeson is a pretty and talented representative of Little Willie, speaking with natural emphasis and acting realistically, and Miss Florence Harcourt cleverly allies the deceit and malevolence of Barbara Hare with an attractive appearance. Mr. Walner Gregory draws a vivid picture of the evil-natured Levison, playing with suppressed passion that is very artistic. Humour also enters into his impersonation, that quality being prominent in his encounter with the police officer who comes to arrest him. The officer in question is no longer a constable, but a detective, and he was smartly presented at the hands of Mr. Jack Scott, who serves to modernise the piece, by an ingenious little witticism in which the names of various motor-'buses figure. The audience received the piece in appreciative silence, with frequent outbursts of cheers.

Mr. Woolf, it may be added, is constantly studying the comfort of the patrons of Messrs. F. and M. Abrahams' hall, which is admirably lit, and presents a bright interior. Heavy draperies at the entrance to the vestibule now preclude all chance of draughts, and a system of heating recently introduced keeps the auditorium warm and cosy—a similar provision for the comfort of the artists being extended to the stage and dressing-rooms.

MUSIC-HALL CRISIS AND LICENSING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—In the general comments in the Press on the music-hall strike and licensing I have not noticed that attention has been called to the origin of the mischief, and that is the refusal of the L.C.C. to grant the same liberty to the management at Brixton with their place of entertainment on obtaining their licence as is given to their competitors elsewhere.

Undoubtedly the Council can make any condition they like. They can say—and they "have" said—"you either take your licence as we give it you, or you do not take it at all"; but surely what is fair for other parts of the Metropolis is good enough for Brixton. That the prices of admission are small is not an argument against these places of entertainment.

Many councillors do not care about exercising their functions as licensing justices, while, to go a little deeper into the matter, it is only fair to say that the result has been brought about by deputations waiting on Labour members within the Council, who are endeavouring to create a trade union amongst variety artists, who, until this warfare, have lived in amity and on terms of good feeling with the various proprietors and directors who engage their services.

The licensing of places of entertainment in this huge Metropolis is a matter of public importance. It not only affects those who are heavily rated, and employ large numbers, but it affects the people, who require proper entertainment at prices comfortably within their means; and it seems that the time is now ripe for the revival of the resolutions recommended some time in 1901 by the Theatres Committee—"that it be referred to the General Purposes Committee" to consider and report upon the question of the present procedure of the Council in regard to the licensing of theatres and music-halls, on which an amendment was proposed by Sir Melvill Beachcroft that the words be added "and whether any alteration of the law is desirable." No less than thirty-five members of the Council voted for the said amendment.—Yours faithfully, HENRI GROS.

1, Durham House-street, W.C.,
Dec. 7.

IN MEMORIAM.

George Le Brunn. Died Dec. 18, 1905.

George, dear old chum, a year has well-nigh fled
Since you from earthly ties were called away;
And yet your mem'ry lives, green as the bay,
In hearts to which you never can be dead.
We miss the cheery laugh—the gay words said
In blithe good-fellowship, and turn away,
Lest others see within our eyes the spray
That at the fount of Memory is shed.

Light lay the sod above thy head, dear George!
The hand that touched the harp, alas! is mute:
Death stilled the melody that thou didst forge—
Death made the "little rift within the lute."
But when the travail of this life is o'er,
Perchance we'll hear thy melody once more.

JOHN P. HARRINGTON.

Mr. Dorrindge will produce the pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, at the Empire, Oldham, on Saturday next. A strong company includes Miss Marguerite Ruby, Miss Venie Clements, the Sisters Cora, Miss Jeannie Ruby, and Miss Lillian Calden, and Messrs. Harry Ray, Flocton Foster, Arnold Richardson, Tom Fancourt, Earnest Laws, Alfred Selby, Elton and Elma, and the Monte Carlo troupe.

Mr. Herbert Barrs will present his pantomime *Aladdin* at the Grand Theatre, Mansfield, on Boxing night.

AMUSEMENTS IN BIRMINGHAM.

Theatre Royal.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—Miss Camille Clifford made her first and only appearance in Birmingham prior to her retirement from the stage, at a flying matinée here on Monday, when she had a cordial reception from a crowded and interested audience. Miss Clifford vouchsafed her now famous ditty, "Why do they call me a Gibson girl?" from *The Belle of Mayfair*, which she supplemented with her equally famous Gibson Walk, evoking the most enthusiastic plaudits thereby. The fair artist was accompanied and assisted by Miss Margaret Cooper, Mr. Josef Holbrooke, Mr. George Grossmith, jun., Miss Clara Evelyn Smith, Mr. J. F. McCormack, Miss Ivy Angore, Miss Violet Elliott, Mr. Allen Turner, and Miss Clara Alexander. Miss Louie Risbey acted as accompanist. Mlle. Janotha, the famous Polish pianist, also appeared; and Miss Margaret Cooper's contributions were much appreciated.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—Mr. James Welch and company remain here from last week in the highly-successful farce, *When Knights Were Bold*, which continues to attract large houses.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh are doing good business here with *Leah Kleschna*. Miss Bessie Rignold graces the title-rôle in an admirable manner; Mr. Paul Belmore invests the character of Kleschna with an indomitable will and admirable fire; Mr. William F. Grant creates an excellent impression as Paul Sylvaine; Mr. Hamilton Deane gives a most effective portrayal of Raoul Berton; Mr. Campbell Goldsmid does capable work as Schram; Mr. Roland Daniel is successful in the fullest degree, both as General Berton and Valentine Favre; the Misses Ethel Russell and Helene Belgrave act admirably as Madame and Claire Berton respectively; and Miss Violet Thorold is very satisfactory as Sophie.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood.—Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil present that new and excellent drama, *Her Luck in London*. Miss Neil as the heroine, Nelly Harborne, declaims her stirring lines with thrilling effect, while her pathos melts all hearts; Mr. G. Langdon as her tempter, Richard Lenowen, plays on the audience's feelings in a clever manner; Mr. Charles A. Leicester displays all the virtues and courage of the stalwart young Irishman, O'Connor; Mr. Douglas Treymayne is successful, and highly popular as the Rev. Lionel Strong; Mr. Tyrone Power simulates the stern attributes of Stephen Harborne most successfully; Miss Frances Bruce acts gracefully as the dutiful Lilian Harborne; Miss Ada Rosco plays the vengeful rôle of Mme. Gabrielle with admirable zest; while her remorse in the latter stages is well depicted; Miss Florrie Groves acts with sparkling animation as Maud Gladys Shovepenny, and her bright looks are a considerable asset in the play; and Mr. J. Tilly Dillsen, Mr. Bruce Chapman, Miss Pamela Hodson, and others prove exceptionally successful in their parts.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor. — *Siberia* is the attraction here, played by Mr. Andrew Melville's own company. Mr. Melville appears as one, Michael Trolsky, described as a "general nuisance," albeit, Mr. Melville's excellent powers of comedy make him a general favourite. Miss Rose Ralph as the tiger lily, Sara, acts with fine spirit, and frequently moves the audience to tears and applause; Mr. Percy Dawsone adds to his popularity with his vigorous action as Nicholai; Mr. F. A. Mackensie represents the character of the libertine and oppressor, Jaracoff, with his usual robustness; Mr. Edward Finlay bears himself as Sparta in an appropriate spy-like manner; Miss Jessie Yatman wins much sympathy with her wistful air and pretty acting as the demented girl and victim, Marie; Miss Amy Corelli is vivacious as Vera; and Miss Alice May, Miss Maud Sanders, Miss Grace Ingles, Mr. William Leyton, Mr. Herbert Young, Mr. Francis Everard, and Mr. Chas. Harker, with several others, take prominent parts.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Miss Grace Warner and company keep up the attendance here with their well-staged performance of *The Scarlet Clue*. Miss Warner's histrionic powers are well proved in the rôle of Sal Scarlet; Mr. George Gordon makes many admirers as Michael Stanton; Mr. Reginald Brown makes a clever distinction in his acting of the twin-brothers, Jack and Harry Esmond; Miss Hilda Herne acts with admirable effect as Elsie Dane; Miss Kathleen Cranston sustains her part as Mother Scrooge with apt realism; and Miss Anna Corrie as Tabitha is well suited. Mr. Arthur Page portrays the rôle of Crazy Jim with the utmost success; Mr. J. L. Leigh appears in a highly-diverting style as Billy the Rotter, and contributes several successful songs; the Misses Phyllis Massey and Violet Palfrey are favourites by reason of their clever efforts in the juvenile rôles of Reggie and Polly respectively; and Mr. Edgar Bruce, Mr. Jack Clarence, Mr. Richards, and Miss Mobray contribute ably. *The Little Widow* and *My Artful Valet* are also in the week's programme.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*The French Spy* gains a flattering reception here for Mr. Fred Benton and company. Mr. Benton, in his cleverly-humorous rôle of Fritz, is a great attraction, and scores hugely; while Miss Cissie Cleveland as Julie makes a most useful ally. Miss Madge Devereux acts with splendid ability as the Countess Andre; Miss A. Harrison Tate gives a fine distinction to the rôle of Olga; Mr. Beresford Lovett impresses the audience favourably as Captain Summers; Mr. Max Coutts acts well and powerfully as Count Romanoff; and Mr. L. Chaseby as Lieut. Maxwell, and Mr. Hugh Travers as General Trepoff, contribute much to the success. The other rôles are exceedingly well rendered, including Mr. Chas. Digby as Viscount Alexis, Mr. Claude Aymond as Lord Aynsley, Mr. Seymour Perry as Knipps, and Mr. Rex Ward as Revelski.

Empire.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Carl, the diminutive individual, is just a copy of Little Tich. *Crystal Gazing* is a particularly fascinating sketch, dealing with the occult, of which art Mr. Carl Hertz is giving some amusing and puzzling exhibitions; Alf. Gibson's "immovability" is well known and appreciated; the Rio Brothers are particularly graceful gymnasts; and the Brendon Sisters are good duettists and dancers. Adeline Yohle and the Horne Brothers are also on the bill.

Gaiety.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Cruikshank, "the fool of the family," heads the bill this week. He is very original and humorous. Another really good turn is Mount and Corelli, in a musical duologue; Mrs. Oscar Luck and company have a good sketch, entitled *Kismet*, which is greatly appreciated; an excellent musical turn is presented by the Two St. Johns; Herbert Bates, tener, has a good voice; Fred Barnes is a capable character vocalist; and Conan and Doyle are successful comedians. Alma Obrey has some catchy songs; and the Wheelers are clever and quaint cyclists.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford. — As the star turn this week, Ada Reeves receives a magnificent welcome. As a comedienne she is unsurpassed. Her charming vivacity and piquancy, together with her catchy songs, secure for her a triumph. The Bensons have an exceedingly good musical act; Les Rallis give a clever acrobatic act, *The Artist and His Monkey*; Wilton Heriot and company appear in a sketch, entitled *An Anglo-American Alliance*; and other turns which go to fill up an admirable programme are Winona and Colonel King, expert rifle shots; Belrose and De Velin, operatic duettists; the Four Maisanos, eccentric musicians; Arthur Stacey, comedian and dancer; and Miss Billie Burford, vocal comedienne.

Bordesley Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Fred Maxwell and company occupy the premier position on a good all-round bill, with a dramatic sketch, entitled *Dick Dare, M.P.* The Henry Taylor Trio of equilibrists are responsible for a brisk display; the Mezettis are clever on the triple bars; Cliff Ryland gives an amusing number; Walter Curtis, comedian, is much appreciated; Gertrude Bradshaw has a fine soprano voice; and Frank Darwin, actor-vocalist, is well received.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA.

Owing to pressure on our space, we have been compelled to hold over the weekly instalment of the above. The series will be continued next week.

ON THE ROAD, DEC. 17.

All-of-a-Sudden Peggy.—O. H., Cheltenham.
Assassin.—O. H., Doncaster.
Beautiful Fiend.—Grand T., Islington, N.
Bound to Win.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Bulmer, Mr.—Theatre Royal, Smethwick.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Blyth.
D'Oyly Carte.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Face at the Window.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Heart's Desire.—Queen's T., Gateshead.
Held Apart.—Metropole T., Manchester.
Her Luck in London.—T. R., Ashton.
Her Lost Self.—T. R., Barnsley.
Her Nameless Child.—T. R., Ton-y-pandy.
Her One Great Sin.—T. R., Aldershot.
Hour of Her Triumph.—P. O. W., Salford.
Indian Mutiny.—King's T., Longsight.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Elmsworth and Grayshott.
Little Breadwinner.—West London Theatre.
London Fireman.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
Midnight Wedding.—Prince's T., Preston.
Monte Cristo.—T. R., Middlesbro'.
Napoleon the Great.—O. H., Wakefield
Norman V. Norman.—Crystal Palace Theatre.
Plucky Nipper.—Empire T., Cradley.
Power of Gold.—County T., Reading.
Prodigal Parson.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Private Secretary.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Proof.—Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Revenge.—New T., Consett.
Romany's Revenge.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
Royal Divorce.—O. H., Radcliffe.
Saints and Sinners.—T. R., West Bromwich.
Second to None.—Junction T., Manchester.
Sherlock Holmes.—T. R., Blackburn.
Sins of a City.—T. R., Castleford.
Still Alarm.—Gaiety T., Clydebank.
Throne of Terror.—O. H., Perth.
Traitor, The.—Grand T., Radcliffe.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—T. R., Chatham.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—O. H., Wakefield.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Village Blacksmith.—Accrington.
Warner, Miss Grace.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
Warning to Women.—T. R., Huddersfield.
When Woman Hates.—T. R., Smethwick.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Victoria T., Broughton.
Woman and Wine.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Youngest of Three.—O. H., Cheltenham.
10.30 Down Express.—T. R., Huddersfield.
£1,000 Reward.—Grand T., Chorley.

MUSIC HALL SICK FUND.

The monthly committee meeting of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday at the York Hotel, York-road. Mr. W. J. Waimatta (vice-president) occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. Frank Heath, G. Desmonti, Percy Don, Tom Carney, and H. E. High.

A telegram was received from the president, Mr. Pat Carey, who is on tour in the provinces, expressing his regret at being unable to be present, and wishing his fellow-members the compliments of the season. The secretary (Mr. R. T. Baines) also read a letter from Mr. Carey, thanking the committee for the framed illuminated address which was presented to him on the occasion of his recent marriage.

An interesting item in the business of the meeting was the presentation to Mr. John Harmsworth Deakin, of the York Hotel, of a handsomely-framed illuminated address, which read as follows: "Music Hall Sick Fund Provident Society.—Dear Sir,—We, the committee and officers of the above Society, desire to place on record our appreciation of your invariable kindness and courtesy to the members at all times during the many years the York Hotel has been under your management, and to ask your acceptance of this address as a small token of our esteem." The names of the committee followed.

The presentation was made by the chairman, who bore testimony to the interest which Mr. Deakin had taken in the Society and the kindly, courteous manner in which he had always treated the officers and members.

Mr. Deakin expressed his thanks for the great honour the committee and officers of the Society had done him in making him a presentation. If he had rendered the Fund any slight services it was because he felt that it was an institution well worthy of support. It was not dependent upon charity; and members of the profession were only asked to make reasonable provision for sickness and old age. He again thanked them for this recognition of his services. After the transaction of some private business the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

COVENT GARDEN BALL.

Although there is generally a dull time just before the Christmas holidays, there was again a good attendance at the Covent Garden fancy dress ball, which took place on the night of the 7th inst.; and, thanks to the opening up of the stage to promenaders, it was easier to move about than has previously been the case this season. The new background, the Lakes of Killarney, was greatly admired, and the rearrangement of the bandstand was also highly approved. Dancing began at midnight, though there were early-comers even before that hour. The many handsome prizes offered by Messrs. Rendle and Forsyth resulted in a keen competition. The approach of Christmas was denoted by a design entitled "Under the Mistletoe Bough," a dress of white satin handsomely painted, while a bower of mistletoe was arranged over the head. Another dress which was appropriate to the season was "Holly," and a third was a Christmas Tree. Mr. Dan Godfrey's excellent orchestra proved, as usual, one of the most important and pleasing factors of the entertainment.

During the singing of "Emmie's Christmas Tree" Miss Emmie Ames distributes toys to audiences, who are delighted with the presents showered upon them. So successful has this act been that Miss Ames is booked up until 1909.

Mr. Henry Herne and Miss Ida Millais will reappear in their startling water sketch, *Blackmail*, on Dec. 24, at Manchester, where they will have a seven weeks' run of return dates with Messrs. Broadhead.

Miss Margaret Radcliffe, one of our most charming principal boys, has been specially engaged by Mr. Clarence Sounes to play Abdallah at the New Prince's Theatre, Poplar, at Christmas.

Mr. Lawrence Derrick and Miss Marian Brereton, who have been so successful during the past summer season at the seaside piers and pavilions, have been engaged for a short tour up North with the Mannon Troupe, in the well-known sketch *Uncle Yank*.

Mr. Arthur Williams and Mr. Edmund Payne, the eminent comedians, have written a sketch, entitled *A Private Box*, which Mr. Arthur Wallis will produce on Monday at the South London Palace.

Miss Flo Hylton, the well-known male impersonator, gave evidence last week in a case where a girl named Ruth Barrington, who lives in Ardwick, was charged with using Miss Hylton's name and duping a number of people. The prisoner was sent to gaol for a month.

The Smythsons leave town for a provincial tour on Sunday next, opening at the Palace, Southampton, in their latest laughter-raiser, *Love Germs*.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

Notice to Subscribers.

"The Era" is sold by all Newsagents in all the leading English, Irish, and Scotch towns, every Saturday Morning. Price Sixpence.

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Six Months	13 0	Six Months	16 0
Three Months	6 6	Three Months	8 0

Cash must accompany order.

Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Address
The PUBLISHER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
6, TAVISTOCK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington Street)
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephone, 4747, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. C.—*We can find no record of the date.*

GIMCRACK.—*We do not know his present address. A letter addressed to him, care of "The Era," might find him.*

OLD KENT ROAD.—*The comic drama by J. B. Buckstone, founded on the French play, La Gamine, was produced at the Haymarket Theatre on Feb. 4, 1851, with Mrs. Fitzwilliam as Nan, Buckstone as Tom Dibbles, H. Howe as Harry Collier, and Purselle as Charley. Renewed at the Adelphi in Dec., 1858, J. L. Toole appeared as Tom and Miss Woolgar as Nan.*

AUTHOR.—*Sketches are not legal in music-halls that have no dramatic licence. You could copyright it by securing a licence from the Lord Chamberlain and giving a public performance in a licensed building.*

R. C. G.—(1) *No.* (2) *Try our advt. columns.*

J W.—The Donagh, *an Irish drama in three acts, by G. F. Rowe, was produced at the Grand Theatre, Islington, on April 18, 1884.*

C. M.—*James Bennett, actor, died March, 1885.*

AMATEUR.—*Quite correct, but the play was first produced at the Court Theatre.*

KINGSTON BRIDGE.—*It is quite usual for fees to be paid; and it only remains for you to make the best terms you can with all parties.*

SIDNEY JOFF.—*She is certainly a "white"; the secret of the lady's make-up is her own.*

MOLLY MALONE.—*We have no knowledge of the young lady's future arrangements, and you had better write to her direct.*

R. SINGLETON.—*We do not know. Cannot you obtain the information from the ladies and gentleman mentioned?*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny**.

The charge for a notice of **Marriage**, not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny**.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

ANDERSON.—Nov. 30, at 13, Mount View-rd., Crouch Hill, Miss Mabel Mannering, the wife of Millar Anderson, of a daughter.

LUMIERE.—Dec. 10, 1906, at 42, Macklin-street, Derby, the wife of Jam Lumiere (Mlle. Lumiere), of a daughter. Both doing well.

MURRAY.—Nov. 30, the wife of Will Murray, Manager, Palace, Blackburn, of a daughter. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

CURTISS—WELLS.—On Dec. 11, at the Parish Church, Cookham, Berks., by the Rev. A. W. Batchelor, Sydney W. Curtiss (Thos. Courtice, of Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle), to May Wells.

FALCON—RAY.—By special licence, Dec. 8, at Manchester, Jack Falcon (The Falcons) to Daisy Ray.

FOR CONGRATULATIONS.

To our many friends and well-wishers, and in reply to their kind telegrams, congratulatory letters, and presents, kindly accept this as our thanks, as there are too many to reply to individually.

MR. AND MRS. JACOB STUDT, JUN.

Victoria Hall, Southampton.

DEATHS.

DANVERS.—Dec. 12, at Hayward's Heath Asylum, Edwin Danvers, comedian, late of the Strand and Royalty Theatres.

GERRISH.—Dec. 9, in New York, Sylvia Gerrish, American actress, aged 48.

GOLDING.—Dec. 8, of paralysis, at Manchester, George Golding, comedian, age 47, father of Beatrice Bonnie. Deeply mourned by his wife and children.

HAMPSON.—On Dec. 7, 1906, Oscar Hampson, comedian. Widow in great distress. Pleased to hear from any sympathising friend.—Mrs. HAMPSON, 26, Stewart-road, Sharrow, Sheffield.

MANSFIELD.—On Dec. 10, 1906, Ada Mansfield, the beloved wife of Theodore Jones, after painful illness, at 88, King-street, Southport.

PEDGRIFT.—On Dec. 8, 1906, of pneumonia, at 9, Rusham-road, Balham, Shrofield Henchman, aged 19, second son of Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, of "The Era."

RIDLEY.—Dec. 3, at her residence, in Battersea, Mrs. John Ridley.

SHERIDAN.—Nov. 27, at his residence, View Cottage, Albert-road, Peckham, of consumption, John T. Sheridan, electrician, of the Waldorf Theatre, aged 34.

IN MEMORIAM.

BROWN.—In loving memory of Mrs. Edwin Brown (Kate Kelly), who died Dec. 13, 1899. Never forgotten by her loving husband and affectionate daughters, Beattie Laurel, Ada Lotto, and Kate Alexandre. R.I.P.

COURTNEY.—In loving memory of our darling mother, Margaret Elizabeth Courtney, who passed away Nov. 9, 1905.

"We cannot say—and we will not say—
That she is dead. She's just—away.
With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand,
She has wandered into an unknown land,
And left us dreaming how very fair
It needs must be, since she lingers there."

GEORGE AND MAUD COURTNEY.

GORDON.—In ever-loving memory of my dear husband, Walter Gordon, who passed away Dec. 7, 1901. God calls our loved ones, but we lose not wholly what he has given; they live on earth in thought and deed, as truly as in Heaven.

LE BRUNN.—George Le Brunn, died Dec. 18, 1905. "God stilled the voice of melody He had giv'n On earth, to give it speech again in Heav'n." Never forgotten by his sorrowing wife, LIZZIE.

LE BRUNN.—In loving memory of my twenty years' partner, George le Brunn, died Dec. 18, 1905. One of the best.—John P. Harrington.

LUBBOCK.—In ever loving memory of my dear son-in-law, Reggie, who passed away Dec. 15, 1905. Ever remembered by his loving ma., Mrs. DAN LENO.

STEELE.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Mr. Albert Steele, late of Aldershot, who died suddenly at the Law Courts, Dec. 8, 1887.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list

Adams, Mr. A. D.
Adams, Miss Nellie
Allison, Mr. Wm.
Andy, Mr. Joe
Antony, Mr. Mark
Arundale, Miss S.
Ashworth, Mr. T.
Bacon, Mr. Chas.
Baker, Mrs. E.
Balby, Mr. E. G.
Barrett, Mr. Medley
Barry, Mr. Ellis
Barton, Miss Dora
Bellington, Mrs. J.
Bereslyn, Miss Ethel
Mr. Chas. V.
Bestic, Mr. C. M.
Birch, Mr. Chas.
Birvell, Mr. Karl
Black, Miss Belle
Blackmor, Mr. L. B.
Bounds, Mr. Arnold
Bright, Mr. Arthur
Brooks, Mr. John
Brophy, Miss Ida
Brown & Spink, Messrs.
Buckingham, Mr. F.
Bunce, Mr. H.
Buist, Mr. Scott
Butt, Miss Clara
Byrne, Mr. T.
Cavalho, Miss Sylvia
Capper, Mr. Chas.
Casson, Mr. Frank
Carling, Mr. Tom
Chappell, Mr. Archie
Clark, Mr. Alfred C.
Clark, Mr. Chas.
Clark, Mr. J. H.
Clive, Mr. F. W.
Cole, Mr. Billy
Colverd, Miss Nellie
Cottell, Mr. Harry D.
Conrad, Mr. Harry
Courtney, Mr. Alfred
Coopers, The Three
Creighton, Mr. James
Currie, Mr. Harry
Cramfield, Mr. Harry
Carney Bros.
Carson, Mr. J. W.
Crazton, Mr. C. F.
Chester and Lee
Dagmar, Miss V.
Dainton, Mr. Arthur
Dann, Mr. J. Ormonde
Danby, Mr. Frank
Darrell, Miss Hilda
Davis, Miss Belle
Dewar, Mrs. H.
Dezmonti and Mora
Dobbs, Miss Edith
Donald, Mr. John
Donlo, Mons.
Duncan and Godfrey
Ecker, Miss K.
Eltinge, Mr. Julian
Elton, Mrs. Fred
Elverton, Mr. Harry
Faber, Mr. Arthur
Fields, Miss Fanny
Friend, Mr. T. H.
Fritz, Mr. Leo
Garde, Mr. and Mrs.
Gibbons, Mr. H. H.
Glenny, Miss Bessie
Gordon, Mr J. L.
Goutis, Mr. Henry
Gratton, Miss Emilie
Gray, Mrs. O. S.
Gregory, Mr. E. G.
Grenfell, Miss Violet
Groves, Miss C.
Handle, Mr. E.
Harris, Miss Winifred
Hawkes, Mr. E. A.
Hayden-Clarendon, Mr.
Hayden, Mr. Percy
Haydon, Mr. John S.
Heam, Mr. Thomas
Heirlle, Mr. Sidney
"Henriques," The
Hill, Mr. Hamilton
Hill, Mr. Leonard
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Holden, Mr.
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Irving, Mr. L.
Irwin, Miss C.
Iveson, Mr. Tony
Jackson, Miss Lotty
James, Mr. C. A.
James, Mr. David
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Jones, Mr. J.
King, Miss Ethel
Kioto, Mr. N. T.
Kirby, Mr.
Lane, Mr. M. G.
Lang, Mr. Matheson
La Martine, Mr. Herbert
Lauri, Madame
Lawrence, Mr. Gerald
Leroy, Mr. J.
Lessing, Miss Madge
Leyton, Mr. Geo.
Lindon, Miss M.
Loftus, Miss Kitty
Loftus, Miss Vinie
Lovett, Mrs. A.
Lowenwirth, Mr. Sam
Lytham, Mr. R. A.
Lytton, Miss
Macarte, Miss Eleanor
MacDermot, Mr. Marc
Mace, Mr. Fred
Marsh, Mr. Albert
Martin, Miss Slyvia
Martine, Miss Dora
Martini, Mr. W.
Maude, Miss W.
Mayall, Mr. James
Metheringham, Mr. J. W.
Mexicans, The
Montague, Mr. J. B.
Montford, Mr. Geo.
Moore, Mr.
Morgan, Mr.
Murray, Miss Vera
Munro, Mr. D.
Morgan, Sisters
Morgan, Mr. C.
Moore, Miss M.
Moxon Troupe
Nulty, Mr. Alec
Murray, Mr.
Myers, Miss Ida
Nelson, Miss Molly
Newton, Mr. Cecil
Nicholls, Mr. H. H.
Odlin, Mr. Tom
Osborne, Miss N.
Parde, Mrs.
Paull, Mrs. Wm.
Pattison, Mr. Bart
Parker, Mr. Louis
Peachey, Mr. John
Pendergast, Mr. Morice
Penrose, Mr. Chas.
Phydora, Mr. Harry
Pierri, Mr. Antonio
Pillans, Miss Helen
Platt, Mr. J. H.
Powell, Mr. A.
Proctor, Mr. G.
Price, Mr. Sidney
Prye, Miss Maggie
Purce, Mrs. Maud
Raslo, Mr. Colin
Rayburn, Miss K.
Raynor, Miss D.
Read and Wright
Rennie, Miss Maggie
Richards, Mr. Chris.
Riche, Mr. R. O.
Rigby, Mr. F.
Robson, Mr. W. F.
Roland, Mrs. Evan
Rooke, Miss Irene
Rosenau, Mr. F. A.
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Russell, Mr. Harry
Russell, Mr. S. T.
Ruston, Mr. Ernest
Selbo
Sevening, Miss Nina
Sablanc, Miss Sylvia
Sampson, Mr. C. A.
Scott, Mrs. Veretta
Sharplin, Mr. H. G.
Smith, Prof. J.
Smith, Mr. Wellesley
Sorley, Mr. E.
Spraker, Mr. H. J.
Stanley, Miss Zillah
St. George, Miss Zana
Sutherd, Mr. D.
Tapley, Mr. Joseph
Temple, Mr. F.
Terry, Mr. Fred E.
Thornton, Miss M.
Tribune, Mr. Deane
Tweed, Miss L.
Val, Mr. J. R.
Vanda, Madame
"Vasco"
Vincent, Mr. Henry
Vergin, Mr. H.
Wardroper, Mr. Henry
Walker, Mr. W.
Warsaw Bros.
Wells, Mr. Rhodes
White, Mr. Will
Wilson, Mr. Ned
Wolviston, Miss
Wylie, Mr. Laurie
Zedna, Miss M.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Mrs. Lewis Waller—Saturday, Dec. 15.
Fay Davis—Saturday, Dec. 15.
Cynthia Brooke—Saturday, Dec. 15.
Madge Trevelyan—Saturday, Dec. 15.
Frank Hyatt—Saturday, Dec. 15.
Eva Reed—Saturday, Dec. 15.
(Miss) F. V. A. Hill—Saturday, Dec. 15.
W. B. Fair—Saturday, Dec. 15.
W. H. Kendal—Sunday, Dec. 16.
W. W. Kelly—Sunday, Dec. 16.
Maude Danks—Sunday, Dec. 16.
Donald Stuart—Sunday, Dec. 16.
H. Beerbohm Tree—Monday, Dec. 17.
A. B. Walkley—Monday, Dec. 17.
John Paley—Monday, Dec. 17.
Ethel Ra-Leslie—Monday, Dec. 17.
Hugh Fleming—Monday, Dec. 17.
Leonard Gautier—Monday, Dec. 17.
Hubert Montague—Monday, Dec. 17.
Stewart D. Wright—Monday, Dec. 17.
(Miss) G. V. Thomas—Monday, Dec. 17.
H. A. Saintsbury—Tuesday, Dec. 18.
Chas. Freeman—Tuesday, Dec. 18.
Jack Edgar—Tuesday, Dec. 18.
E. S. Vincent—Tuesday, Dec. 18.
Ethel Godwin—Tuesday, Dec. 18.
Lillian Dundas—Wednesday, Dec. 19.
Georgina Hamilton—Wednesday, Dec. 19.
Doris Kelvey—Wednesday, Dec. 19.
Lilian Dundas—Wednesday, Dec. 19.
Sinclair Neill—Wednesday, Dec. 19.
Gallimore Fox—Thursday, Dec. 20.
A. B. Mackay—Thursday, Dec. 20.
Laurence Irving—Friday, Dec. 21.
Letty Lind—Friday, Dec. 21.
Olga Brandon—Friday, Dec. 21.
J. Wright Aitkin—Friday, Dec. 21.
Thos. E. Marshall—Friday, Dec. 21.

FOLLOWING on the striking and unparalleled triumph in New York of Leslie Stuart's *Belle of Mayfair*—which is tersely described by a great American critic as a "landslide success," or one that carries all before it—there now comes, as a natural sequence, accounts of demands almost for incredible numbers of copies of the score and of the separate numbers. Brother Jonathan and his wife, perplexed by the number of gems in the work, and not knowing which to choose for the best, are simplifying matters by "going the entire animal" and buying them all! Messrs. Francis and Day have accordingly taken steps to cope with orders unprecedented in the history of the house.

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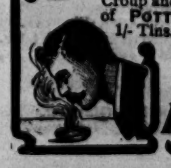

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OF
ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

NAME.	DATE.
Abranams, Messrs. F. & M.	March 31, 1906.
Alexander, Mr. Alex.	June 2, 1906.
Ashcroft, Late Mr. W. E.	October 27, 1906.
Ashton, Mr. George	May 5, 1906.
Ashton, Miss Margaret	September 1, 1906.
Ball, Mr. Alf	September 1, 1906.
Barbour, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Barclay, Mr. Arthur J.	May 26, 1906.
Barlow, Miss Billie	March 10, 1906.
Barnett, Mr. Orlando	October 6, 1906.
Barrasford, Mrs.	February 10, 1906.
Beatty, Miss May	November 10, 1906.
Bertoldi, Late Miss Ena	April 7, 1906.
Bessle, Late Miss Elizabeth	February 3, 1906.
Billington, Mrs. John	January 20, 1906.
Bordin, Signorina Maria	September 15, 1905.
Brough, Mr. Lionel	May 13, 1905.
Brown-Potter, Mrs.	March 3, 1906.
Burton, Mr. John	March 10, 1906.
Butt, Mr. Alfred	August 25, 1 906.
Carrington, Miss Eva	February 24, 1906.
Cavalho, Miss Sylvia	March 3, 1906.
Cellier, Miss Marguerite	May 26, 1906.
Chapin, Miss Alice	May 26, 1906.
Cinquevalli, Mr Paul	May 5, 1906
Clarey, Late Mr. H O.	February 24, 1906.
Clark, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Clark, Late Mr. Henri	Dec. 9, 1905.
Clark, Mr. T. Sealey	May 19, 1906.
Collette, Mr. Charles	November 4, 1905.
Collier, Mr. Hal	May 19, 1906.
Conquest, Mr. Arthur	May 26, 1906
Conquest, Mr. Fred	Dec. 9, 1905.
Coote, Mr. Bert	June 16, 1906.
Corri, Mlle. Ghita	September 22, 1905.
Costello. Mr. Tom	September 15, 1906.
Cotterell, Mr. Sid	July 14, 1906.
Crisp, Late Mr. Henry	May 26, 1906.
Cruikshank, Mr. Alfred	March 17, 1906.
Culloch, Mr. Arthur	November 10, 1906.
Dallas, Mr. J. J.	July 7, 1906.
Dampier, Mr. Alfred	May 12, 1906.
Deering, Late Miss R.	July 14, 1906.
De Gracia, Mr. G.	May 19, 1906.
Dobson, Mr. E. H.	August 12, 1905.
Donegan, Mr. James E.	May 20, 1905.
Duff, Master Harry E.	April 29, 1905.
Dyball, Mr. George H.	January 13, 1906.
Earnshaw, Mr Arthur	November 4, 1905.
Elliott, Late Mr. J. B.	May 26, 1906
Elen, Mr. Gus	September 23, 1905.
Gastelle, Miss Stella	July 15, 1905.
Gatti, Late Mr. Stefano	October 20, 1906.
Genée, Mlle.	September 22, 1906.
Godfrey-Turner, Miss M.	October 28, 1905.
Gibbs, Miss Edith	March 3, 1906.
Grace, Miss Amy	January 13, 1906.
Gray, Miss Dora	January 13, 1906.
Grey, Miss Isabel	July 7, 1906.
Grove, Mr. Fred	March 10, 1906.
Grein, Mr. J. T.	Nov. 11, 1905.
Gunn, Miss Haidee	September 30, 1905
Hamlyn, Mr. J. D.	January 20, 1906.
Hansen, Miss Laura	January 20, 1906.
Harris, Mr. Thomas	February 24, 1906.
Harriss, Miss Sophie	April 7, 1905.
Harvey, Late Mr. Eddie	September 1, 1906.
Hastings, Miss Nora	March 10, 1906.
Heron-Brown, Miss Edith	June 16, 1906.
Hey, Miss Muriel	September 15, 1906.
Hitchens, Mr. H. J.	September 8, 1906.
Holloway, Mr. Balliol	April 15, 1905.
Hunter, Late Mr. Harry	October 20, 1906.
Illington, Miss Margaret	June 2, 1906.
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905.
Jenoure, Miss Aida	June 24 1905.
Jerrard, Late Mr. J. F.	April 28, 1906.
Juliette, Mdlle.	January 13, 1906.
Karno, Mr. Fred	August 12, 1905.
Kinghorne, Late Mr. Mark	November 10, 1906.
Kingston, Miss Bertha	February 24, 1906.
Kinnaird, Miss Helen	March 3, 1906.
Knowles, Mr. J. Forbes	July 7, 1906.
Lamonte, Miss Syria	November 10, 1906.
Lauri, Mr. Edward	July 28, 1906.
Lazarus, Mr. A.	May 5, 1906.
Le Hay, Mr. John	August 26, 1905.
Leggett, late Mr. Richard	February 3, 1906.
Le Roy, Servais	June 23, 1906.
L'Estrange, Mrs. Louise	July 15, 1905.
Lewes, Miss Miriam	June 16, 1906
Liddon, Miss Adele	August 26, 1905
Livermore, Late Mr. L. C. J.	October 13, 1906.
Livesey, Mr. Carter	March 24, 1906.
Loftus, Miss Kitty	January 20, 1906.
Love, Miss Mabel	December 16, 1905.
Lugg, Mr. William	October 6, 1905.
Mackinlay, Mr. Sterling	September 9, 1905.
Macmillan, Mr. J. T.	May 26, 1906.
Maude, Mr. Cyril	June 2, 1906.
Miller, Mr. Fred	October 6, 1906.
Miller, Late Mr. Kennedy	March 10, 1906.
Millis, Mr. F. W.	May 5, 1906.
Mills and Scott, Messrs.	Nov. 17, 1906.
Montefiore, Mr Eade	June 2, 1906.
Montgomery, Late Mr. M.	July 7, 1906.

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THE ERA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1906.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL ENCROACHMENT.

A startling evidence of the despotic view which the present County Council takes of its powers over providers of amusement was furnished by the action recently taken by the Council in the matter of the Brixton Hippodrome, formerly the Brixton Theatre. Until recently the premises had been licensed for stage-plays, and the structural arrangements had been "passed" as satisfactory. The report of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, on which the County Council recently adjudicated at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, recommended that a licence for music and dancing should be granted subject to an undertaking that no intoxicating drinks should be sold or consumed on the premises; and 2700 residents in Brixton had signed a petition in favour of the music hall licence being granted. Then a Mr. HUBBARD rose, and moved the extraordinary amendment "to add to the words of the recommendation the words *and that no more than one performance a night be given*." More extravagant than the proposal was the fact that, on a vote being taken, thirty-one members supported the amendment, fifteen only voting against it. The licence was then granted, hampered by the restriction that only one performance should be given each evening.

In calculating how far the powers of the County Council as a licensing body extend, we must consider the spirit of legislation in the matter. Music hall licensing commenced in 1751, when the Act 25 Geo. II., c. 36, authorised and empowered the Justices to grant such licences as they "in their discretion" should think proper. By the Local Government Act of 1888 (51 and 52 Vict., c. 41), the licensing of houses for music and dancing within the metropolitan area was transferred to the London County Council. These licences, as to the county of Middlesex, are governed by the Music and Dancing Licences (Middlesex) Act of 1894; but Brixton, of course, is on the "Surrey side." The point is that the Council, in all respects, stepped into the "Justices'" shoes.

It was evidently the intention of the Legislature that it should be "in the discretion" of the magistrates to license, or not to license, a music hall, according to "the place and position of the house, the nature of the neighbourhood, and the kind of persons who would be likely to assemble in such a house." Opposition on these grounds has hitherto been considered reasonable. It may be regretted as being bigoted or misguided; but the opponents have been looked upon as "playing the game." But this new departure of the Council—not of its Theatres and Music Halls Committee, be it understood, but of the body sitting as Licensing Authority—is tyrannically absurd. The only opposition which can reasonably be made to granting a music hall licence must be grounded on the imperfection of the actual building or on the objection of a majority of the inhabitants of the district to a new place of amusement being planted in their midst. The means which the manager may use in order to attract the public are, if they offend not against decency, morality, or safety, entirely outside the jurisdiction of the County Council. The idea of dictating to a manager as to the number of separate performances he shall give in the course of an evening is extravagantly unreasonable. What difference can it make to the local public whether one, two, or even more performances take place in the course of an evening? From the point of view of the opponents of public amusement, every hour spent by a man in a music hall is a waste of his time. Admitting this for the purpose of argument, the shorter the duration of the entertainment given, the better. The opponents of amusement ought, therefore, to warmly welcome the adoption of the two-houses-a-night system. As a matter of fact, where there is a working-class as well as a middle-class population the method is an excellent one. The first house is made up of the early-rising working men, who are enabled to get to bed at a suitable hour after their enjoyment; while the second appeals to those whose time of arrival at business is later. Just indignation, too, may be felt at the sneer of a County Councillor at the moderate price charged for the cheaper seats under the "two-houses-a-night" system. Are the comparatively poor residents in a district, then, not to be considered? Is amusement only to be provided for the well-to-do and prosperous, who need recreation so much less than the labouring classes, and have so much more lightness and brightness in their lives? The fact is, the fulness of "discretion" given to the licensing body at the present day is an anachronism. The Act which granted it was passed at a time when "places of entertainment were a great cause of thefts and robberies," and when any pleasure enjoyed by the "lower class of people" was considered unjustifiable. The County Council is not a bench of Justices of the Peace, appointed by a superior authority, but a civic parliament elected by the people to carry out the wishes of the people. It is responsible for its acts to the public, who are its masters; and public opinion is an influence which can be brought to bear upon it. The matter is purely one of principle, and affects music-hall and theatrical managers alike.

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Fernand Lagardes	M. ROGER VINCENT

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, DEC. 13.—M. Bernstein's play *Le Voleur* has had a chequered career before it saw the footlights at the Renaissance. Originally intended for the Gymnase, it emigrated to the Renaissance, because Mme. le Bargy, too ill to play for M. Alphonse Franck, at once recovered her health to interpret her rôle at M. Lucien Guitry's house. Then came the action brought by M. Franck against Bernstein, which ended in the latter paying the Gymnase manager a sum as damages. The new piece met with a splendid reception, which, however, must not be accepted as a proof that the work is good. The public, unfortunately, is the same in every latitude. The moment they enter a playhouse they leave common sense at the door, and if the author is smart enough to keep them amused, he can make them swallow the most impossible situations. Victorien Sardou possesses that gift in a marvellous degree, and his younger colleague has apparently profited by the veteran playwright's lessons. The scene of the plot is laid in the country house of the Lagardes. Raymond Lagardes has married a second time, and lives happily with his young wife and his son Fernand, a youth of nineteen. Three guests are staying at the house. We meet there Richard Voysin and his wife Marie-Louise. They have been married only a year, and are very much in love with one another. Although Richard Voysin is not half as rich as his friend Lagardes, Marie-Louise's toilettes are as costly as those of Mme. Lagardes. But she is so clever at picking up bargains that everybody compliments her on her skill. Young Fernand Lagardes has fallen in love with her. He writes her letters, and implores her to grant him a *rendezvous;* but Marie-Louise is wrapped up in her husband, and only laughs at the youth. The third guest is M. Zambault. He is supposed to be one of M. Lagardes' old friends. In reality he is a former judge, and now an amateur detective. M. Lagardes has sent for him because for the last few weeks money has mysteriously been abstracted from a drawer in Mme. Lagardes' boudoir. Over eight hundred pounds have been stolen, not all at once, but in small lots at a time. M. Zambault sets to work, and after a week's investigation informs M. Lagardes that he has found out the thief, who is no other than young Fernand. The horror-stricken father sends for his son, who owns having taken the money. For some unexplained reason, the Voysins have assisted at this scene, and in the second act Voysin and his wife discuss the affair. Voysin cannot understand how it was possible for Fernand to open, as he says, the locked drawer with an ordinary pen-knife; and he experiments on a drawer in their room. The lock gives way, and seeing his wife's pocket-book, he opens it before she can stop him. Inside are a bundle of bank notes; and Marie-Louise, severely questioned by her husband, is compelled to confess that it was she who stole the notes because she was anxious to look as pretty as other women and have toilettes that would please her husband. And then it dawns upon Voysin that it is very strange that whereas it was she who took the money Fernand acknowledged himself the culprit. He tells her that she must be Fernand's mistress, and refuses to believe her when she indignantly denies this accusation. But when, at her husband's command, she admits her guilt to M. Raymond Lagardes and exonerates Fernand, Voysin has no longer any doubts; and we learn that the youth, knowing that she was the thief, had sacrificed himself. M. Lagardes cannot well prosecute his friend's wife, and it is therefore arranged that the Voysin couple shall emigrate to South America. As the excitable, perverse Marie-Louise, Mme. le Bargy had a rôle that suited her to the ground; and the other parts were also excellently played.

THE Théâtre du Chatelet has given us *Pif, Paf, Pouf*, a fairy play in three acts and thirty-eight tableaux, by MM. Victor de Cottens and Victor Darlay, who, seemingly, are under contract to supply this house every year with one spectacular piece. In a performance of that kind the scenery is of more importance than the story, and it is therefore but right that we should pay our first compliment to the scene-painter, who acquitted himself well of his task. The tableaux are very successful, especially that of the Barnum Circus, with Japanese, clowns, monkeys, cowboys, equestrians, &c.; and we observe here the curious feature that whilst theatrical managers introduce circuses in their performances, our circus proprietors are slowly changing their shows into a theatrical performance. The plot is not complicated. Mme. Coquiron, a rich widow, wants to re-embark into matrimony. She has two admirers: Hernandez, a South-American adventurer, and Follembuche, a Parisian, whose pockets have run dry. Mme. Coquiron admires men with an adventurous spirit, and Hernandez therefore informs her that he is starting for the North Pole. The widow is delighted with him; but when Follembuche says that he, too, intends to explore that region she is perplexed, and promises her hand to the one who returns first. They start on their dangerous trip, and we have the pleasure of accompanying them and watch the thrilling incidents on the road. It is hardly necessary to say that it is the Parisian who secures the prize. MM. Claudius, Pougaud, and Mme. Jeanne Bloch do the funny business, and keep up the laughter. The others, too, play with much *entrain*, and the play promises to be a success with Paris children and their parents.

"POLICHE,"
Comedy, in Four Acts, by M. Henry Bataille, produced at the Comédie-Française on Dec. 10.

Didier Meireuil	M. DE FERAUDY
Boudier	M. HENRY MAYER
Le gérant	M. HAMEL
Laub	M. RAVET
François	M. CROUE
Lecointe	M. LECOINTE
Saint-Vast	M. GRAND
Thérésette	MLLE. LECOMTE
Rosine de Rinck	MLLE. CECILE SOREL
Augustine	MME. LYNNES
Pauline Laub	MLLE. BERTHE CERNY

M. Henry Bataille's new play met with a cordial reception. It is a sad story he tells us, and he tells it well. Poliche—the abbreviation of Polichinelle—is the nickname given to Didier Meireuil, because he is the "funny man" who makes everybody laugh. No pleasure-party is complete without him. We soon perceive that Didier is not "funny" by temperament. He only plays the clown to please the flighty Rosine de Rinck, whom he loves, and who always wants to be amused. At curtain rise we see him and Rosine arrive in a motor-car at a restaurant in Saint-Cloud, where they want to have luncheon. We also meet there Laub, a vulgar man, with his wife Pauline; Thérésette, a giddy young person; and Boudier, Poliche's bosom friend. Unfortunately they find nothing ready at the restaurant; the place is not yet in order, and the waiters are busy cleaning everything. But the resourceful Poliche comes to the rescue, and goes to the kitchen to prepare the luncheon. Whilst he is downstairs another guest walks in. It is M. de Saint-Vast, an officer, a professional lady-killer. Rosine and Pauline Laub are not proof against the man's fascinations; for, while Pauline makes an appointment with him at an "afternoon tea" place, Rosine allows him to call the following day. Rosine even allows him to kiss her at once; and whilst Saint-Vast holds her in his arms Poliche walks in, a white apron tied round him and a frying-pan in his hand. The funny Poliche roars with laughter at this kissing scene, and Rosine laughs with him. She cannot help it. Poliche is so droll! But when Poliche is alone with Boudier, he falls fainting in his friend's arms. The blow has nearly killed him. Rosine has given herself to Saint-Vast; but she discovers that the fascinating man deceives her with Pauline Laub. Should she have had any doubt upon the subject Pauline soon opens her eyes, for, in an admirable scene between the two women, Pauline, proud of her conquest, is only too happy to inflict pain on her rival. And Poliche? Nearly heart-broken, he bears his grief in silence, when the faithful Boudier comes to the rescue. He tells Rosine that she is slowly killing Poliche, whose love for her she has never understood. He comes at an opportune moment. Rosine bears Saint-Vast ill-will for his treachery, and, moved to pity, she promises never to leave Poliche. The delighted Poliche presses her to his heart, and together they leave for Fontainebleau to spend the summer in the forest. But Poliche no longer plays the clown. Rosine begins to feel bored, and thinks of the beautiful Saint-Vast. As ill-luck has it, Thérésette calls on Rosine and tells her that the fellow is in the neighbourhood, and wants to meet her. Poliche has overheard the conversation. He begins by overwhelming Rosine with reproaches, but he stops suddenly. He understands that Rosine has attempted the impossible; that he is not one of those who can expect to be loved for themselves. He will drain the cup to the last drop, and takes her to the train that is to carry her back to Paris. At that supreme moment Rosine's better feelings take the upper hand, and she offers to remain with him. But Poliche shakes his head; it is too late. We hear the whistle of the engine, and she is gone. And Poliche? He will leave Paris; he will disappear; like other "funny men" whose rôle is finished have disappeared. The interpretation was superb, especially by M. de Féraudy, whose impersonation of Poliche was an artistic treat.

THE MANAGERS' CLUB.

THE first Social of the Managers' Club was given under the presidency of Mr. J. Bannister Howard, who by his charming personality and good fellowship had attracted a large number of his brother managers to this pleasant function. The conveniently arranged and tastefully decorated rooms were quite filled by managers and friends, amongst whom were Messrs. J. B. Howard, E. Lockwood, E. G. Falcon, Cecil Barth, Rollo Balmain, J. E. Watson, William Martin, Wentworth Croke, W. Muskerry Tilson, Andrew W. Spens, J. H. Pedgrift, J. Weathersby, R. F. Symons, F. Lunnon, W. C. Simpson, M. Dempsey, A. Howard, C. McLagan, &c., &c. The following excellent programme was presented and stage-managed with ideal smoothness by Mr. Cecil Barth:—Overture, Mr. W. Brightwell; the "Excel Quartette," "Comrades in Arms"; "My heart's at your feet," Miss Kate Leicester; "The Colleen Bawn," from *The Lily of Killarney*, Mr. Allen Morris; "Satisfied with Life," Mr. Johnny Clegg; "A Summer Night," Miss Daisy Lake; "Oh, hear the wild winds blow," Mr. H. V. Cropton; "She didn't know, she didn't care," Miss Molly Winter; "Mother of Mine," Mr. Stewart Gardiner; "Strange Adventure," *Yeoman of the Guard*, the "Excel" Quartette; *a*. "The night has a thousand eyes," *b*. "O Anthea," Mr. Dolphin; Ventriloquial Interlude, Mr. John Warren and Marmaduke; *Il Bacio*, Whistling Solo, Mr. Frank Lawton; "My heart's in the Highlands," Mr. John Doran; *a*. "Obstination," *b*. "If I built a world for you," Miss Nora Long; "Son of Mine," Mr. Fred Pedgrift; "With my Guitar," Miss Isa Bowman; "Father keeps on doing it," Mr. A. E. Passmore; Whistling Solo, Mr. Arthur Melrose; "Because," Miss Kate Leicester; Musical Sketch, Mis Amy Brooke; "I wore a rose," Miss Daisy Lake; "Algy," Mr. Walter Walters. With social converse, intermingled by the performances of clever entertainers, the first "Social" was voted a great success, and the hope was expressed that it was only the precursor of many more. Mr. J. Bannister Howard was thanked for his successful endeavours in providing so interesting an evening.

MR. J. T. GREIN, the dramatic critic of the *Sunday Times*, has been appointed London editor of the Paris daily, *Gil Blas*, and also dramatic editor of the *Londoner Zeitung* (Herman). Mr. Grein will make the best use of his added opportunities to further the cordial relations in matters of art between England, France, and Germany. The *Gil Blas* is now under the control of the well-known publisher, Mr. Paul Ollendorf and Mr. A. Perivier, late of the *Figaro*. The London editorial office is at Vaudeville House, Shaftesbury-avenue.

THE spirit of the season will be maintained at the Vaudeville at Christmas, when a harlequinade, elaborately mounted and dressed, will be added to *The Belle of Mayfair*. All the stars of the company will give brilliance to the production, Mr. Arthur Williams being the clown, Miss Billie Burke the columbine, Mr. Farren Soutar the harlequin, Mr. Sam Walsh pantaloon, Mr. Charles Angelo a swell, Miss Louie Pounds a fairy princess, and Miss Camille Clifford as Automobilia.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"LISELOTT,"
Comedy, in Four Acts, by Heinrich Stobitzer, produced at the Berliner Theatre, Dec. 7.

King Louis	HERR MERTEN
Duke of Orleans	HERR STIFT
Lenor	FRAULEIN VON HELLING
Frau Scarron	FRAULEIN TROST
Liselott	FRAU VIERNA
Grancai	HERR BENZINGER
Von Lorrain	HERR WEINSCHENK
Zofe	FRAULEIN WEGNER
Jean	HERR SCHULZ

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Dec. 13.—Frau Vierna, of Munich, is giving a short season here. She is an actress of no small talent, but is so wealthy that she does not need to make a profession of her art, and frequently devotes the proceeds of a whole tour to charitable purposes. In *Liselott* Frau Vierna had a rôle which suits her down to the ground; her exquisite humour has seldom been seen to more advantage, and a large audience tendered hearty applause. Of the play itself there is not much to be said. It is in the style of *Madame Sans-Gêne* without the latter's wit. The piece is written round the name-part; the other characters are well-nigh superfluous. Liselott is the German Princess Elisabeth Charlotte, who left her peaceful home in Heidelberg to marry the Duke of Orleans, brother of King Louis XIV. The intrigues, the immorality, and the malice of the French people (who gave her the nickname of Princess Sauerkraut) made her soon long for her native country again. But the young Duchess is brave as she is charming. She determines to keep her husband's love—which, in consequence of the perpetual enmity directed against his wife, is already on the wane. How she succeeds must be seen to be appreciated; she discards her ugly German garments for more becoming apparel of the very latest Parisian mode; she even descends to a ruse whereby to make the Duke jealous. All she does is so womanly and fascinating that her husband is soon at her feet again, and the Duchess hears him—to her joy—call her Liselott, a German name he could or would not hitherto pronounce. The delightful acting of Frau Vierna completely carried the somewhat poor play; the remaining characters were made as much of as possible by the members of the Berliner company. Herren Merten and Stift and Fräulein von Helling giving the best renderings.

FRAU VIERNA commenced her season with a German version of *La Dame aux Camélias*. In the rôle of Violetta she held her audience spellbound, and it is a matter of opinion whether the clever artist is better in tragedy or comedy. From a financial point of view the "gastspiel" has proved as much a success as it has been artistically speaking, each night being "sold out," as the box-office proudly announced. The entire proceeds of this season are promised by Frau Vierna to the pension fund of the German Stage Association.

THE long-expected production of Richard Strauss's opera *Salome*—a year later than the production at Dresden—proved a great success. The Opera House booking was completed days before the event, and there was not a vacant seat from floor to ceiling. It will not be necessary to describe the work, which is already known—from hearsay, at least—in every part of the musical world. Oscar Wilde's plot is dramatic and realistic enough to suit any modern composer, and Dr. Strauss has done full justice to the subject. There are persons who venture to take exception to the drastic realism, and who also declare that the music does not compare favourably with the composer's earlier opera *Feuersnot*, but these are in the minority. *Salome* is the great musical work of the day, and no opera-house of any pretensions to fame will be happy till it gets it. As regards the interpretation at our Royal Opera, it was one of the most brilliant and painstaking performances I have ever witnessed here. Fräulein Destinn in the title-rôle carried off the palm, her rendering being magnificent. The characters of Herodias (Frau Plaischinger), Herodes (Herr Kraus), Jochanaan (Herr Hoffmann), and others were, too, admirably sustained, and the work was superbly staged. A decidedly weak point was the dance of Salome being executed by Fräulein dell' Era (the première danseuse of the Royal Opera), who has not the faintest resemblance to Fräulein Destinn; consequently the intended delusion was patent to all. Dr. Strauss himself conducted, and the augmented orchestra performed their stupendous task in a most praiseworthy manner. That the composer was applauded to the echo—as was also Fräulein Destinn—and that the utmost enthusiasm prevailed without a single dissenting voice, it is scarcely necessary to record.

MR. BERNARD SHAW'S *Man and Superman*, under the German title *Mensch und Uebermensch* (translation by Siegfried Trebitsch), was produced at one of the "Kammerspiel" evenings at the Deutsches last week. It met with a cordial reception, but did not make any particular impression, the general opinion prevailing that the piece was much less interesting than most of the author's works. It was adequately interpreted, Herr Wegener giving an excellent account of the part of John Tanner, and Fräulein Höflich making a very sympathetic figure of Ann.

LUDWIG AUZENGRUBER'S well-written farce, or "peasant-burlesque," to give it the author's signification, *Doppelselbstmord*, was produced at the Schiller last week with the most favourable results. It is full of sound humour, and every justice was done to it by the good all-round cast.

ANOTHER broad French farce by the popular collaborators, MM. Hennequin and Veber, has made its triumphant entry at the Residenz Theatre, there to hold the boards well over the Christmas holidays. The title is *Florette und Patapon*, the German translation and adaptation being the creditable work of Herr Benno Jacobson. Herr Alexander, of course, takes the chief rôle, creating roars of laughter nightly. In the principal female parts Fräuleins Witt, Rocco, and Dewark also make their mark.

FRAULEIN FRIDA HEMPEL, from the Court Theatre at Schwerin, sang the part of Gilda in *Rigoletto* at the Opera House on Tuesday. The young artist has made distinct progress since her last appearance here, both vocally and in her acting—which latter was somewhat crude. Fräulein Hempel's beautiful voice filled the large house well, and her audience waxed more and more enthusiastic as the work proceeded, frequently applauding by open stage, which is unusual at the Royal Opera.

"EINE LUST/OR DOPPELEHE," the latest production of the popular farce-writer, Herr Kurt Kraatz, is running merrily at the Thalia, filling the bill to the exclusion of all else. It is—as the title suggests—a pot-pourri of misunderstandings and laughable complications, to detail which would be an almost impossible task. Herr Lincke has supplied some very sparkling incidental music, and Herr Schoenfeld is responsible for the amusing patter-songs. That Herr Thielscher—our first-rate comedian—carried off the chief laurels is a matter of course, but he was capitally supported by other prominent members of the company.

AN adaptation of Conan Doyle's "Hound of the Baskervilles," by Herren Oswald and Philipp, was produced with scant success in the theatre of the Secession Exhibition on Monday. The piece was a failure owing to unskilful construction and unsatisfactory acting.

FRAU NIKISCH, wife of the famous conductor, has written a Christmas play, entitled *Das Tausendschönchen*, which has just been produced at the Hamburg Thalia Theatre with a good deal of success.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The East Ham Palace will be opened on Monday by the syndicate of which the chiefs are Messrs. G. Adney Payne, Henry Tozer, Joseph Davis, and Henri Gros, who will run the place on the two-houses-a-night plan, a method that will surely meet with the approval of the large working population catered for. Mr. Arthur J. Barclay will be manager, and Mr. W. A. Bassett, for some years conductor of the Granville, Walham Green, orchestra, has been appointed musical director. The architects of the new house are Messrs. Wylson and Long. The whole of the scenery and the new act-drop have been specially designed and executed by Mr. Francis H. Bull.

The main result of the action of the Variety Artists' Federation, which was reported in our issue of last week, and which was confirmed by a large meeting of the profession at the Horns, Kennington, on Sunday, is the closing down to-day of the Brixton Hippodrome, and the reversion of the Empress to the original plan of one house a night. This closure will affect some six hundred contracts and throw a large staff out of work. Towards the benefit entertainment that is being got up on behalf of the unfortunate workers behind the scenes, and in front of the house, Mr. Walter Gibbons has sent a cheque for fifty guineas.

Mr. Justice Jelf, on Tuesday, consented to the original interim injunction granted last week being extended to the trial of the action, and amended the writ by including the whole of the Executive of the V.A.F. as defendants.

An important meeting of managers was convened at the offices of the Variety Theatres Consolidated on Wednesday afternoon when, we are given to understand, the situation was discussed, not only by members of London directorates, but by provincial representatives having important variety interests in the country.

The demands formulated in the charter of the Federation are briefly as follow:—(1) No matinées without payment at any twice-nightly hall; (2) no transfer of artist to be made without his or her consent; (3) no alteration of the time to be made without the artist's consent; (4) Managers not to deduct commission or agents' fees from artists; (5) the "barring" of an artist to be limited to any hall within a mile, and not to be for more than three months either side of that engagement; (6) the establishment of a board of arbitration.

The V.A.F. is receiving the support of the Brixton Trades and Labour Council, which body has issued posters proclaiming a "lock-out" at the Brixton music-halls, and issuing the following notice:—"If you do *not* see all the Stars advertised at the Empress and Hippodrome, it is because the management will *not* allow them to fulfil their contracts." This action, undoubtedly, precipitated the closing of the Hippodrome.

By kind permission of the directors, a grand matinée will be held at the Empress, Brixton, on Wednesday, on behalf of the staff and employees thrown out of employment by the closing of the Brixton Hippodrome. It was intended to have opened the Brixton Hippodrome on Oct. 22, but owing to various reasons the reopening did not take place until Dec. 1, and the majority of the employees were engaged over two months ago, and now, after being employed only two weeks, they are again out of employment, and through no fault of their own.

At the meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday, the Parliamentary Committee recommended that a clause in the General Powers Act to be presented in the next Session of Parliament providing for vocal music in connection with band performances in the parks, should be withdrawn, the explanation given being that the Bill was so laden with contentious matter that the proposal in question would provoke further and dangerous opposition. Mr. Sankey, chairman of the Parks Committee, protested against a decision of the Council, carried by a majority of two to one, being over-ridden by the Parliamentary Committee, whilst other members arguing outside the limits of the committee's recommendation, expressed fears that "vocal music" would let in opera singers and music hall artists, who would have to be paid for their services.

Mr. Jesson, one of the Labour members, argued in favour of putting the band performances in the parks on a business basis, *i.e.*, that higher charges should be made for admittance to the seating ring, pointing out that at present a person could enjoy a chair for three hours at the small cost of one halfpenny. His suggestion, if carried, would bring revenue to the Council. One of those who supported the withdrawal of the clause was Mr. McKinnon Wood, M.P., who decried music-hall artists and Christy Minstrels appearing on the bandstands in the parks. In the result, the Council agreed to the withdrawal by 54 votes to 33.

Mr. Ernest Polden on Wednesday afternoon presided at a meeting of the Palace Theatre, Limited, which was held to consider two resolutions put forward by certain shareholders. The Chairman said he thought this meeting might put an end to the attacks that had been made upon the directors. They challenged anybody to suggest anything that needed investigation. In the year 1895 the directors of their own accord reduced their fees. That was a bad year. But when, in a following year, they were paying high dividends, they reverted to what they were entitled. The suggestion that the directors had appointed their friends to the Board was untrue. The resolutions were declared to be lost, as the result of a poll.

The sketch bogey has been laid for a time, for we learn that the members of the London Entertainments' Protection Association have been advised by their executive to sign the agreement with the Theatrical Managers' Association which allows music-hall managements to play one sketch of not more than thirty minutes' duration at each performance, the speaking parts not to exceed six, but without limitation as to supers and scenery, and at the same performance to play one other sketch of not more than fifteen minutes' duration, with not more than three speaking parts, no supers, and no change of scenery. The agreement reserves to the music halls the right to apply to Parliament for fresh legislation on the subject of stage plays in music halls.

Such legislation need not be cumbersome or complex. A simple enactment empowering a public caterer, directing a place of entertainment properly equipped and pronounced safe by the L.C.C., to apply for a double licence should be sufficient. Either permit should be in the hands of a judicial authority permanently appointed, and to smoke or not to smoke in the auditorium should be left to the option of the person running the show. There are several houses double-licensed in the provinces and with a managerial option as to smoking, and surely what is good for the provinces and suburbs is good enough for London proper.

Mr. Albert Gilmer, of the new Palace of Varieties, Stoke Newington, will receive his many friends at a private view on Thursday afternoon next. The establishment will be run on a business arrangement that has been come to with the Walter de Freece circuit, who will act, literally speaking, as "house agents."

It is announced that the opening of the new permanent Coventry Hippodrome takes place on Monday, Dec. 24.

The Halifax establishment of the Macnaghten circuit will in future be known as "The Palace and Hippodrome."

The Grand Theatre, Halifax, closes after this week, but will re-open on the 22nd as a variety house. A goodly list of "stars" has been booked to appear early in the new year.

A special matinée at the Palace, Carlisle, lent by Signor Rino Pepi, took place on Thursday, in aid of the Chief Constable's Poor Children's Clothing Fund. Several extra turns in addition to the regular company gave their services.

The success of two special matinées at the Leicester Palace Theatre has led to their regular adoption, and morning performances on Thursday have become an institution. The price of admission is most reasonable, and patrons have a most elegant theatre and an excellent entertainment.

The directors of the New Tivoli Palace of Varieties, Lime-street Liverpool, on Tuesday, gave a luncheon to a number of friends in the Adelphi Hotel, when a presentation was made to Mr. James Kiernan, of the Irving Theatre, Seacombe, who is one of the debenture holders of the new venture. From the directors, friends, and members of the company came a cabinet of cutlery, while Masonic brethren presented a silver rose-bowl. The gifts were stated to be "an appreciation of Mr. Kiernan's assistance in the promotion and opening of the New Tivoli."

The New Hippodrome, Coventry, which has been erected at a cost of £27,000, opens on Monday next. The house is lit throughout by electricity, has a stage 30ft. by 36ft., and will seat 2,000. Mr. T. M. Sylvester, the manager, we are given to understand, is now forming a company with a capital of £100,000, for the purpose of erecting similar places of entertainment in six other towns.

The Glasgow magistrates have granted a full theatrical licence till May—with the relaxation regarding smoking—to Mr. William Henry Howard, who will shortly re-open the Gaiety. For thirteen years prior to August, 1904, Mr. Howard was manager of the Glasgow Empire. The licence of the Gaiety was formerly held by Mr. Bernard Armstrong. This expired on the 10th inst., and the house had been closed since the 17th ult.

The South African football team paid a visit to the Ardwick Empire on Tuesday evening prior to their match with Lancashire on the following day. The players were met and welcomed by Mr. H. Hall, the Ardwick Empire's manager, who then conducted the team to their boxes. The orchestra played "See the conquering hero comes," and the mighty audience who had assembled to see the Colonials roared out a welcome. After thoroughly enjoying the programme, "Auld Lang Syne" was played, and the Springboks gave their deafening warwhoop as a kind of parting "Good-night."

Mr. J. L. Graydon celebrated on Wednesday evening his thirteenth anniversary at the Brighton Alhambra. As a special turn the M'Naughtons arrived from the Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, about eleven o'clock to oblige, and were enthusiastically received. Other prominent attractions were Malcolm Scott and Miss Maud Mortimer. During an interval the popular managing-director thanked the audience for rallying round him as they had done, not only on the evening in question but during the whole time he had been connected with the house. He also thanked the artists. Mr. Ernest Lepard, the courteous manager, worked with a will, and Mr. A. W. Leggett, the able *chef d'orchestre*, was kept busy handing up lovely bouquets to each lady performer. Several London friends came down in a special saloon to be present, and spent a happy evening.

A case of some importance to the variety profession was heard at the West Hartlepool County Court, on the 7th inst., before his Honour Judge O'Connor, K.C., when Messrs. Everton and Cragg, proprietors of the Empress Theatre, Hartlepool, brought an action against an artist named Captain Bevan, proprietor of a troupe known as the Gordon Highlanders, to recover £60 as damages for the non-fulfilment of an agreement to appear for one week ending Nov. 5. Mr. Harry Burns, manager to the plaintiffs, stated that special pictorial posters were ordered in connection with the "Gordon Highlanders' Troupe," whilst there was expense incurred in the printing of other bills, and in the employment of "sandwich" boys. His Honour gave judgment for £50.

Mr. R. Everton, of the Empress Theatre, Hartlepool, made an application on Monday for permission to open that house on Christmas Day. He declared that "neither Christmas Eve nor Christmas Day are really good days, but that every little helps."—The Chairman (Mr. Yeoman): Why is Christmas Eve no good to you, Mr. Everton?—They walk about, sir, playing musical instruments, or attempting to play them.—The Chairman: The request is not for any charitable undertaking?—No, sir; it is to pay the artists' salaries.—The Chairman: By a majority, the magistrates have decided not to accede to the request.

There was a crowded house at the Palace, Sheerness, on the 5th inst., it being the ninth anniversary of Mr. Phil Reymond, whose appearance was greeted with loud cheers. After singing several of his popular character songs, he thanked one and all for their kind patronage during the past nine years, and assured them that he and his wife would always conduct the Palace on first-class lines, and make it a credit to the town. His remarks were loudly applauded, and as he was about to retire Mr. J. Hullett came on the stage, and in the name of the artists, staff, and a few friends, presented him with a handsome illuminated testimonial as a mark of esteem. Mr. Reymond sincerely thanked the donors, and Mrs. Reymond also thanked the audience for their kindness.

After most successfully appearing at the Euston, the Canterbury, the Paragon, &c., in *Tea for Two*, Charles Collette, accompanied by Miss Joan Derry, leaves London for Scotland, starting to-night, for a short provincial tour with their sketch, commencing on Monday at the Palace, Aberdeen.

The friends of Miss Nellie Wilson will be pleased to know that she is improving in health after her recent operation at St. Thomas's Home. She is enjoying the sea air at Hastings, and hopes soon to resume business.

Mr. Will Murray, the popular manager of the Palace, Blackburn, has been presented by his charming wife with a little girl, the birth being on St. Andrew's Day (Nov. 30).

Lorna Doone, the child dancer, has been re-engaged by Mr. Oswald Stoll until 1910. The gifted little girl is the daughter of Mr. Austin Boyd.

On Dec. 27 there will be held, at the London Music Hall, a special matinée for artists (recognised) who, through changing their acts or other reasons, are unable to get work. Proprietors, managers, and agents will be personally invited.

Messrs. Harry Daniels and Co. have produced at the Bedford this week, with very gratifying success, a new original pantomimical sketch entitled *Rent*. The problem is treated in quite a humorous vein, and roars of laughter have greeted the production.

Miss Millie Hylton has before coquetted with the legitimate stage, and some years since made a famous principal boy at the old Gaiety. She is returning to her old love at Christmas, having been secured by Mr. Charles Macdona to play La Bolero, Miss Ethel Irving's original part, in *Mr. Popple*. Miss Hylton has just returned from a Stoll tour, in which she has scored a great success by her singing of "The Zuyder Zee," of which song she is the original singer.

Mr. George Lashwood was on his way to fulfil an engagement at the Hackney Empire on Monday in his brougham, which was being drawn by a young horse, when, without any warning, almost immediately opposite the Kennington Theatre, the animal bolted, and, despite every effort made by the driver, dashed into an electric car coming from the opposite direction. The horse was instantly killed, the driver very badly injured, and Mr. George Lashwood's head severely cut and his left ear torn. Despite the many wounds about his face and head, Mr. Lashwood has pluckily kept faith with the public, merely missing his Monday turn.

Mr. Albert Gilmer, who will open the Palace, Stoke Newington, on Monday, the 24th, has appointed Mr. Norfolk Megone musical director of the house. Mr. Megone was director of the Royal when that house re-opened under the auspices of Mr. Harry Lundy, and has distinguished himself by his musical doings at the Devonshire Park, Eastbourne.

Mr. Joe Elvin has been an attraction at the Oxford for many past Yuletide seasons, and he will again be delighting enthusiastic crowds during the festive season by his cockney comedy, which will find a new environment in Mr. Blyth-Pratt's production, *The Sunny Seaside*, from the accomplished pen of Mr. Wal Pink. This will be a triumph of realism even to sand, sea, boats, and bathing, and all the fun of the seashore. A matinée will be given on Boxing Day.

Mr. Ernest Shand, who is at the Hackney Empire next week, is an ardent motorist, and journeyed from town to town during his last tour of the Moss-Stoll circuit, in his 8-10 h.p. Wolseley. In nine months of that tour he travelled no less than 7,000 miles without an accident. A touching incident is told of the devotion of Mrs. Shand. When Mr. Shand was struck down with small-pox she could not bear the idea of being separated from him, and, declaring that she also had the dread disease, she was admitted to the hospital. She did not contract the scourge, but her devotion was well repaid, and she walked arm-in-arm with her husband in the grounds during the convalescent stage.

The chief Christmas attractions to be presented by Mr. Alfred Butt at the Palace will include Little Tich, Chirgwin, R. A. Roberts, in a new protean sketch, the famous mare Princess Trixie, and Les Molasso, whirlwind dancers. A specially-written playlet, entitled *Christmas Eve*, prettily illustrated, will also be a much appreciated feature of the entertainment, and matinées have been specially arranged for visitors from the country and young people.

At a recent meeting of the British Constitutional Association, the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That in the opinion of the council and committee of the British Constitutional Association experience has proved that it is unsatisfactory for an elected body, such as a county council, to be entrusted with the responsibility of licensing, or refusing to license, places of public entertainment, and as it is understood that a measure is about to be introduced for altering the constitution of the London County Council, a memorial be presented to His Majesty's Government asking for provision to be made in the Bill for the transfer of the licensing powers from the London County Council to a judicial body."

We are promised a novelty next Monday night at the Hammersmith Palace in an entirely new "go-as-you-please" sketch, entitled *A Hot Old Time*, which will be produced under the direction of Tom Terriss and Robert Perris. Tom Terriss has already brought a great number of successful American pieces to Great Britain for other people, which have never failed in their mission, so that we have every confidence in his latest venture. He was responsible for the production at the Empire of *Rogues and Vagabonds* and *Venus, 1906*, and is also producing special numbers in Robert Arthur's pantomimes and the Drury Lane annual. Robert Perris has been for many years touring musical plays and dramas round Britain, where his name and reputation invariably spell good business. *A Hot Old Time* will play about twenty minutes, will have a cast of six people, and will be one long scream of laughter from start to finish. It will appear at Hammersmith at nine o'clock, and it would seem to be wise to advise managers in search of a novelty to witness this trifle.

Mr. Charles Gray has been engaged by Mr. Albert Gilmer as stage-manager of the Palace Theatre of Varieties, Stoke Newington. Mr. Gray was for many years in a like capacity at the Oxford, and his father, the late Harry Gray, also put in thirty years' service at the celebrated house in Oxford-street.

The powerful dramatic sketch, *The Yellow Fang*, recently described in our columns, will be submitted at the Hackney Empire on Monday by Mr. J. G. Grahame, the well-known actor. It deals with a phase of life quite new to the stage; realism in every particular is aimed at; and the scene is an opium den in San Francisco.

Mr. Sidney Bacon's success, *The Duchess of Tooting*, occupies a star position this week at the Oxford, where its mirth-compelling qualities and happily-arranged incidents are justifying the high reputation the sketch obtained during its sojourn in outer London. It will be retained by Mr. Blyth-Pratt at the popular house next week.

Every available seat at the London Hippodrome has been acquired by the public for the Boxing Day performances—of which there will, as usual, be two. The advance booking is extremely heavy, and Mr. Frank Parker's production of *The Treasure Ship in Fairy Seas* seems to be quite a topic of speculation—so much so, that seats for that day are changing hands at a premium. Mr. Carl Kiefert will be responsible for the much-talked-of "Swimming Waltz," and also the incidental music.

Mr. Paul Valadon, the famous illusionist and sleight-of-hand performer, desires to contradict the report of his death, and incidentally to deny that there is any truth in the statement that has been made that he has dissolved partnership with Mr. Kellar—admittedly the head of the profession in America. He joined Mr. Kellar in September, 1904, after having been Mr. Maskelyne's sleight-of-hand star for five years at the old Egyptian Hall. Mr. Kellar and he are only playing first-class theatres. Eventually Mr. Valadon will carry on the whole show himself.

The latest recruit from the legitimate to the variety stage is Horace Lane, who has just finished a long run in *The Dairymaids*. He opens at the Tivoli on Monday with two new numbers, "Beautiful Kate," and "What more can I do, little girlie?" Both of these are among the most recent issues of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, and are from the pens of A. E. Sidney Davis and Hermann E. Darewski, jun., the author and composer of the big pantomime song "Au revoir, my little Hyacinth."

The engagement of Miss Vesta Tilley at the Palace Theatre has been postponed for a month to enable that popular lady to visit Monte Carlo with her husband, Mr. Walter de Frece.

The Tivoli burlesque, *Robin Waller; or, the Maid of the Mill-Ard By*, to be produced on the 24th inst., bids fair to be one of the funniest skits in which the genial Arthur Roberts has appeared since his comic opera days. The last scene is Ye Village of Aldwych; or, the Council's Bloomer, and one can imagine the mercurial Arthur let loose upon such (building) material. His plaintive and pathetic appeal to the villagers to rent the waste lands immediately and reduce the rates is a screamer.

The cast is as follows:—The Maid Marian will be Miss Ruby Celeste; the Sheriff of Nottingham, Mr. Max Copland; Friar Tuck, Mr. Charles Goold; King Joseph Core de Lyons, Mr. Chris Van Bern; and Robin Waller, A.C.F., Mr. Arthur Roberts. Mr. Herbert Shelley, the author, is superintending the rehearsals.

The Lyceum, which failed as a variety theatre both with one and two performances nightly, was sold at the Mart on Thursday by Mr. Brougham Glasier, of Glasier and Sons. The price reached was £119,500. The purchaser's name was not disclosed.

Mr. W. F. Frame has again made a hit in pantomime as the Cook in *Dick Whittington* at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow. By mistake he was announced the other evening at a big festival as Sir W. F. Frame. There's a picture for you!

Mr. Frank Glenister, the popular manager of the London Pavilion, and Mr. William Cobbett, of the same house, will decide who is to be the winner of the Vaudeville Club billiard handicap on Tuesday next, when a close and exciting game—250 up—may be expected. Mr. Cobbett receives 130, and his chief 90, and we expect the latter will about get home.

The Oxford announces for Christmas a novel demonstration of thaumaturgy by the Fays, exponents of psychic force, who have recently astonished the most eminent scientists of America. In the holidays matinées will be given.

Mr. Harry Tate, who has departed from New York, will be with us before the publication of our next issue. The success of Mr. Tate's productions in New York proves that he is in possession of a cosmopolitan humour. When London and New York agree in laughing at a turn the rest of the globe is really quite small potatoes.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Stratton left Waterloo on Saturday for Southampton on their way to South Africa. A large assemblage of friends were on the platform to see the popular coon comedian off and to wish him success on the Rand and *bon voyage*. Among the crowd were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elvin, Paul Martinetti, the McNaughtons, Flo Esdaile, Will Oliver, Sydney Hyman, Aubrey Hyman, Ernest Aplin, Alice and Rosie Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Harry Lundy, Jack Lotto, and Wilson Hallett.

Mr. George Ripon, whose career as a variety artist has been much hindered by intermittent spells of illness, is, we regret to hear, obliged to retire from his profession on account of his indifferent health.

Many of our sweetest singers come from Ireland, and therefore the success of Mr. Charles E. Robinson, a young baritone hailing from the Sister Isle, on the variety stage is not to be wondered at. He has an excellent number in "The Ould Plaid Shawl," melody and words being racy of the soil, and recently at the Hackney Empire he was heartily applauded by Mr. Oswald Stoll, who was much impressed by the richness and fulness of his voice.

Caicedo, the king of the wire, fulfilled a most successful engagement last week at the Alhambra, and the patrons of the famous house in Leicester-square, the scene of the brilliant exploits of the greatest acrobats in the universe, were delighted with his wonderful somersaulting on the wire, and signified their pleasure by enthusiastic applause. Caicedo commences an engagement at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Saturday next, and will be one of the chief attractions of the World's Fair until Feb. 9.

Mr. Henri Gros and Mr. George Adney Payne were at home to a crowd of friends on Thursday evening, when was celebrated the ninth anniversary of the Metropolitan, a hall that is blessed with excellent traditions. The entertainment given was a special one, and Mr. Jack Edgar, manager, and Mr. Leon Zeitlin, acting-manager, put on a large number of turns, and though, owing to the demands of pantomime, many of the stars had left London, there was an excellent entertainment.

The turns appearing were as follows:—J. H. Kisbey, Cissie Schofield, Will Haines, Kate Trail, Mayvilles, Amber Austa, Edie Veno, Percy Hannan, George French, Chas. Adams, Tom Wootwell, Ambrose Thorne, Dorothy Drew, Tally-Ho Trio, Twin Andersons, Marie Dainton, Victoria Monks, Lew Lake and company, in "My Pal Jerry," Lily Burnand, Carlyles, Dandy George and dog, T. E. Dunville, Harry Weldon, Will Van Allen, Walter Hast, in "Dreams," Margaret Cooper, and Sinclair and Parr.

The Biograph pictures which are being shown at the Empire are creating the wildest enthusiasm among the visitors to that establishment. The principal film is the work of the Warwick Trading Co., Ltd., and the subject dealt with is fox-hunting. The pack, whose operations are depicted, are, we understand, the Peterborough Hounds, and the photographs were taken at the opening meet by the permission of the Master. The pictures are remarkably clear and vivid, and it is evident, as scene succeeds scene, in the race after the wily Reynard, that many members of the audience are devoted followers of the sport themselves, for each incident is boisterously greeted by hunting cries. There can be no question that this film is exceedingly popular, and the Warwick Company can be congratulated upon a production which must have required in its handling no small amount of forethought, care, and ingenuity. The other views, illustrative of the match South Africans *v.* England, at the Crystal Palace last Saturday, are also magnificent specimens of the cinematographic art.

Miss Juno May (the champion wrestler of the world) will appear on Monday, Dec. 31, at the Cambridge. This lady is English, and twenty-two years of age, height 6ft. 2in., and weight 22st. She will, prior to above date, deposit £1,000, for which she will wrestle any woman in the world.

Miss Maie Hoey, aged fourteen years, who is a pupil of Adeline Genée, Mlle. Zanfretta, and Mlle. Cormani, who is not only an accomplished dancer but a musician and an artist in oils, has been specially engaged to appear twice daily as Fairy Queen at Hengler's Circus, commencing Dec. 24.

Cadogan and Nicholls (Mr. Vernon Willox Cadogan and Miss Nicholls, sister of the well-known comedian Harry Nicholls) have by arrangement with Muir and Bartlett acquired Mr. Hubert Bartlett's extremely clever duologue *A Clerical Complication*. They have been carefully rehearsed by the author in his original "business," and will be shortly inviting managers and agents to forward them contracts.

Miss Annie Purcell, who will be the principal boy in the Cardiff pantomime, has arranged to specially feature Harry Castling and C. W. Murphy's dainty chorus song, "On the Isle of Anglesey," which is issued by the Star Company in their sixpenny editions. Miss Purcell is this week filling a special return engagement at the Tivoli.

Dr. Walford Bodie has played a record week at the Cardiff Empire. On Saturday the huge building was packed. This week he is repeating his former triumphs at the Hackney Empire, where he is greeted nightly by large and enthusiastic audiences. On Monday he will take a run to Liverpool, his eighth visit within the last three years. Christmas week will find him at his Highland home, the Manor House, Macduff, N.B., celebrating the first anniversary of his residence therein.

Her Majesty the Queen, the King and Queen of Norway, Princess Victoria, and suite, visited the London Hippodrome on Wednesday evening, to witness a specially-selected programme, consisting of *The Earthquake*, produced by Frank Parker, the *Daily Mirror* Boy Army, Chung Ling Soo, the famous Chinese conjurer, the Chronomegaphone, and Lavater Lee, the Hippodrome droll. It was expected that the King and little Prince Olaf would be present, but His Majesty did not arrive. The Royal party occupied three boxes, including the Royal box. Mr. Fred Trussell, the manager of the Hippodrome, received their Majesties.

At the ordinary annual meeting of the Motor-'Bus Advertising Co., Ltd., held recently at the offices, Birkbeck Bank Chambers, Holborn, Mr. J. Bartleet Perry, the secretary, proposed that a donation should be sent to the Music Hall Home, and Mr. J. J. Fruin, the secretary of the institution, has the pleasure now to acknowledge the receipt of a cheque for two guineas.

Mr. Will Evans, whose name is a household word to all metropolitan amusement seekers, has now achieved an extraordinary success in the Theatre Royal Glasgow pantomime, in which he figures as Idle Jack. Probably no living comedian earned greater applause or raised more genuine, wholesome laughter than did Mr. Evans on the first night of Mr. Wyndham's *Dick Whittington*. The curtain was raised twelve times at the finish, and the audience refused to leave the theatre until Mr. Evans made a speech. Mr. Evans must be a very busy man, for he is not only performing twice a day, but he is collaborating in a series of dramatic sketches with another popular comedian—Mr. Tom Craven to wit.

The chronomegaphone, the newest development in the combination of bioscope and phonograph, has aroused great interest at the London Hippodrome, but on Monday evening, during an illustration of the "Swing" duet from Messager's *Veronique*, the light failed. A stage official announced that one of the fuses had "gone wrong," but a new picture would be shown. The audience waited for several seconds, but the chronomegaphone refused to act. It has, however, behaved itself since.

The Court of Session, Edinburgh, on Thursday, the 6th inst., discussed the London Hippodrome's circular curtain. Isaac Nathaniel Lyons, merchant and Government contractor, 51, St. Mary-axe, London, sued Moss' Empires nearly a year ago for £1,361 18s. 4d., the amount alleged to have been incurred for work done at the London Hippodrome at the end of 1904 and beginning of January, 1905. The work consisted of the supply and fitting-up of two concentric curtains, which were intended to enclose the arena of the Hippodrome, and also to shut out the public view of the stage at the same time. Liability was admitted by the Hippodrome for extras amounting to £457 15s. 10d., but it was said that the remainder of the account represented work which the pursuer had contracted to do by contract for the lump sum of £500.

Lord Ardwall at the time found that the contractor was entitled to payment of £500, the contract price, and also to the extra cost of labour and material caused by the alterations and additions ordered, and that Mr. Lyons had failed to distinguish such extras from the proper contract work. His Lordship therefore dismissed the action, but in the circumstance found no expenses due to or by either party. Both parties appealed, and on Thursday Mr. Lyons' action was dismissed, and the Hippodrome management was allowed its expenses, which amount to about £800.

Mr. Bernard Armstrong, theatrical proprietor and variety entertainer, of the Queen's Theatre, Watson-street, and the New Gaiety (Tivoli) Theatre, Argyle-street, Glasgow, was examined in bankruptcy on Tuesday. There was a fair attendance of creditors in Sheriff Balfour's Chambers, Glasgow County Buildings,, in which the proceedings took place, those present including Councillor Scott Gibson, whose financial interest in the examination was shown to be very considerable.

In answer to Mr. Angus Campbell, who appeared as agent in the sequestration, Mr. Armstrong said he was thirty-eight years of age, and had been engaged in the variety profession for about twenty years. For a number of years he had been lessee of a music hall in Glasgow. Eight years ago he and Mr. Colquhoun entered into a partnership, which continued for about four years. He took the New Gaiety Theatre, then known as the Tivoli, and formerly the old Victoria Hall. Into that he paid in actual cash £2000, the result of his savings from his profession, and Mr. Colquhoun paid a like amount. The concern was created into a limited liability company in 1902. Their share was about £8000 in stock—£4000 each—but he never realised a single penny out of the company.

That company collapsed, and was now in liquidation. On its formation it expended a large sum on structural alterations in the Tivoli, amounting to between £12,000 and £13,000. The capital of the limited liability company was £15,000. This was a very large proportion for alterations, which proved to be very unsatisfactory. He was appointed managing-director at a salary of £4 a week. That was a loss, as he made about £20 a week by taking professional engagements, and he therefore resigned. The limited liability company acquired the Queen's Theatre in Watson-street. That concern embraced both theatres, but the Glasgow Corporation held that the original partnership of Colquhoun and Armstrong still existed, and had proceeded on that assumption. The Queen's Theatre paid. All the loss was incurred by the Tivoli.

Mr. Councillor Andrew Scott Gibson, who had advanced various sums, would have been a partner had the conditions of the lease been carried through, but never drew a shilling out of the business. Mr. Armstrong said he was at present carrying out a four weeks' engagement as a variety artist in England. The examination was adjourned.

The 492nd meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Wednesday afternoon, when the following members were present:—Messrs. Fred Neiman, Harry Bancroft, Bob Leonard, Harry Blake, Douglas White (hon. treasurer), Fred Herbert (vice-chairman), and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). Mr. Fred Herbert presided. The minutes having been read and confirmed, several questions of refunds were considered. It was decided to hold the dinner and dance at the Horns, Kennington, the date not being definitely settled. The weekly financial statement was passed as read, the number of new members being seventy and the total amount received £56 15s. 6d.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

IN view of the recent legislation against the sale of pirated music, Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, of 142, Charing Cross-road, point out that "it is time for publishers of cheap editions to discontinue their self-sacrificing policy of dispensing with a fair profit, and to revise their prices. Accordingly, in concert with brother publishers of sixpenny popular editions, they intend on and after Jan. 1, 1907, raising their trade rates fifty per cent."

THE extraordinary, though not unexpected, success attending the songs of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter in the first pantomimes of the season in great provincial cities and towns has had, as in former years, the effect of definitely settling in the minds of London managements what shall be *the* songs of their respective productions. From Scotland alone the wires talked of thirteen solid successes, and the tale continued in the early hours of Friday morning, more "annuals" having been produced the evening prior.

IN Mr. F. W. Wyndham's magnificent Edinburgh production on Thursday night the audience went wild with delight over "Cheyenne," "Come to the tree-tops," "Snowflakes," and "It's a different girl again," all of which are Messrs. Francis and Day's copyrights. The firm received the gratifying intelligence shortly after the fall of the curtain.

ALMOST simultaneously news came to hand that during the progress of Mr. Richard Waldon's grand pantomime at Glasgow on the same evening enormous and peremptory demands for repetition followed the same firm's numbers, "Good-night, Mr. Brown, I'm out!" "Why do the girls love Charlie?" "Boy Blue," "There's a man in Manitoba," and "Starlight."

THE Christmas number of the New York *Music Trades*—the 150 pages of which are truly magnificent specimens of typography—contains a specially-written article by Mr. Fred Day, who controls the New York branch of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's business. It is entitled "The Differences Between the English, French, German, and American Song Publics as I Find Them," and, though written in a humorous vein, bears evidence of keen powers of observation in the writer.

MR. HARRY DACRE has received the good news by telegram from Mr. Richard Waldon, of the Royal Princess's Theatre, Glasgow, that the success of "My Sugar-plum" was immediate. It bids fair to be one of the most popular numbers in that gentleman's elaborate and tasteful Christmas production—already an assured triumph. The idea for the song occurred to the composer in the middle of the night, and he has invariably noticed that when one of his numbers has been born at some unearthly hour in the morning it has become extremely successful.

IT was Mr. George R. Sims, we believe, who, in his younger days, used to wake up in the small hours and write brilliant verses in soap on the bedroom looking-glass. Whether Mr. Dacre adopts the same method, we know not. There is, however, no *barring* clause against "Sunlight" being used for bars of melody.

MESSRS. PRICE AND REYNOLDS are now busy with their "Sixpenny Series," which now has reached sixty-eight items. The songs they have booked well for pantomimes include "Another little girl in your eye," "Same girl on Sunday," "What, what, what?" "All he wants is a girl," "Courting at Hampton Court," and the great American hit, "Robinson Crusoe's Isle."

MESSRS. MELLOR, LAWRENCE, AND GIFFORD have placed with Messrs. Price and Reynolds their melodious number, "Mr. Gollywog, good-night." The same firm have secured Murphy and Lipwin's "My château in Barcelona."

MILLS AND SCOTT have found another big hit this season in "Sailing in my balloon." This number, which will be featured all over the country, has made a distinct hit in two Glasgow pantomimes already; and the Star Music Company have received large orders for copies from practically every dealer in the northern city.

FROM Glasgow comes the report that "I've built a bamboo bungalow for you" achieved an instantaneous and emphatic "hit," in Mr. Fred W. Wyndham's Theatre Royal, Glasgow, pantomime. Considering the success which has already crowned this Monte Carlo publication of the fortunate Messrs. Mellor and Lawrance in the music-halls, its triumph in pantomime is not to be wondered at.

ALTHOUGH it is a "fee" song, the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s number, "Skyland," is being eagerly "booked" by pantomime producers, as in addition to Mr. John Hart, for Manchester, and Mr. Herbert Cottesmore, for Liverpool, Mr. J. A. Thomson has this week secured it for no less than six pantomimes and Messrs. Somers Bellamy and Chas. Kitts for their pantomime, which opens in Scarborough on Boxing Day. Furthermore, the two McNaughtons will sing it as a duet, in the balloon scene, in the Crown, Peckham, pantomime this year.

MESSRS. JOHN P. HARRINGTON and Jas. W. Tate have been specially commissioned by Miss Connie Ediss, the Gaiety favourite, to write and compose her a new répertoire of up-to-date songs, and in pursuance of this laudable object they have this week supplied her with two numbers, "on account," entitled respectively, "When I marry a millionaire," and "I never felt so awkward," with both of which the fair artist is delighted.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA is taking to America with her a very special number by F. W. Leigh and Henry E. Pether, the author and composer of her never-to-be-forgotten "Waiting at the church." Messrs. Francis and Day have secured the same.

A SECOND edition of Mr. Fred Earle's comic song "Birdseed" has been exhausted. This, for a song that has not yet been exploited, speaks volumes. The words are by the author of "The 'ouses in between," the music by H. F. Greenfield.

"THE QUEEN OF OLD SAMARA" has reached America. A cablegram from New York says, "'Samara' instantaneous hit."—This Monte Carlo winner is being "featured" by Mr. Fred Elton on the Stoll tour, and by Miss Alice Lloyd at the Holborn Empire and Collins's nightly.

MISS LIL HAWTHORNE produced a new song at the Leeds Empire last week, entitled "If a girl like you loved a boy like me," which at once proved a big success.

THE Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have been inundated this week by telegrams from pantomime artists and producers from all parts of England, Ireland, and, last, but not least, Scotland, asking for permission to feature their principal pantomime songs, among which the following may be worth mentioning:—"Take me back to London Town," "Moonbeam," "Sweet Saturday Night," "Fishing," "Idaho," "Mariar," "The Bluebell's Wedding," "My Rickshaw Queen," "In a hammock built for two," and "Little Girl."

THE demand for that charming number of Mr. J. F. Lambe's, "Queen of Old Samara," among principal boys and principal girls is simply phenomenal; and the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are daily inundated with letters asking for permission to sing the song in pantomime from all parts of the Kingdom

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE PALACE ANNIVERSARY.

On the young shoulders of Alfred Butt two short years since fell the burden of responsibility that had been carried with honour by the lamented Charles Morton. To the high standard of entertainment set up by his venerated predecessor, for whom he had a filial regard, the younger manager has been true. The congratulations, therefore, showered upon him on Tuesday evening, the fourteenth anniversary of the opening of the house as a music hall, had a note of cheery encouragement thoroughly deserved by the enthusiastic way in which he has followed the precepts of a great caterer, who raised the banner of refinement at the old Canterbury fifty-four years ago. During the last year the Palace entertainments have been enriched by the contributions of such artists as Marie Tempest and Margaret Cooper—the latter still under engagement there—and this fact alone speaks volumes as to the desire to keep the theatre in the forefront of London houses of entertainment where artistic endeavour always takes into account the higher culture of the masses. Great theatrical artists have always favoured the Palace as a *pied à terre*, and Mr. Henry Neville, who appeared on the festival night, must have been touched by his reception from a packed house on reciting the famous poem by Clement Scott, "The Women of Mumbles Head." Mr. Hayden Coffin came along, too, to sing "Melisande from the Wood," by Goetz, a delightful experience for the audience. Barely had he departed when Little Tich arrived to convulse the house by his antics as "The Park-keeper" in his official capacity, and supplemented this amusing impersonation by his famous burlesque of a serpentine dancer. Mr. Alfred Lester, who found fame at the Palace, renewed his triumphs as a humourist on the anniversary; the McNaughtons kept the well-dressed crowd in the stalls and the more democratic dwellers in the gallery laughing while they talked at cross-purposes in their own inimitable way; Miss Alice Lloyd, with the art of the *diseuse*, gave the daintiest of numbers, with just a suspicion of naughtiness, in "The Tourist and the Maid"; Alice Pierce "impressed" one and all by her reproduction of Miss Lena Ashwell's famous impersonation of Leah Kleschna; and a most original and clever entertainment was that presented by D'Arc's Marionettes, the figures being made up and dressed as music hall celebrities. Mr. Arthur Prince and his cabin boy gave effect to much satire at the expense of the recent naval order "On the Knee"; Les Molasso created a sensation by their cyclonic dancing; Mr. Nelson Jackson entertained at the piano with much discernment and command of humour; Johnson and Dean showed us once more that they are king and queen of coon swelldom; Miss Clarice Mayne repeated her clever imitations of music hall artists; Galatea posed in classical representations of the nude; and Chirgwin, who arrived late, was none the less welcome in his colloquialisms and vocal and instrumental surprises. Other entertainers included Michael Braham with his dog Mickey; Alexandra Dagmar, who sang admirably; Herbert Lloyd, "King of hearts"; the Gordon Brooks' Duo; the clever and obedient thinking mare, Princess Trixie; Miss Margaret Cooper; and the Bioscope. Mr. Herman Finck opened the programme with a spirited march of his own composition, entitled, "The Palace," excellently rendered under his direction. As a selection he chose "The Yeomen of the Guard," which set the house humming familiar airs. Among those present to congratulate the directorate, represented by Mr. Ernest Polden and Mr. Cremetti as well as Mr. Butt, were Messrs. T. S. Dickie, Jack Somers, H. Wieland, Ernest Stuart, James W. Mathews, and others.

THE OXFORD.

Character impersonators have always loomed large in variety entertainments, and though we do not meet with Maccabes, or Woodins, or Thurtons, we must remember that such versatile entertainers would be much restricted by twentieth-century conditions obtaining on the lesser stage, where the "rapid impressionist" finds his true environment. It is not our business to discuss the effect of bustle or hurry upon his artistic ambitions. Time is the essence of the contract. He knows the conditions under which he appears, and sets to work accordingly. Within a minute of his appearance behind the footlights he has to arouse curiosity; within five he has to satisfy it; and within ten he has to justify his engagement by knowledge of stage effect, possession of dramatic instinct, and apt vocal illustration. At the Oxford Mr. Rex King, an entertainer who has an assured future, fulfils all these conditions, and more. He contrives in a few short minutes to win golden opinions concerning his ability. Like the entertainers we have named at the beginning of this article, he possesses in no little degree the art of the ventriloquist, and after announcing an "imitation" of a well-known French polyphonist, he voices with much clever deception a female and a male figure. He then burlesques a young lady in short skirts, who is quite equal to the singing of "Vainka's song"—a clever exhibition of vocal agility in the falsetto. The cracksman, who is about to rob an old miser, is a creation instinct with a grim humour; and then we have the miser with his worship of gold and his callous indifference to the sufferings of others. Retribution overtakes this Scrooge, who succumbs to heart disease as the tableau curtains close. Audiences at the Oxford recognise the artistic worth of such a clever quick-change entertainment as this by an absorbed silence, which breaks into loud applause at its conclusion.

Another impersonator is Mr. V. L. Granville, who, in chain armour, recites the speech of Henry the Fifth at Agincourt; and then as Mother Gutter-snipe, in Fergus Hume's novel, "The Mystery of a Hansom Cab," utters that old dipsomaniac's imprecations. The Shakespearean passage—a favourite one with Mr. Lewis Waller—as given by Mr. Granville, is wanting in virility; and the hag's lines are grotesquely horrible perhaps, but scarcely entertaining. Mr. Charles Norton, in a particularly clever series of imitations, introduces Joe Elvin on a racecourse, where the cockney comedian is supposed to be laying the odds with various promiment members of the profession. Mr. Nat Clifford has nothing newer to offer than "The Grand Hotel"; but Mr. Fred Earle scores heavily with his absurdity, "When I looked out of the window"; and Mr. Sam Mayo raises a chorus of laughter with his Whitechapel Chinese song. Miss Lily Burnand has a tuneful chorus song in "Arrah Wannah," which we may expect to hear in every suburb during the coming Yuletide festivities; but she has greater opportunities for her command of humour in her clever satire upon the picture-post-card star. The lady satirised will no doubt go on singing "Why do they call me a Gibson girl?" for some time longer; but the prominent position she has gained is due to the camera, and not to art. Miss Burnand looks handsomer than the lady she takes off, and her costume is superb.

The "Mysterious Cross," one of the smartest illusions that have ever been presented on the variety stage, is puzzling and astonishing audiences nightly, and Mr. Arthur Preston, its introducer, works extremely well. Miss Lottie Collins's genuine comedy inspiration gives excellent point to her songs, and she secures a good reception. Dancing could have no daintier exponent than My Fancy, who puts poetry into a sand dance; Mr. C., who sings and talks, is rapidly advancing in the favour of Oxford audiences; the Derrington Family are among the smartest of cyclists; Lockhart's Elephants, presented by Captain Taylor, are gentle pachyderms, who evidently possess a sense of humour; the Three Laurels are acrobats of the first water; and nothing in the programme causes more amusement than Mr. Sidney Bacon's company in the musical comedy, *The Duchess of Tooting*, in which Mr. Ernest Spalding, Mr. Henry Latimer, Mr. Harry Buss, Miss Rhoda Paul, Miss Dora Heritage, and Miss Josie Farrington are conspicuously successful. Other turns in the bill are Ike Scott and Son, and Harry Weldon. Mr. Blyth-Pratt, the popular manager, welcomes nightly a crowd of friends.

THE PARAGON.

One of the best things in this week's programme at the Paragon is a thoroughly amusing sketch by that finished actor, Mr. Mark Melford. The playlet, to which no title is given, turns upon the embarrassing situation created by the return of a man from the Soudan, where he was supposed to have been killed. Under this belief, and in the interval, his most intimate friend has married his supposed-to-be widow. Mr. Melford's treatment of the awkward predicament in which, as the husband's friend, he finds himself, is characterised by dry humour and adequate appreciation of the humorous possibilities of the contretemps. The Musical Jees are, as is well known, a troupe of artists who manipulate with remarkable skill such unlikely instruments as anvils, cart-wheels, horse-shoes, and ladders, eliciting therefrom unexpected harmony. Miss Venie Clements displays considerable talent in the impersonation of various types of character, such as a working man, a Scots lassie, and a baby. She introduces a catchy song, "I will leave the decision to you." She is a smart dancer, and possesses a sweet voice. Desmonti and Mora always receive a cordial welcome at the Paragon, where the gracefulness and extreme accuracy of their various feats are greatly admired. From Miss Maud Mortimer we get a distinct musical treat. The chorus of "I've got a bungalow in Borneo" is already popular, and her introduction of a medley containing verses from "Robin Adair," "Comin' thro' the rye," and "Auld Lang Syne" is a very agreeable novelty, which is considerably enhanced by her pleasing manner and vocal abilities. Mr. Will Musgrave is a comedian whose rendering of "My giddy little Cocoa Queen" and "I lost my train again" is full of a humour into which his audience fully enters.

Mrs. John Lawson presents an episode, entitled *Vanity*. The subject is a distinctly unpleasant one, dealing, as it does, with the unfaithfulness of a wife while the husband is in the hands of the law for a forgery committed to supply her extravagance. His unexpected release and arrival at his home when she is awaiting her lover lead to a tragic *dénouement*, in which the outraged husband murders, first his erring wife and then the interloper. Mrs. Lawson is an accomplished actress, who handles the disagreeable rôle with considerable skill, portraying the light-headed, frivolous wife with marked ability. Mr. Horton Tree imparts to the part of the wronged husband considerable vigour and earnestness. The little piece is exceedingly well staged. Miss Marie Kendal appeals strongly to the patriotic sentiments of her audience with her song, "The girl I love lives in England." Miss Kendal has learnt a lesson which is neglected by many of our artists, namely, that clear enunciation greatly conduces to the good effect of a song. Chirgwin manipulates the bagpipes with the same facility he brings to bear on each of the other units in his varied collection of instruments. His dancing figure proves a source of merriment; and the house is not satisfied until he has played "The blind boy," with 'cello accompaniment. Mr. Nat Clifford gives his experiences "At the Grand Hotel," a place we judge to be unique among caravanserais. His patter is very clever, and as an encore he gives a grotesquely absurd dance. Walker and May, as usual, form an attractive feature of the programme. Miss May's song, "Dat's me," is very well received, while the couple's duet, "The Coontown Jubilee," is entertaining to a degree. The Stevens Troupe are graceful dancers; and Forest and King are artists whose physical flexibility suggests a total absence of bones in their anatomy, while the lady's dancing is particularly pretty. The introduction, by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, of a series of new pictures, brings a thoroughly attractive bill to a satisfactory conclusion.

HACKNEY EMPIRE ANNIVERSARY.

Anniversary follows anniversary in quick succession, and the special entertainment given at Holloway last week has been succeeded this week by a similar celebration in North-East London. On Tuesday evening two anniversary performances were given to commemorate the completion of the fifth year of the Hackney Empire's successful existence. The visitors included Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, Mr. Gething (the district manager for Glasgow), Mr. Gerald Norton (the district manager for Leeds). Mr. W. Collins, local district manager, and Mr. Staughton had direction of the stage; and Mr. J. Christie, the resident manager, looked after the front of the house. At both performances there was a packed audience, and in the programme, from start to finish, not a weak turn could be detected.

The entertainment opened with the overture "Empire Echoes," composed by the conductor of the orchestra, Mr. Walter Johnson, and the services they rendered certainly deserve generous recognition. The artists included the Two Bostons, whose comic act was as efficacious as usual in arousing the merriment of the audience. The Bandurrias, with their admirable musical entertainment, also had a good reception. Miss Mabel Bright and company appeared in the attractive sketch *Girls will be Girls;* the Four Royal Welshmen gave evidence of their excellence as vocalists; Miss Dot Hardy and Miss Agnes Hazel quite maintained their reputation; and Mr. Michael Nolan, Irish comedian, was heartily welcomed. Dr. Walford Bodie happily introduced himself to the audience by stating that he was no stranger in Hackney, and there was no need for him on that occasion to give a long explanation in regard to bloodless surgery. Mr. Tom Owen, the Welsh comedian, met with success; and quite enthusiastic was the reception accorded Miss Alexandra Dagmar, who gave her popular Tyrolean song imitation. Other turns included Fred Frampton, the Sisters Grovini, the Welsh Wanderers, Elsie Brenton, Bernard Russell, the Stanford Quartette, Arthur Rigby, Nat Travers, George Antill, Frank and Free, Elsie Enry, Stewart and Morgan, Frank and Jen. Latona, Jessie Albini, Archie Anderson, Harry Hemsley, Lily Burnand, Lucy Weston, the Pavilion Girls, Daisy Davidson, Russell Brandon, Marie Kendall, and the Bioscope. At the second house Mr. Clark and Miss Hamilton gave their ever-attractive song and dance, "My Yokohama Queen," eliciting loud applause. Phil and Nettie Peters greatly amused the audience with their patter; the male artist's make-up alone excited much mirth, and his discourse on the subject of love, varied by an eccentric performance on a wind instrument, still further elicited the merriment of the audience. The lady lent able assistance. George and Leila were another successful couple, the gentleman appearing as a soldier, whose appearance is severely criticised by the lady. The two also contributed a lively duet. The anniversary certainly proved one of the most successful that have taken place in the brief history of the Hackney Empire, and congratulations to all concerned are well deserved.

PUTNEY HIPPODROME.

Since the opening of this well-appointed and cosy palace of varieties, the patronage bestowed has been satisfactory, and an exceedingly good programme is presented this week. The company includes Carson Hicks, a negro delineator of the Eugene Stratton type, who sings a coon love song in pleasing style, and afterwards gives a good exhibition of dancing. Geo. Fairburn appears as a barber, and furnishes imitations of well-known artists, who are supposed to patronage his tonsorial establishment, his best effort undoubtedly being that of R. G. Knowles. Suburban audiences have a weakness for sketches, and *Rogues of the Turf*, founded on the drama of the same name, is well received. The various characters are ably played, particularly that of the old trainer, Sammy, the leader of the gang; and the two ladies are equally good. The presence of three thoroughbreds, and an exciting paddock and race scene, tend to give a realistic effect, and the artists, whose names are not given on the programme, are loudly applauded. This is followed by Dan Conroy, comedian, and next by Miss Fanny Robins, in her popular melodies, including a well-rendered song regarding the "King of the Castle," her baby boy, the refrain of this ditty being taken up by a vocalist in the circle with an exceedingly good voice. Starr and Leslie give an interesting turn, including good singing, excellent fooling, and combined Indian club manipulating. Their joke about the colour of the lamp-light has been well worked, but seems to go as well as ever. An operatic excerpt by Flo Esdaile is the next item, and, wearing a much admired costume, she gives a charming rendering of a difficult aria. "Oysters and clams" is the theme of Amber Austa's song, in which she is assisted by an old darkey, who shuffles along in true negro style, making a capital foil to the somewhat eccentric, yet clever, dancing of the lady referred to.

It is somewhat difficult to impart novelty to a cycling turn, but the Arleys introduce many new and special tricks, and give a good display. The Mayvilles (marionette show) may also be commended, and come in for unstinted appreciation, although the caricature of the Salvationists is perhaps not in the best taste, and could easily be substituted by another item. Miss Florrie Cooper sings a couple of songs very acceptably, and has a favourable reception; and McCann's well-trained Irish terriers and leaping dogs give a smart, if somewhat noisy, turn. The following artists also contribute to an enjoyable evening's entertainment:—Fyne and Hurley, comedians; and the Sisters Tree, in their *Hunting* scena. Ruffell's pictures conclude the programme. The orchestra, admirably led by Mr. R. Allington, deserves special mention; and Mr. R. W. Allum, the acting-manager, is most assiduous in his attentions to those in front of the house.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.

Mr. John C. Coe's enterprise at Hammersmith—the first management to cater for Suburbia—is marked by constancy to change, and every attraction of the modern music hall has to run the gauntlet of criticism from audiences at the local Palace. *The Devil's Sunday*, which has been thrilling the masses nearer the centre of the amusement world, occupies an important place in the current scheme of amusement, which is so admirably presented under the direction of Mr. Lewis Vincent. The dramatic playlet exposes relentlessly, and with no lack of power or realism, the doings of the world of frivolity. Tragedy dogs the footsteps of the *mondaine*, Fay Faber, whose feverish anxiety to get rid of her forger husband in order to fly to the arms of a married paramour supplies the main action of the piece, until, with the fury of madness, the deceived gambler throttles the guilty woman and shoots the man who had plotted to compass her dishonour. It was a theme that Alexandre Dumas the younger treated with characteristic power in the seventies; and in the present day Maurice Donnay is impressing Parisian audiences by "girding" at society in the faubourgs with unfettered power and uncompromising plainness of speech. *The Devil's Sunday* is now announced as the work of Mrs. Richard Pole, who acknowledges her indebtedness to Father Vaughan for one of her incidents. Mr. John Lawson repeats his fine performance as the prisoner on bail; and the part of Fay Faber, which makes heavy demands on the physical strength of an actress, is presented with far-reaching callousness and power of declamation that are most effective by a lady whose name does not appear upon the programme. The drawing-room in which the action of the sketch takes place is a sumptuously-furnished apartment.

Early in the evening the Karno Trio set the house in a roar with their farcical doings in a quick lunch, the diverting nature of the incidents being assisted by revolving doors and property poultry. Mr. Hardy Palm scores in a song concerning Chicago canned meat, evoking fun from the scandal exposed in "The Jungle Book." Devotees of St. Cecilia are found in Phern and Phern, who play "Genevieve" on stringed instruments with a funnel attachment—a new method of increasing "Helicon's harmonious sounds," discovered some years since by a gentleman named Stroh, who invented the Stroh violin. Other instrumental items of the clever pair include a duet on the more familiar banjo and a really clever vocal imitation of the 'cello.

The surprise of the bill, however, is the "Little One," a really wonderful child-actress, who sings a couple of humorous songs with point and finish, supplementing such exhibitions of her talent as a comedienne by imitations of a German vocalist and a French *chanteuse*. With an *aplomb* that would do credit to an experienced actress, "Little One" presents impressions of a scene from *Sapho*, with Miss Olga Nethersole as Alphonse Daudet's heroine, Mr. Frank Mills as the lover, and herself as the child Joseph—a remarkable *tour de force*, indeed, for one so young. More familiar and more welcome to the Hammersmithians were the child's mimicry of Vesta Victoria in her famous song, "It's all right in the summer-time," and of Harry Lauder in "Stop yer tickling, Jock." This youngster, if she sustains her early promise, should have a bright future.

Grant and Allen appear successfully as a couple of inebriated revellers, who serenade an animated pillar-box, and also appear as comic cavalrymen, with property steeds. An immense favourite at Hammersmith is Mr. Arthur Lennard, whose latest success is "If I'd been born a girl," the clever rendering of which finds the heartiest appreciation. Mr. Lennard has an appreciation of the value of repose, and his artistic method commends itself to those who have long since tired of the ranting roarer who literally "chucks" himself at unoffending persons in front. Mr. Lennard also scores in his popular cigar song. Mr. Johnny Johnston, the "musical dandy," sings in praise of the chorus song, and also gives a solo on the 'cello. Bijou Russell's sand-dance is a remarkable effort; and Phillips and Terry present cleverly the sketch, entitled *The Revolt of Man*, in which the action is supposed to take place a hundred years hence. The Carlyles, whirlwind dancers, put in an extra turn on the evening of our visit, and were well received; and a trio of clever acrobats, aided by a diminutive comedian, also made a hit. Other attractions announced on the bill are Miss Jenny Gray, Ergotti and King Luis, and the Edisonograph.

CAMBERWELL PALACE.

"Over the hill to the Palace" is a phrase in frequent use by the residents of the adjoining districts of Camberwell, where the tramway extension, now completed, enables variety lovers in Dulwich to gain easy access to the elegant hall close by the Green. A variety of attractions is this week presented by Mr. P. A. Lennon, the able manager, and the satisfaction of the audience which twice nightly assembles is unbounded. The fame of Mr. Joe Elvin is as great in Camberwell as in all other parts of the metropolis—not to speak of the whole kingdom. He is this week appearing in his diverting rôle of Podgers in *The Wrong House*, in which the inimitable comedian is afforded unlimited opportunities for his eccentricity. The first entry of the inebriated Podgers arouses a peal of laughter which scarcely ceases during the whole course of the sketch. Mr. Elvin is capably supported by the members of his company, and the cheers with which the comedian is greeted give ample proof of the solidarity of his success.

Animal imitations are no novelty on the variety stage, but Mr. Carl Lynn manipulates the vocal chords in a way that surely has never been done before. He presents his manifestations in the shape of a monologue in which the chief features of a trip in the country are divertingly detailed. By means only of his voice Mr. Lynn reproduces the starting of a motor-car, with the fearsome hoot of the horn. A farmhouse is reached, and the neighing of the horses in the stable copied with marvellous accuracy. A pigstye is then explored, and the squeals of a little porker and the grunting of the older members of the family imitated with comical results. Later a wild-beast show in the vicinity is visited, and the roaring of a cage of lions both before feeding-time and during that interesting process is cleverly simulated. Aided only by an ordinary lampglass the performer produces sounds that can only be described as phenomenal, the power and expression that he puts into the cries of the ferocious animals being startlingly real. Mr. Lynn's turn is certainly among the best of the evening, and the recalls he obtains are thoroughly deserved. For an encore he gives by special request an imitation of the braying of a donkey, and having obliged with a supplementary imitation of a lioness presents one of its cubs in the shape of a pretty little puppy which toddles across the stage.

A welcome return to her admirers in the metropolis is made by Miss Lily Langtry, whose reception is a most cordial one. Sparkling and effervescent as ever, the tireless comedienne keeps spectators in a state of excitement by the energy which she infuses into her singing. The ear of the audience is kept amused by the humour of "When we went to the Zoo," and the eye is kept constantly on the move to follow the rapid steps of the popular comedienne who is able to preserve her vivacity and charm even when careering along the stage at lightning speed. The humours of "Hampstead Heath" are also presented with exhilarating effect, and determined efforts are made to extract an encore from the popular young lady, Miss Rosie Lloyd, another comedienne of the first-class, gains the sympathies of all for the plaint of a coster lassie, whose injunction, "Never introduce your bloke to your lady friend," is sung in plaintive style. The song possesses homely sentiment as well as humour, and finds an echo in the hearts of the jilted fair ones among the audience, who appland the singer without stint.

Carrie Laurie's Juveniles appeared on the evening of our visit without their usual preceptress, but the business of the school was efficiently conducted under another fair mistress, and the singing and dancing of the pupils caused admiration, while the humour of the smallest boy gave keen delight. Mr. Charles Johnson, the "Black Diamond," shines brilliantly in real ragtime songs and gives a clever exhibition of the way in which he won cake-walk competitions in Paris and America. No counterpart to Mr. Sam Mayo's immobile features can be found during his occupancy of the stage, for every face is wreathed in smiles while he sings his piquant songs. Mr. Jack Camp amuses all with droll anecdote and refrain. Vernon's Bioscope gives a series of humorous pictorial displays, Tee and Tee, musical eccentrics, have many comical effects, and the programme is completed by J. G. Taylor, comedian, and Miss Florrie Gallimore, comedienne.

A CRY FROM THE CHILDREN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I wish to thank all those who have so generously responded to our appeal for help in money and in clothing, and, beggar as I am, a letter I have received constrains me to beg still further. It is from a poor mother whose heart was wrung by the cry of her children for food and fire. We have lit the fire, and we have given the food, and the little ones were told that all these good things came from Santa Claus. Now the poor little trusting souls are asking their mother if he will come again at Christmas with toys and dolls. That's what I want. Please, dear, happy, mothers, look over your children's stock of toys, and send along what they don't want, so that we may make glad the hearts of these poor little mites. In the many miserable homes I have visited, the children, with the faith and hope of youth, are looking forward to Christmas and the coming of Santa Claus to clear away all their troubles, and when they talk the broken-hearted mother turns away her tear-filled eyes from them, for she knows, alas! too well that she can't give them what they hope for. Will you give? Yes, you will; and the day on which the message of peace goes out to all the world will be all the brighter, all the happier, to you and yours for the giving. Contributions in kind and money, which will be acknowledged in these columns, should be sent to—Yours faithfully, ANNE DE GREY,

Sec. Music Hall Ladies' Guild.

69, Primrose Mansions, Prince of Wales's-road, Battersea Park. Dec. 12.

KING OF THE WIRE, IN BRISTOL.

"A REMARKABLE TURN."

A remarkable turn heads the bill at the Palace Theatre, Don Juan A. Caicedo doing more things on the slender wire than a good many people can do on more solid foundation. It is impossible to enumerate all the things this modern Blondin does, but especially noticeable are the somersaults, both backwards and forwards, and a trick on a chair, which is as much a test of the nerves for the audience to watch as the artist to perform.—*Western Daily Press*, Dec. 11, 1906.

"IMITATORS BUT NO RIVALS."

If you want to laugh go to the Palace. Would you be entertained for two hours with amusing drollery and clever mannerisms, go to the Palace. Don Juan A. Caicedo is appropriately called "King of the Wire," for apparently there is little that he cannot do upon it. It is obviously a sensational and dangerously difficult turn, such as prove so popular nowadays to British audiences. Much hard work is required, as well as nerves of steel. This intrepid wire-walker goes ahead of his rivals in that he turns somersaults upon the wire when heavily booted and spurred. Don Juan comes in for a hearty reception, and well he deserves it.—*Bristol Mercury*, Dec. 11, 1906.

INTENSELY DIFFICULT FEATS.

"King of the Wire" is the title claimed by Don Juan A. Caicedo, and it is not an exaggerated claim either. Clever performers of the same kind have often appeared at the Palace, but none have carried through their tricks with more ease or exactness. It was this, more than anything else, which earned for the performer his success. Intensely difficult as some of his feats were, he never made a slip. When he stood upon a chair balanced by the two hind legs upon the wire he was enthusiastically applauded, and the demonstration was renewed upon his turning somersaults with top boots on to which large spurs were attached. He is sure to be a big draw for the rest of the week.—*Bristol Times and Mirror*, Dec. 11, 1906.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Considerable expressions of dissatisfaction with regard to the nomination of officers having reached the executive officials of the Guild, it is proposed for the ensuing year that nominations of officers on the Executive Committee be sent in advance of the Manchester meeting, either direct to the Guild Secretary, care of this office, or to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. T. Hurst, Broadhurst Farm, Clifton, Pendlebury, Manchester. To be in order the person nominated must be a member of the Guild, and the person nominating a committeeman must also be a subscribing member. It is hoped that having the nomination list open for a month before the Manchester meeting will remove all possible cause of complaint, and also clear the ground at the Manchester meeting for the very important open and public part of the proceedings.

With the growth of the Society's work it has been long felt that the selection of the committee should be wider spread over the country, and also that the committee should be more representative of the whole body than has hitherto been the case, and it is in order to secure this that the executive officials readily afford the opportunity of throwing open the nominations a month before the annual meetings.

The Manchester meeting has been fixed for Jan. 16, 1907, and will be held at four o'clock in the afternoon, in the Memorial Hall, Albert-square. The annual Committee meeting will take place at eleven in the forenoon of the same day, at the Black Lion Hotel, Salford.

The fairs ahead for next week are—Bilston, on the Great Western Railway; Birkenhead, on the Great Western and London and North Western; Bristol, on the Great Western, London and North Western, and Midland; Cheltenham, on the Great Western, Midland and South Western Junction; Deptford, on the South Eastern, London, Brighton and South Coast, and London, Chatham and Dover; Islington: Jarrow-on-Tyne, on the North Eastern; Kirkby Lonsdale, on the London and North Western; Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the North Eastern and North British; Northampton, on the North Western, Great Northern, London and North Western and Midland; North Shields, on the North Eastern; Northwich, on the London and North Western, and Cheshire Lines; Portsmouth, on the London, Brighton and South Coast, and London and South Western; Preston, on the Great Western, North Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, West Lancashire, Furness and North British; Rushden, on the Midland; Ryde, on the Isle of Wight, Central, London, Brighton and South Coast, and London and South Western; Southampton, on the London and South Western, Midland and South Western Junction; South Western, Great Western; Southport, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire, Cheshire Lines and Great Central; South Shields, on the North Eastern; Tunbridge Wells, on the South Eastern, and London, Brighton and South Coast; and Wellington, on the Great Western, and North Western Railways.

In Scotland—Motherwell, on the Caledonian Railway. In Wales—Cardiff, on the Great Western, Rhymney, Taff Vale, and London and North Western; Merther Tydvil, on the Great Western, North Western, Taff Vale, Brecon and Merioneth, Cambrian and Rhymney; Mold, on the London and North Western; Morriston, on the Great Western and Midland; Pontypridd, on the Taff Vale; and Swansea, on the Great Western, London and North Western, Midland, and Swansea and Mumbles Railway.

Hancock's Fair at the Winter Gardens, Plymouth, was maintained by Hancock's four-a-breast galloping horses, park swings, side shows of living pictures, marionettes by Lawrence, cocoanut sheet and bottle-smasher by Oldridge, wallops and ring stall by Whiteley, throwing games and football by Locke.

A three weeks' carnival is in progress at Wall's End, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. Among the attractions are J. Wingate with his latest novelty, the razzle-dazzle, J. Key's horses and swings, J. Hancock's gallery and bottle shooter, J. Shaw's Emma stalls, R. Glancock's fair play, M. Mitchell's hobby-horses, and other concerns by J. Gray, Cartwright, Smith, Slater, and Mrs. Kelly—all doing good business.

Heal's steam roundabouts and attendant side shows are once again set up on the Broad Quay, Bath—an excellent pitch for all travelling showmen on the West of England Circuit.

The famous Bostock and Wombwell Menagerie has opened in the Smithfield fairground, Sheffield, for a week's visit on Wednesday.

Guild subscriptions for 1906:—Mr. John Collins, £5 5s.; Mr. Patrick Collins (second subscription), £5.

The animated pictures proving so great a draw at Hancock's Winter Gardens, Plymouth, the management have decided to continue their production.

A seasonable film, happily named "A Christmas Card," has been specially devised by Mr. Robt. W. Paul, the patentee and manufacturer of the "Reliance" animatograph. It depicts, in a series of vivid scenes, a story of three homes, and in the course of the portrayal a little girl, who befriends a ragged boy, is taken with him by fairy means to the Home of Santa Claus, and afterwards transported to the humble attic of the boy's mother, which Santa Claus magically transforms into a home of plenty. It is an ideal picture for the Christmas festivities, and just such a one as Dickens loved to draw.

THE STUDT-DOONER WEDDING.

We have great pleasure in giving to our readers the following interesting details of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Studt, jun., that we briefly chronicled last week. Probably no wedding in Southampton during the past ten years has excited so much interest, or has led to so many pleasing demonstrations of popular esteem. St. Mary's Church was filled to excess with an attentive and interested congregation, including many showmen and their friends. Numerous congratulatory letters and telegrams were received before and during the day of the marriage from prominent showmen and friends, regretting their inability to be present at the ceremony. During the day and evening the bells of Holyrood Church rang out merrily in honour of the event. As we have already recorded, the service was fully choral, the splendid choir of St. Mary's Church singing in a devotional and impressive manner.

The marriage was taken by the senior curate of the parish (the Rev. W. White), assisted by the Rev. T. Horne, Honorary Chaplain to the Showmen's Guild. At the end of the service the Rev. T. Horne delivered an appropriate and impressive address, primarily to the newly-married couple, and also pointed the lesson of the service to the general congregation.

The following were the guests present at the marriage ceremony:—Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Studt, father and mother of the bridgroom; Mr. James Dooner, father of the bride; and Mr. Richard Dooner, brother; Mr. John Johnson (best man), uncle of the bridegroom; Mr Johnnie Studt, Mr. George Studt, Master Chas. Studt, Master Harry Studt, brothers of the bridegroom. Pages: Master Conrad Studt, brother of the bridegroom; Miss Doreen Johnson, cousin of the bridegroom. Bridesmaids: Miss Catherine Studt, Miss Mary Ann Studt, sisters of the bridegroom; Miss Harriett Hancock, cousin of the bride; Miss Lilly Dooner, sister of the bride. Miss Sophia Hancock, Plymouth, aunt of the bride; Mrs. Henry Studt, Swansea, aunt of the bridegroom; Miss Louisa Studt, Swansea, cousin of the bridegroom; Mrs. Panton, of London; Mr. and Mrs. W. Haggar, of S. Wales; Mr. and Mrs. C. Chiappa, London; Mr. Hibbert, Basingstoke; the Rev. T. Horne, of London, Hon. Chaplain of the Showmen's Guild; Ald. Gayton, Southampton; Mr. F. Styles, King and Son, Southampton; Mr. E. Bert Jarvis, Mr. Jacob Studt's courteous assistant, who acted in conjunction with Mr. Johnson as M.C.; Mrs. Bunter, of Bristol; Mr. Miles, Swindon; Mr. W. Samuels, Manchester; Mrs. Lashmar, Bristol; Mr. W. Nesbitt, Blandford; Mr. W. Moore, Aberdare; Mr. W. H. Freeman, Cardiff; Mrs. and Miss Perkins, of Southampton; Mr. H. C. Holt, of Southampton; Mr. E. W. Blew, of Southampton; and many others.

After the wedding a reception was held in the Victoria Room, adjoining Mr. Studt's spacious

[*Photo by Dare.*

THE STUDT-DOONER WEDDING PARTY AT SOUTHAMPTON.

hall, when a sumptuous repast was provided. A string band was in attendance, and played during the wedding feast, and afterwards for the ball in the evening. The Rev. T. Horne made a very neat and fitting speech at the breakfast. Amongst others who spoke were Mr. Jacob Studt, Mr. Jacob Studt, jun. (on behalf of himself and bride), Mr. J. Johnson, Mr. J. Dooner, Mr. R. Dooner, and Mr. W. Haggar. Toasts and healths were proposed and drunk with musical honours.

List of Presents.

Bridegroom to bride, gold chain and diamond pendant; bride to bridegroom, diamond and sapphire scarf-pin; bride to bridesmaids, gold and turquoise hat-pins; bridegroom to bridesmaids, gold, turquoise, and pearl brooches; Jacob Studt, sen., to bridegroom, massive gold lever watch; Mrs. Jacob Studt, sen., to bridegroom, massive gold chain; Mr. Henry Studt and family, of Swansea, massive antique gold seal; Alderman Gayton, Southampton, set silver-mounted carvers; Mr. and Mrs. C. Chiappa, London, silver tea and coffee service; Mr. G. Hancock, Plymouth, silver teapot; Mr. W. Hancock, Plymouth, silver-mounted hand toilet mirror; Mrs. W. Hancock, Plymouth, silver-mounted toilet set; Miss S. Hancock, Plymouth, antique coffee-pot and vase; Miss Dodo Hancock, Plymouth, lady's silver belt; Miss Harriett Hancock, Plymouth, hand-worked cushion; Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson, Barry, silver tea service and tray; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Johnson, Barry, bed quilt; Miss Harriett Dooner, sister of the bride, silver toast-rack and cruet; Mrs. R. Dooner, jun., clothes brush and rack; Miss Sophia Dooner, sister of the bride, silver tureen; Miss Lily Dooner, sister of the bride, silver egg-cruet; Dooner's working staff, silver sugar scuttle and spoon; Mr. Johnnie Studt, brother of the bridegroom, silver loving cup; Mr. Georgie Studt, brother of the bridegroom, set silver combs; Master Charley Studt, brother of the bridegroom, silver smokers' companion; Master Harry Studt,, brother of the bridegroom, silver vesta case; Master Conrad Studt, brother of the bridegroom, silver vesta case; Studt's working staff, large copper urn; Miss Catherine Studt, sister of the bridegroom, antique workbox; Miss Mary Ann Studt, sister of the bridegroom, writing desk; Mr. and Mrs. E. Bert Jarvis, set fire brasses; Mr. and Mrs. J. Whayman, London, set silver carvers; Mr. and Mrs. Hastings, London, antique tea service; Mr. and Mrs. Harrington, S. Wales, fruit dish, jam dish, and sugar castor; Mr. and Mrs. W. Moore, Aberdare, silver kettle and spirit stand; Mr. and Mrs. Bunter, Bristol, silver and cut-glass sugar basin; Mr. and Mrs. Davies, Pembroke Dock, five o'clock tea service; Mr. W. J. Affleck, King's Lynn, silver cream jug; Messrs. Chiappa Bros., London, spirit tantalus; Mrs. Panton, London, gold and silver tea spoons and tongs; Mr. Richard Dooner, brother of bride, silver tea service; Mr. and Mrs. Freeman, Cardiff, silver egg-cruet; Mr. and Mrs. Ward, Cardiff, flower stand; Mr. A. Miller, Cardiff, silver butter dish; Mr. Wm. Ball, London, silver-mounted toilet brushes; Mrs. Marshall Hill, Bristol, hat and clothes brush and stand; Mrs. Coles, Bristol, silver fruit dish; Mr. and Mrs. James Wentworth, cut-glass silver cruet; Mr. F. Stiles King and Son, Southampton, silver tea service; Mrs. Holt, Southampton, antique framed oil-painting; Mr. James Day, Glasgow, large mottoed Scotch shortbread cake; Messrs. Anderton, Bristol, pair of oil-paintings; Mr. and Mrs. Spinner, Bristol, hand-worked cushion; Rusher and Stoner, two Studt's employees, coal scuttle; Miss Rose Pillinger, Bristol, hand-worked lace toilet set; Miss Annie Braham, Bristol, writing case; Miss Davie Anderton, Bristol, eider-down quilt; Mrs. Lashman, Bristol, pair silver spray stands; Mr. and Mrs. W. Haggar, S. Wales, photo. album; Mr. Hibbert, Basingstoke, barometer; Mr. E. Blew, Southampton, barometer; Mr. H. C. Holt, Southampton, set silver-mounted

MRS. JACOB STUDT, JUN.
(née Miss Dooner).

carvers; Misses Annie and Lizzie North, Axminster carpet and table linen; Mrs. E. Burchall, St. Austells, eider-down quilt; Miss Ettie Skinner, bed spread; Misses Rosie and Frances Troulaw, Torquay, turquoise earrings (to bride); Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Ball, West Ealing, afternoon cream-jug, sugar basin, and tongs; Mr. and Mrs. Miles, Swindon, pair antique salad bowls; Mr. A. Miller, silver butter dish; Mrs. Chirgwin, Swindon, scarf-pin; Mrs. W. Brimmell and daughter, silver sardine dish; Misses Pillinger, Bristol, silver jam dish; Mrs. Perkins, Southampton, cut-glass mirror; Miss R. Perkins, Southampton, silver jam spoon; Miss Lizzie Jackson, Southampton, silver salt-cellars; "Old Charlie," Southampton, silver vesta case and cigarette-holder, &c.

Considerable local feeling has been provoked in Aylesbury by some recent restrictions imposed on shows, menageries, and roundabouts when using the Market-square of the town.

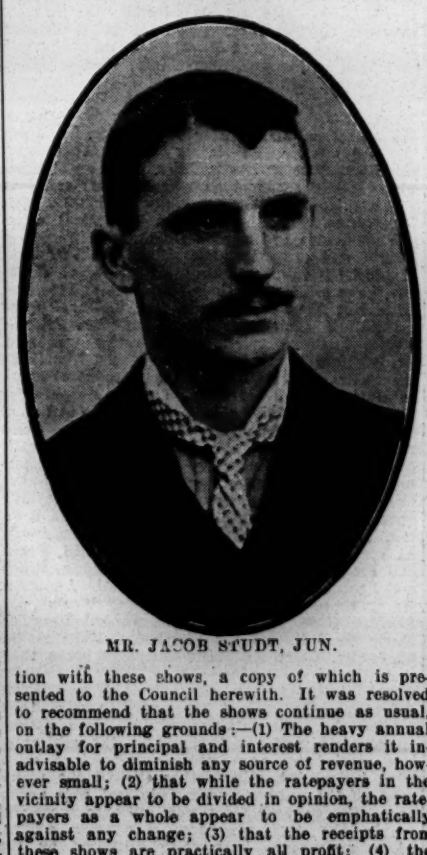
A petition against these restrictions was presented to the District Council as follows:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Aylesbury Urban District Council, Oct. 25.

We, the undersigned ratepayers and voters in and near the Market and Kingsbury-squares and other districts, beg to tender our sincere thanks to the Council for endeavouring to keep the rates as low as possible by allowing shows, roundabouts, &c., in the Market and Kingsbury-squares on other days than Fair-days. Public institutions have benefited thereby, the proprietors offering donations. It improves business by attracting country people into the town. The showmen also pay heavy tolls for their standing towards the rates. We therefore respectfully hope that the Council may see their way to continue in the future as at present, and allow the showmen to erect their stands in the said squares as heretofore, thereby giving a chance for our poorer brethren to obtain a little cheap amusement. (Here follow about 400 signatures.)

An adverse petition was also presented to the Markets and Fairs Committee, with the following satisfactory result to showmen:—

"The committee considered the two memorials received on the subject of permitting shows in the Market-square and Kingsbury on days other than Fair-days, also a memorandum prepared by the Clerk on the receipts and expenditure in connec-



MR. JACOB STUDT, JUN.

tion with these shows, a copy of which is presented to the Council herewith. It was resolved to recommend that the shows continue as usual, on the following grounds:—(1) The heavy annual outlay for principal and interest renders it inadvisable to diminish any source of revenue, however small; (2) that while the ratepayers in the vicinity appear to be divided in opinion, the ratepayers as a whole appear to be emphatically against any change; (3) that the receipts from these shows are practically all profit; (4) the small number of occasions on which these shows are held, and the fact that directions have now been given to vary the positions of the shows as much as possible, resulting in a minimum of inconvenience; (5) the number of years during which these shows have been permitted. The committee recommend that negotiations be opened with the Trustees of Bedford's Charity with a view to ascertaining the terms upon which they would be prepared to convey the Recreation Ground to the Council. The committee recommend that shows, on days other than Fair-days, be required to close at 10.30 p.m., Saturdays 11 p.m.; also that printed notices to this effect be handed to showmen."

THE FIGHT FOR BURSLEM WAKES.

The latest incident in the struggle between the people and their would-be "Pastors and Masters" took place in the Borough Council Chamber at the last meeting of the Town Council on the 10th instant, and although it ended in a drawn battle, the whole proceeding was full of hopeful augury for the future success of the people's cause and the vindication of the showmen.

Happily, at Burslem, the fight is being well led and successfully carried on by local champions under the leadership of that veteran warrior for popular rights, Mr. T. Bentley, and the showmen's interests only need careful watching until such time as shall be deemed opportune for them to intervene.

Showmen do not forget that it is primarily a people's question. When it is made clear that the people do not want the Wakes, then as business men they will find a fresh outlet for their enterprise.

The Corporation enemies of the Fair will have to bow to the will of the people or make room for representatives who will.

The proceedings at the Council meeting were of the most significant character, when it is borne in mind that the resolution against the Wakes passed in October last was carried by sixteen votes to two, and that things have so marched ahead since then that the voting now stands equal on both sides.

The matter came before the whole Council on the report of the procedings of the General Purposes Committee. The report set out the question of removing the Wakes from the centre of the town had been before them, and the Town Clerk reported that at the public meeting held in the Town Hall a resolution was passed requesting the Council to rescind their resolutions passed on Oct. 8. The Clerk also read memorials from the Burslem Evangelical Free Church Council, the Burslem Sunday School Union, and from tradesmen and ratepayers of the town, urging the Council to adhere to their resolutions. After the question had been fully discussed, it was moved by Alderman Bratt and seconded by Councilor Sargeant: "That a ballot be taken with the object of ascertaining the opinion of the burgesses as to whether the Wakes should be held in the centre of the town or removed elsewhere." The resolution was put to the meeting, and declared to be lost, the voting being as follows: Ten voted for the resolution and thirteen against it. By order of the Mayor, the votes were recorded, and were as follows: Alderman Bratt, and Councillors Broadhurst, Edwards, Green, Jackson, Johnson, Mitchell, Parkes, Robinson, and Sargeant voted for the resolution. The Mayor, Aldermen Cartlidge, Edge, Edwards, Malkin, and Councillors Averill, Brodie, Chadwick, Ford, Gibson, Porter, Wade, and Willett voted against it. The question of the admission of ratepayers to the Council Chamber was considered, and after some discussion it was resolved to proceed with the next business on the agenda.

The Town Clerk said that a petition had been handed to him at noon that day, praying that the Council should rescind the resolution passed on Oct. 8 forbidding their toll-collector to let any land in the streets in the centre of the town for shows, &c., during the Wakes week.

In reply to Mr. Parkes, the Mayor said he thought there were about 1300 signatures to the petition.

Alderman Bratt moved as an amendment to the above minutes that the one referring to the question of the Wakes should be referred back to the Committee with the view of a ballot being eventually taken.

This was seconded by Mr. Sargeant.

Mr. Brodie said he hoped that the Council would not take any action of that kind. Nothing had occurred, since their last decision had been arrived at, which had in any way altered the position. It was true that a town's meeting had been held, but the representatives of the Council had not then had a fair hearing.

Mr. Willett said that before the Council could be asked to refer the matter back there should be some fresh reason given, but no such reason was given. The Council had already considered the subject upon its merits.

Mr. Finney said that while he personally agreed with the action of the Council, if a vote was taken he was pledged to the ratepayers of the North Ward to vote for a ballot. And if a ballot was taken, it ought to be a thorough one, and facilities for the people of each ward to vote should be given.

Alderman Malkin said the people most affected by the Wakes, the tradesmen in the centre of the town, had presented a petition against the continuance of the Wakes in their present position. Seventy per cent. of the whole of the tradesmen having shops there had voted.

Alderman Cartlidge opposed the proposition, and declared that to bring the question up in this manner at each meeting was merely child's play. (Hear, hear). They had considered the subject time after time, and to raise it so frequently was an insult to the intelligence of the Council. It was said that by abolishing the Wakes they would be taking away the enjoyment of the children, but a petition had been signed by 5000 Sunday school children against the Wakes. How a man professing Christianity could oppose the action of the Council, he could not understand, and he thought it would be a standing disgrace to the Council if the question was again sent back.

Mr. Porter agreed, and said he did not know when the advocates of the Wakes being continued would acknowldege that they had been honestly beaten. (Hear, hear). After every discussion that had taken place they had brought up the matter again.

Mr. Robinson took exception to the remark made by Alderman Cartlidge to the effect that he could not understand how a man professing Christianity could oppose the action of the Council, and he said that a great deal more would be heard about the Wakes question before it was finished. He wished to be the mouthpiece of those whom he represented, and the only true way out of the whole difficulty was to leave the decision to the ratepayers. If the Council did not think the Wakes fair was a proper thing, they must try to educate the people to that view. He believed that it would be infinitely better, from the point of view of morality, if the Wakes were in the centre of the town than outside it.

Mr. S. Ford urged those members of the Council who had voted for the original motion, to "play the man."

Mr. A. H. Gibson spoke in favour of the removal of the Wakes from the centre of the town.

Alderman T. Edwards, who said that he had visited sixty-four Wakes fairs in Burslem, declared that there were too many holidays in the Potteries—(hear, hear)—and the sooner they got rid of some the better it would be for the working people. From Easter until September the workmen had "broken-time" continually, and were never able really to recover the time lost. Although he had said at the East Ward meeting that he was in favour of a ballot, he did not mean any kind of a ballot.

Mr. Parkes said he was pledged to support a ballot, and he should therefore support the proposition. He agreed with Alderman Edwards that the Wakes caused a great deal of wasted time, and he should like to see one holiday time for the whole district arranged for. (Hear, hear). If it was a question of the workmen's holidays why should they not allow the workmen to decide?

Alderman Wilcox Edge urged the Council, as a body of business men, not to stultify itself by referring the matter back, because it had been discussed as much as possible, and there had been no new element introduced except that petition, which had only been presented that day. They must not forget that there had been other important petitions from the Free Church Council and the Sunday School Union. Democratic as these days were—and no one rejoiced more than himself—they were surely not coming to a point when they must do their business in the Market-place. (Hear, hear). If a mere detail in administration was to be referred to a ballot why were they there at all? (Hear, hear). People had their rights and their opportunities, but those opportunities arose in November and at the ward meetings.

Mr. Wade said that if to the question of the abolition of the Wakes was added the desirability or otherwise of fixing one general holiday, he should have no objection to the poll being taken, but the general holiday was not one of the points at issue, and on such a small matter as remained it would not be wise to go to a poll costing about £100.

The Mayor said that the petition from the Free Church Council represented 18 churches, 1900 members, 500 Sunday school teachers, and 5900 scholars. He added that the Town Clerk had been in communication with the owner of land in Moorland-road, which, with the old "Keep-off" land would be available for the Wakes shows if the Council decided to remove them, and reasonable terms could no doubt be arranged.

Mr. Green asked whether the owner of the land or the Corporation would receive the benefit from the rentals.

The Mayor said the land-owner had no intention of making a profit, and the Town Clerk said the town would get the profit.

Mr. Johnson supported the proposal to refer the question back. He was in favour of the Wakes being swept away, but as there seemed to be a preponderance of opinion against its abolition, he could not vote for such a step being taken.

Mr. Mitchell also supported the proposal.

The proposition was then put to the meeting, and twelve voted in favour of it and twelve in opposition to it. Those in favour were: Alderman Bratt, Councillors Broadhurst, Chadwick, J. H. Edwards, Finney, Green, Jackson, Johnson, Mitchell, Parkes, Robinson, and Sargeant. Those voting against the proposition were: The Mayor, Aldermen Cartlidge, Edge, T. Edwards, and Malkin, Councillors Averill, Brodie, Ford, A. H. Gibson, Porter, Wade, and Willett.

The Mayor said he did not care to take the responsibility of giving a casting vote.

The proposition therefore fell to the ground.

At the close of the Council meeting the Town Clerk said it was open for any member to give notice of motion for the next meeting.

Mr. Finney said that he would propose, at the next meeting, that a ballot of the ratepayers should be taken on the Wakes question.

Mr. Brodie asked whether the Council was to be subjected to such child's play at every meeting.

Alderman Malkin said it was unfortunate that Mr. Finney should be the one to again bring the matter forward because he had been absent, through illness he was sorry to say, from the meeting of the General Purposes Committee at which the subject had been most thoroughly thrashed out.

Mr. Porter asked if it would be possible, even after the next meeting, for the subject to be again brought forward?

Alderman Cartlidge: Yes, for twenty years if they like. (Laughter).

The minutes of the General Purposes Committee were then confirmed.

Just one or two obvious comments may be usefully made at this juncture.

Firstly—it is now recognised that it is a question for the ultimate decision of the people; and that, if it is not decided by an immediate ballot of the ratepayers, it will be decided by the voters turning out the men who misrepresent them as occasion offers at the municipal elections. "Even to this pass" must the autocrat of the Wakes question—Councillor Brodie—himself come.

Secondly—the forces of puritanical prejudice are being marshalled, and we are now told that it is the Fair as an institution and as a means of popular recreation and holiday that is objected to—it is no longer those vulgar, dirty showfolk, to be banned as moral and sanitary pests; but that the Wakes must go, because certain goody-goody people object to its continuance.

It is well to review the position and to see where we stand. We do not think that there is much fear now as to what the ultimate answer will be. The process may be slow, but we anticipate a full and complete victory for the people of Burslem over the forces of organised prejudice and reaction.

An exceptional opportunity of acquiring a popular concern in good going order occurs in the forthcoming sale of Mr. J. Wingate's razzle-dazzle, widely known as "Whirling the Whirl." It is acknowledged to be the prettiest machine on the road, and can be carried in four loads by road or rail. It can be seen working in the Garrison Field, Sunderland, during Christmas and New Year. Price and particulars may be obtained on application to J. Wingate, Whale Museum, Skegness.

ANSWERS TO SHOWMEN.

C. V. (Maida Vale).—*Glad to know we have set you on the right track. We wish you every success.*

Enquirer (Leeds).—*There is no binding rule about it. The benevolent grant is, as its name indicates, an act of kindness, and is only meant for the dire necessity of poverty. Look up your Guild rules.*

"THE DEVIL'S SUNDAY."

To the Editor of The Era.

Sir,—Re Mr. Dan Fitzgerald's letter in your last issue. Mr. John Lawson purchased the playlette, *A Jury of One*, for one idea, namely, that of a collar-stud. This situation of the gentleman's collar-stud being found in a lady's bedroom was reproduced in *The Bride for a Living*, and it is very hard to see where the resemblance of *The Devil's Sunday* or *Vanity* come in. The little sketch, *A Jury of One*, is very good, but it was simply purchased for the one idea, as stated above.

Yours faithfully,
CHAS RUSSELL, Secretary.
Paragon, Mile End, Dec. 10.

GREAT DRAW.

GRAHAM,

The Human Marionette.

"A Sure Top."

Agent,

GEORGE BARCLAY.

THE CHESHIRE BYE-LAWS.

PETITION TO THE HOME SECRETARY.

The Executive Council of the Showmen's Guild have despatched the following petition against the proposed bye-laws of the County Council to the Home Office :—

To the Right Honourable H. J. Gladstone, His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The County Council of Chester, having approved of certain bye-laws for the good rule and government of its administrative area, "a copy of such bye-laws having been duly advertised as the Statute directs, and a sealed copy of such bye-laws having been deposited at the Home Office," we, on behalf of the organised showmen of the United Kingdom, respectfully object to the ratification of the said bye-laws.

We consider that unless certain modifications of their proposals be accepted by the County Authorities, our trade and business interests in the County of Chester will be seriously hindered.

We have already set out in order our objections to the County Council, and have been advised by their clerk to lay our grievances before you, so that, in accordance with the accepted procedure, the matter may be referred back to the Council, for their comments and reconsideration.

Proposed bye-law No. 1 sets out :—"No person shall in any street or public place, or on any land adjoining or near to any street or public place, use or play, or cause to be used or played, any steam organ or other musical instrument worked by mechanical means, to the annoyance or disturbance of residents or passengers."

Your petitioners, in catering for the amusement of the people at fairs, feasts, and wakes, do use organs worked by mechanical means, music being a necessary adjunct to our business, and we submit that an additional clause be added, in these or similar words :—

"Provided always that the above bye-law shall not apply to any fair, feast, or wakes lawfully held."

Furthermore, we suggest that the latter portion of the proposed bye-law, from the word "means" to the end, be deleted, and the following words substituted :—

"To the injury, annoyance, or disturbance of at least three residents."

Your petitioners have suffered a most grievous loss in the past from the application of bye-laws, to our business at times of popular holidays and fairs, where such bye-laws regarding organs had been without the saving clause exempting fairs, and where complaint can be made by individual residents or passengers.

Bye-law No. 2 also presents considerable elements of danger and loss to our business, and is worded thus :—

"MUSIC NEAR HOUSES.

"No person shall sound or play upon any musical or noisy instrument, or sing in any street or public place, within one hundred yards of any dwelling-house or office, to the annoyance of any inmate thereof, after being requested to desist by such inmate, either personally or through his servant, or through a constable: Provided that this bye-law shall not apply to properly-conducted religious services, except where the request to desist is made on the ground of the serious illness of any inmate of the house."

Your petitioners have been subjected to interference and loss by the mistaken application of bye-laws (manifestly intended for street musicians) to them and their business.

We readily recognise that, in the case of serious illness, music should be stopped, and it has been our invariable practice to stop all music or other noises at such times.

But, in order to prevent the tyranny of an individual, we suggest that the words, "to the annoyance of any inmate thereof" down to the word "provided," be struck out, and the following substituted :—

"To the injury, annoyance, and disturbance of three or more residents," and that following the words "religious services" these words be added :—"Or at any time of fair, feasts, wakes, or public holidays, except when the request to desist is made on the ground of serious illness of a resident within one hundred yards of the music complained of."

With regard to the other proposed bye-laws regulating music near churches and hospitals, your petitioners make no complaint; they are only too anxious that, in the pursuit of their business, they shall be able to use such necessary music as it demands, without subjecting anyone to serious annoyance or disturbance.

With regard to the bye-law concerning organs, the following important public bodies have bye-laws with the clause exempting fairs, from their provisions :—Yorkshire (West Riding), Lancashire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Lincoln (parts of Holland), Bedfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk (East and West), Surrey, Middlesex, Isle of Wight, and the Boroughs of Leicester, Dewsbury, Norwich, and Croydon.

We therefore respectfully submit to your consideration the above amendments as meeting the justice of the case with regard to the fair-ground industry and the avocation in life of the travelling showman.

We consider that the popular fairs of the people should not be at the mercy of an individual resident or a single passenger, but that the people's fairs should be allowed to depend upon a proper expression and representation of a majority of the residents in any given district.

We therefore respectfully beg that you will refuse your sanction to the bye-laws unless they are modified or amended along the lines we have ventured to set before you.

Signed on behalf of the Guild Executive,

GEORGE SANGER, President,
THOMAS HORNE, Chaplain.

Those of our readers who remember the negotiations with the Lancashire County Council will see that the dispute with the Chester County Council is pursuing a somewhat similar course. It appears to be necessary in every case that a petition be sent to the Home Secretary, who, in the exercise of his discretion, may refer the matter back to the County Council for reconsideration. We again wish to emphasise the importance to showmen of taking notice of all bye-law proposals, and also the importance of sending newspaper cuttings relating to bye-laws immediately to the Guild Secretary, care of this office.

The Home Secretary has sent the following reply to the showmen's petition against the bye-laws :—

"Home Office,
"Dec. 11, 1906.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and to say that the same shall receive due attention.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"M. D. CHALMERS.

"Rev. T. Horne."

So thoroughly advanced are the general arrangements for the twenty-eighth annual World's Fair at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, that Mr. T. E. Read is only waiting for the exit of the Cattle Show, to start the building up of this colossal exhibition, which promises to be the very best on record.

COED PORTH fancy fair was held by J. Greatoreaux's flying horses, boats, Winchester range, and motors, Mander's giant electrograph, T. Connor's Winchester range and strength tester, and Leonard Greatoreaux's football saloon and miniature roundabout.

THE BRIXTON DISPUTE.

MEETING OF ARTISTS.

A meeting of members of the Variety Artists' Federation was held at the Horns, Kennington, on Sunday evening, for the purpose of discussing matters in connection with the dispute between Mr. Walter Gibbons and the artists who were engaged to appear at the Brixton Hippodrome and the Empress. Mr. Joe O'Gorman occupied the chair, and he was supported by the members of the executive committee of the Federation, as well as Mr. J. W. Williams (general secretary of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union), Mr. Jesson, L.C.C., Mr. Claud Bartram (International Artists' Lodge), and Mr. W. Johnson (Stage Employees' Association).

The chairman very briefly opened the meeting by referring to what has now been fully dealt with in the Press. In reference to the statement made by a newspaper to the effect that the Water Rats were gnawing at the Variety Artists' Federation, he had to say that it was a malicious and wilful falsehood.

MR. FRANK GERALD, the secretary of the Federation, read his report. He stated that when the V.A.F. started, a letter was sent to all managers, asking for certain concessions. All they got in reply from Mr. Walter Gibbons was a mere acknowledgment. He (the speaker) thought that the matinée question was one which should receive their earnest attention. He had been in communication with Mr. Jesson, L.C.C., secretary of the Musicians' Society, and a deputation was received by the Labour group of the Council at Spring Gardens. The result of the meeting was a triumph for their cause. They had been supplied by Labour Members with questions to be asked on licensing days regarding barring clauses, matinées, &c., and several such questions had been asked but a few days previously. Then, as to what happened last week at Brixton. Telegrams were sent from the Federation to all the artists, telling them not to change over from one hall to the other. Eleven members of the Federation obeyed the instructions, and only four previously advertised turns appeared at each house. Mr. Gibbons was waited upon, but he would not agree to the minimum terms offered by our executive. They had received votes of confidence and thanks from all over the country from other branches, and during the week just concluded had secured seventy-five new members.

THE CHAIRMAN then read to the meeting the resolution, which was as follows :—"That this meeting unanimously endorses the action of the executive committee of the Variety Artists' Federation with reference to the Hippodrome and Empress, Brixton, and urges them to continue their efforts to obtain the eradication of the matinée clause, the new transfers clause, the varying times clause, and other objectionable clauses that do not constitute an equitable contract, the establishment of a board of arbitration, and the extirpation of other existing conditions that are a hindrance to our trade and profession."

MR. HARRY MOUNTFORD, in moving the resolution, said that they had no personal animus against Mr. Gibbons or any other manager. What they did quarrel about was the system which was put in force against them. It was not a strike on the previous Monday. They were there at the Empress, Brixton, to go on, and they were not allowed to go on. Mr. Gibbons had in his contracts a clause such as this :—"The artist is engaged at the Brixton Hippodrome, or any other hall under the manager's direction." In that way, and by changing about, he got the exclusive services of an artist at a third of the salary that should be paid. For instance, an artist might be engaged to appear at the Islington Empire, and might be told to go to Willesden or Croydon. There was another of Mr. Gibbons' clauses, to the effect that he could vary the times at his discretion. They had, however, brought about one improvement. With all the contracts now it was agreed that for members of the Variety Artists' Federation, six matinées will mean only two.

MR. CLAUD BARTRAM, in seconding the resolution, referred to the transfer clause, which he considered a grave injustice to the artists. The fact that an artist was called upon to transfer from one hall to another which happened to be next door, was only one step towards being called to go from Aberdeen to Southampton. The Federation was formed for the purpose of improving their contracts, and it had already effected something towards that end. So far as the present dispute was concerned, they had expected to have to make a stand, and he was sorry to say that when they did make a stand some of their members did not support the executive committee.

MR. J. W. WILLIAMS, the general secretary of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union, remarked that it spoke well for the success of the Federation that they could bring together such a big and enthusiastic meeting as that he was addressing. He advised them not to listen to the statements of their opponents; they must have absolute confidence in the integrity of their committee.

COUNCILLOR COX, L.C.C., expressed his pleasure at being invited to the meeting, and hoped that the artists would stick together.

MR. JESSON, of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union, said he thought that the musicians, stage employees, and artists should amalgamate, and form one huge Federation. The old proprietors and managers of theatres and music halls had given place to trusts and syndicates, whose directors had no interest in the entertainment world beyond obtaining profits by exploiting the talents of the artists. The capitalists had organised, and how were the artists to hold their own against the trusts if they did not organise as well? He would mention, by the way, that there was a likelihood of Mr. Frank Gerald being brought forward in March as a Labour candidate for the L.C.C.

MR. W. JOHNSON, of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, expressed his belief in the value of the Federation, which had evidently come to stay, and would do more good than was at present realised, for it would not only help the stars, but the whole profession as a body. The members must, above all things, be loyal, and the only place for the man who was not loyal was outside. The speaker also said that his Association was ready to give all the assistance in its power to the Federation.

MR. MACGREGOR, of the Brixton Trades Council, remarked that his Council had much pleasure in meeting Mr. Gerald last Friday, and they were having ten thousand bills distributed amongst their fellow unionists, urging them to keep away from the halls whose managers were unjust in their demands to artists.

The resolution was put to the meeting, and it was carried, seemingly unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN, in his concluding remarks, said :—It is common property that I disagree with the action of the executive committee who acted in this case. Of course, this action must now be adhered to, but I do say that any action so momentous, and liable to bring upon us such grave consequences, must not be passed in a hole-and-corner fashion, but by a properly convened meeting, and I wish to put before you a motion to that effect. I am not here to open old wounds, but I do wish things done in the way proper to a rightly-organised institution.

The chairman's motion was then proposed and carried, and the meeting, after the usual vote of thanks had been passed, dispersed.

THE sympathy of his many friends has gone out to Mr. Henry W. Garrick, the Press representative of the London Hippodrome, who lost his young wife with terrible suddenness a fortnight since.

ARTISTS' AGENTS.

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NOTICE.

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The ANNUAL DINNER and SOCIAL will take place on SUNDAY, Jan. 6, at DOVER CASTLE HOTEL. Early application necessary. Number limited (for Terriers only) For further particulars apply to HARRY LESTER, Secretary, 4, Kennington-road, S.E.

M. H. A. R. A.,
28, WELLINGTON STREET, STRAND, W.C.

The New Books of Rules, with three years' Date Book, are now ready, and will be forwarded to any member on receipt of stamped addressed envelope.
The following agencies have been altered :—Cardiff.—W. H. Beer, Hare and Greyhound Hotel. Rochdale.—Mr. Ned Kennedy, Bishop Blaize Hotel.

Children On the Stage.

THE GIST OF
THE NEW ACT
AFFECTING THE
EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN ON THE STAGE
APPEARED IN
"THE ERA" dated OCT. 8, 1904

The Act came into force on
SATURDAY, OCT. 1, 1904.

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Phone: FOUR-SEVEN-FOUR-SEVEN, CENTRAL.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual (1s.) is, of course, issued by our premier theatrical journal, which, under the literary supervision of Mr. T. F. O'Connor, has recently improved an already strong position. The Annual is better than ever, and includes, besides details of all plays produced in London, the provinces, Paris, and Berlin, lists of all theatres and music halls in the United Kingdom, &c., many stories and sketches by and portraits of actors and actresses. It is a remarkable shillingsworth; useful and interesting to all playgoers and members of the profession alike.—Sunday Sun, Jan. 21, '06.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Almanac and Annual for 1906, is not only a valuable collection of information and a history of the dramatic and musical year. It is also a very amusing and entertaining shillingsworth It contains contributions from many well-known actors and actresses. Mr. Frank Desprez, the editor, contributes a delightful story about an actress who sold her collection of Press notices in order to help a colleague in distress. There are numerous portraits. The lists of English, French, and German plays produced during the year are very useful. Altogether, "The Era" Almanack is indispensable to all interested in the stage.—The Star, Jan. 24, 1906.

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TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, April 1, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Feb. 11, March 25, May 6, 13, 20, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Feb. 4, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 25, April 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Jan. 28, Feb. 11, March 4, 25, April 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
Feb. 18, 25, March 25, April 1, 8, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
March 25, April 1, 29, May 13, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
May 6, onwards.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATEHEAD,
March 4, 11, April 22, May 6, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATEHEAD,
Jan. 14, Feb. 4, 18, March 4, April 1, onwards.
Address, SIDNEY BACON, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, March 11, 18, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, April 8, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Dec. 31, Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 18, March 4 (three nights only), onwards.
Add., E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

LYRIC THEATRE, BROMLEY.
WANTED, First-Class Companies,
Three Nights, Dec. 20,
Six Nights, Jan. 7, 21, Feb. 11,
And a Really Good Pantomime,
Six Nights, Feb. 18.
Address, F. W. PURCELL,
"Lingwood," Yerbury-rd., Tufnell Park, London, N.

FOLKESTONE AND HASTINGS.
WANTED, High-Class Companies, for vacant Spring dates,
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Feb. 25, March 11, 18, 25, April 8, May 6 (Drama), June and July.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE,
April 29 (Drama), May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22.
Easter vacant through disappointment at Hastings and Folkestone. Big Musical Comedies wanted; Whit Week also vacant, both Theatres; Must be big Shows or not entertained.
H. W. ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Comic Opera, Musical Comedies, &c., April, onwards. Address, HERBERT VERE.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, through obliging Mr. Dance, First-Class Star or Musical Attraction, Feb. 25 and March 4. Could entertain good Pantomime one week. Also Attractions May 6, and onwards.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

RAMSGATE.
SANGER'S AMPHITHEATRE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, February and March.
Address, HENRY BOWMAN.

Owing to the reconstruction of the above after Easter, Mr. Henry Bowman is open to lease a good theatre; must be in a rising neighbourhood, and capable of doing satisfactory business.

GRAND THEATRES, CHORLEY & RADCLIFFE.
WANTED, Big Attractions, Jan. 7, 14, Grand, Radcliffe.
Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies, March 4, April 1, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Jan. 7, 21, Feb. 25, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 11 and 18, 1907. L. CARSON, Keighley.

T. R., RUGBY.
WANTED, Companies, Jan. 28, Feb. 4 (three), March 4, April 8, 15, 29, May 6, 27.
A. F. CROSS, P.O.W., Nuneaton.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.
WANTED, Pantomimes, for Jan. 14, 28, and Feb. 11. Apply, HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

WANTED, good Panto., for six or twelve nights, open Dec. 24 or 31, for Palace of Varieties, Leigh (once or twice nightly). Proscenium opening takes 24 by 18 cloths.
J. LARDER, General-Manager.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
QUEEN'S PALACE, RHYL.
PUBLIC HALL, COLWYN BAY.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Dec. 24, on, with exceptions. Apply, CHAS. CHAPLIN, Sea View, Colwyn Bay.

GRAND THEATRE, DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for the following dates in the season of 1907 :—May 20 (Whit week), July 1, 8, and 22, Sept. 9, 16, and 23. Address (during Mr. Alfred Hemming's absence in America), SECRETARY, c/o Pilling and Co., Chartered Accountants, 30, Brown-street, Manchester.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Jan. 9 (4 nights), 14, Feb. 11, March 4, and on, with exceptions. W. E. PORTE.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
WANTED, Good Christmas Attraction.
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Companies, Jan. 10 (3 nights), Jan. 28, March 18, April 1. Apply, SHERWOOD and Co., Opera House, Wakefield.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Jan. 28 (?), March 18, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE METROPOLE, DEVONPORT.
Vacant April 22, 29, onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Dec. 31, Jan. 17, 28, onward, with exceptions.
(Last three nights of each week).

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Feb. 4, 18, March 4, onward, with exceptions.

METROPOLE THEATRE, ABERTILLERY.
Vacant Jan. 14, 28, onward, with exceptions.

LYCEUM THEATRE, PENTRE.
Vacant Jan. 14, 28, onward, with exceptions.

"THE LOST CHORD."
Vacant April 8, 22, onward, with exceptions.

"SPAN OF LIFE."
Vacant Jan. 21, Feb. 18, onward, with exceptions.

"IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S."
Vacant Jan. 14, 21, onward, with exceptions.

"CINDERELLA."
Vacant Feb. 4, 11, onward, with exceptions.

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The Premier Theatre in the Furness District.
Holds £90 at Ordinary Prices.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for March 18 (?), April 1 (?) and 15, May 6, on, with exceptions
The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring.
All Applications for Dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, Strong Attractions,
Dec. 24. Dec. 24.
Jan. 7. Jan. 7.
Jan. 21. Jan. 21.
Wire. Wire. Wire.
R. C. BUCHANAN,
Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, High-class Musical Comedy or London Successes for the following dates, 1907 :

Feb. 11,	April 22,
Feb. 18,	April 29,
March 4,	May 6,
March 11,	May 13,
March 18,	May 20
March 25,	and onwards.

Address, CHAS. E. MACHIN.

WANTED, No. 1 Musical and Dramatic Cos., THEATRE ROYAL, WOLVERHAMPTON, Jan. 7 and 14, Feb. 18, on, with exceptions,
CHARLES BARNARD, Managing-Director,
THEATRE ROYAL, CHATHAM,
March 25, April 8 and 15, May 13, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON,
March 25, April 22, May 6, June 17, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, SMETHWICK,
April 15, May 6 and 13, June 24, on.
C. BARNARD, Chislett-road, W. Hampstead, N.W.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, Theatre Royal, Belfast, Jan. 21 and 28, Feb. 18, March 11 and 18.
All communications,
FRED W. WARDEN,
Telegrams, "Warden, Belfast."

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Feb. 18, March 25, April 15 and 29.
WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 7, 20.
Apply, JAMES KIERNAN, Owner and Manager.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Known, Tours Booked and Arranged for Good Companies and Attractions, by the BOOKING BUREAU, 1, Promenade, Portobello.

CASINO, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-Class Fit-up Companies, Musical Comedy preferred; Share or Rent.
Apply, THORNELL, Casino, Bexhill-on-Sea.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Magnificent New Town Hall, moderate rental, permanent stage, excellent accommodation. F. W. WESTERN, Sandy, Beds.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity. Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards, Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

WANTED, Complete Bioscope Show, 2½ hours, Monday next; also several later dates. Share or salary. WOOD, Col., Blackpool.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of Jan. 14 and 21, Scala Production.
Wire or write, W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, Jan. 7.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Feb. 11 (through transferring), and Easter; only Vacant Dates.
Address, Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.
Aut., 1907, Grand Production, "Rollicking Rory."

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 4, 11, 18.
Address, J. W. CORDINER,
Theatre Royal, Blyth.
See Companies' advertisements, page 2.

"THE POWER OF GOLD."
Booked and re-booked into Oct., 1907.
WANTED, Whit Week, Midlands, March 25 (follow Jarrow), April 15, Sept. 23, Oct. 7.
FRANK AYRTON, County Theatre, Reading.

GRANVILLE and THORNE'S CO.,
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, Dec. 24, for this Excellent Holiday Attraction. Wire, wire, wire, for Xmas, also Feb. 11, March 18, Easter, and on. FRANK M. THORNE, O. H., Wakefield.

MOORE-KENNEDY "WHITTINGTON" PANTO.
Mlle. LUCRETIA as WHITTINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Jan. 7. Vacant through New Theatre, Rugby, not being built. J. P. MOORE, Theatre, Kidderminster.

THEATRES WANTED.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, March 11.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11 and March 11. Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 11, Aug. 5.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE,"
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, 25, April 1.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 4.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, April 15, 22, 29.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, Jan. 14.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Jan. 21 and March 11, Easter Week vacant.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MISS MARY NEIL AND MR. GEORGE KIRK'S "HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO.
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, March 4, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 30, Oct. 7, Nov. 25, Dec. 16, 23, 30.
Only Vacant Dates 1907.

CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
this, Alex., Birmingham; next, T. R., Ashton.

"TOMMY,"
New Play by Jerome K. Jerome.
Miss ANNIE HUGHES
as
TOMMY.
Fine Melodrama.
Striking Success.
WANTED, Dates,
First-class Theatres only.
Apply, Mr. J. E. WATSON,
40, Windsor-road, Holloway, N.

MRS. SAM DUCKWORTH'S
Powerful Company in
the Great Play,
"HER NAMELESS CHILD?"
"HER NAMELESS CHILD?"
"HER NAMELESS CHILD?"
"HER NAMELESS CHILD?"

Another Success at Pontypridd.

Will Managers please refer.

WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Vacant Dec. 31, Jan. 14,
and various onwards.
Apply, SAM DUCKWORTH,
Theatre Royal, Ton-y-Pandy.

ALLAN WILKIE, supported by Mr. G. Alexander Marsh, Miss Ine Cameron, and Miss Carrie Bailey. The strongest Shakespearean Company touring the British Isles. Only vacant dates, Feb. 11 (three nights, South), May 13 (Midlands).
WANTED, June 10, good Theatre, for four weeks, Stock, Aug. 5, onwards, with exceptions. This week, Opera House, Winter Gardens, Blackpool; next week, Victoria Theatre, Broughton.

MISS BONWIN CARLTON'S CO.,
"THE PLUCKY NIPPER."
WANTED, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21, More Laughs than a Pantomime. Fifth Year of Tour. Everything carried. EDWARD SURREY, to-day, Theatre, Horwich; next, Empire, Cradley Heath.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, Aug. 5, onwards,
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, Jan. 7, 14, Easter.
FRED BULMER, Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Dec. 31.
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

SHINTON and GREENWOOD'S TOUR.
WANTED, Theatres for
"The Price of Her Soul."
All communications to
JOHN B. SHINTON,
Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, for "An Actor's Romance," Jan. 7 and 14. Address,
CHARLES DURIE, King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Jan. 28, to oblige Fred Granville, Esq., Feb. 4, Lancs. or Yorks. DICKIE CLARE, Prince's Theatre, Accrington.

WANTED, Theatres, "The Night of the Party," Vacant Jan. 7 and 28, through extending Tour; Feb. 11, to precede G., Dublin; March 25, onwards. O. H., Harrogate; next, G. T., Manchester.

Mr. BROADBENT BELL'S TOUR with
"CAPTAIN BLARNEY,"
a Musical Farcical Comedy.
WANTED, Dates, Feb. 11, and on, with exceptions, Quartette of Dancers, Strong Company. Re dates, Mr. LOVERIDGE, 219, Folkestone-rd., Dover.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY," No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, and 28, Feb. 4 and 11, March 25, April 1, May 13, Autumn from Aug. 5. Address, E. C. STAFFORD, care of Samuel French, Ltd., 25, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C. Wanted to Lease, a good Provincial Theatre.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Xmas Week and Jan. 28.
Wire or write, FRANK E. BURDETT, to-day, Chester. Dec. 17, King's, Longsight, Manchester.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR,"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Easter week, through transferring. This strong Domestic Military Play will be dressed and mounted on a most elaborate scale; Autumn, 1907, fully booked.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Vacant Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 28, Easter week, for this huge Attraction. Racehorses toured; all Scenery carried. Wire for both these money-makers to F. G. KIMBERLEY, Met., Gateshead-on-Tyne; next, G. T., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"BLUEBEARD."
WANTED, Good Theatre, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4,
WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

"A HEART'S DESIRE."
"A HEART'S DESIRE."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, various onwards. Wire or write, H. ELLIMAN, 5, Vernon-street, Dublin.

PHIL HERMAN, FRITZ CO.
WANTED, Dec. 24, 31,
Dec. 24, Dec.
Dec. 31, Dec.
Wire, CARMICHAEL, 8, Dorset-st., Hulme, Manchester; 17th, Muncaster, Bootle.

"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
Herbert Ralland's Principal Company.
WANTED (unexpectedly vacant) Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, and several Spring Dates.
Address,
RALLAND, King's Theatre, Edinburgh.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, for
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES,"
Jan. 7 (to oblige), Jan. 14, 28, April 1.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"HONOUR THY FATHER,"
Dec. 31, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, 11.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

LINGFORD CARSON'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, Managers, to kindly Note that any of my Plays not produced satisfactorily, please acquaint me immediately, so that I may have an opportunity of rectifying.—Faithfully yours, LINGFORD CARSON.

"THE DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Autumn Dates, for this most excellent attraction, August, on. L. CARSON, Keighley.

LINGFORD CARSON'S REPERTOIRE CO.
"MODERN ADVENTURESS," "HEART OF A HERO," "TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN," AND "OCTOROON."
Enormous Business at every Theatre visited.
WANTED, Theatres (unexpectedly vacant through transfer), Jan. 14 and March 4. Only Vacant Dates until Sept. 16, 1907. Wire at once for Jan. 14, Wire. CHARLES DRAYCOTT, To-day, C. T., Spennymoor; next, T. R., Jarrow.

Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S CO., in
"THE WALLS OF JERICHO."
WANTED, First-class Theatres for
Feb. 11,
Feb. 18,
March 11,
April 15.
Address,
Mr. SILVANUS DAUNCEY, 22, Charing Cross, S.W

"BLUEBELL IN FAIRYLAND."
Forty-Five in Company.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Easter.

Only Vacant Date
till Xmas, 1907.

E. GRAHAM-FALCON,
County Theatre, Bedford.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
WANTED, Feb. 18, March 4, April 1, and May 20, and few later.
Grand T., Southampton (third visit), Dec. 10. Letters only, 21, Handforth-rd., Stockwell, S.W.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN,"
WANTED, Dec. 31, Jan. 7 and 14, perfect Cast, crowded with Mystic Effect. Also
"THE ANARCHIST TERROR,"
A bigger Attraction than ever.
Either or both Plays.
Wire, LOIE ESMOND, Theatre, Motherwell (return). Dec. 17, T. R., North Shields (return).

"THE TRAITOR." E. Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg's Magnificent Production.
WANTED, Jan. 7, 28, Feb. 4. E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Grand Theatre, Radcliffe.

HARDIE AND VON LEER'S COMPANY.
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Jan. 14 (Lancs.), 28 (Midlands).
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR,"
By Eva Elwes.
WANTED, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, March 4 (to precede G., Liverpool).
Sumptuously Staged, Big Plant of Special Printing, and a Cast second to none Touring,
Address,
E. A'DELL, G., Rawtenstall (third visit).

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO'S.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Dec. 31, for this Great Play, an ideal holiday attraction, just redressed with new uniforms, &c., band of drums, fifes, and bugles, for parade. F. G KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Xmas, Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, onward, with exceptions.
for the above Attraction.
Address, F. BROOKE WARREN,
Theatre Royal, Belfast.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, Jan. 14, 21
Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25,
April 29, on, with exceptions.

Grand, Chorley, Dec. 17.

"THE GREATEST SCOUNDREL LIVING."
By arrangement with Messrs. Haddon and Loader.
First-class Company, Splendid Printing, New Magnificent Scenery.
WANTED, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 21, and on S. DENCH, 33, Tudor-road, Cardiff.

WANTED, Known, Miss Frances Delaval's Co., "Her Lost Self," by Nita Rae; "The Biggest Scamp on Earth," by F. A. Scudamore. Vacant Dec. 31, Jan. 21, 28. Wire, Avenue T., Kettering. Dec. 17, T. R., Barnsley.

MR. EDWARD McLEAN'S TOUR,
"THE HERO OF THE FLAG,"
By Arrangement with Sydney Spenser.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Feb. 11, 18, March 4, and on, with exceptions.
LESLIE VYNER, Surrey Theatre, London, S.E.

"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND," always successful.
Miss V. ST. LAWRENCE as FIEND.
WANTED, New Year, Jan. 14, 21, 28, Feb. 18, 25, March 18, April 15, 22, June 10, July 22, 29, Aug. 12, Oct. 28.
MONTAGUE BEAUDYN, C., Bacup; next, G., Islington.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, Feb. 4, 25, March 11, 18, Easter, Whit.
BEAUDYN and LIVESEY,
Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.

"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
By Arrangement with Mr. Martin Harvey.
WANTED, Jan. 28 and Feb. 11.
EUGENE BERTRAM, O. H., Torquay.

MIDLAND SYNDICATE'S PLAYS.
WANTED, April 1, 15, 22, for Musical Versions "Life" and "East Lynne." "Aladdin" Panto. fully booked. HERBERT BARRS, Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Dec. 31, Jan. 7 and 14,
to precede Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.
To-day, HARRY FOXWELL, T. R., Sunderland; Dec. 17, 5, Market-street, Burnley.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE,"
from Dalston Theatre, London.
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Feb. 4, between Gateshead and Birmingham. Address,
FRED J. LITTLE, Dalston Theatre, London.

E. H. KNIGHT AND GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, Jan. 7, 14,
Feb. 4, 18, 25.
G. DENHAM,
this, Queen's, Leeds; next, Royal, Rotherham.

WANTED, Known, F. H. Neville's Tour, "The Silent Witness," Vacant Dec. 24, 31, and on, with exceptions. Wire, Theatre, Radcliffe; after, P. T., Horwich.

WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, for Barrett and Levaine's Grand Pantomime, "Cinderella." Great production, big specialities. Address, LEVAINE, Exchange Hall, Banbury.

MOORE-KENNEDY "WHITTINGTON" PANTO.
Mlle. LUCRETIA as WHITTINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Jan. 7. Vacant through New Theatre, Rugby, not being built. J. P. MOORE, Theatre, Kidderminster.

WANTED, Theatres, &c., Christmas Week, Dec. 24 and 31, for Arnold's No. 1 Company of Variety Stars. Top First-class Acts. Guarantee show. Reply J. Meakin, Esq., who offers immediate return, Lyceum, Long Eaton; next, T., Darwen.

THEATRES WANTED.

DR. WALFORD BODIE.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates.
Owing to Dr. Bodie's decision to postpone his American trip to later in the season, he is now at Liberty to entertain Provincial Offers. Managers requiring this stupendous Attraction—the only one of its kind—are requested to communicate. Must be large Theatres, Halls, or Buildings capable of holding big money.
Communications re Provincial Dates to
Dr. Bodie's Provincial Representative,
ARTHUR JEFFERSON,
Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
All others direct to Dr. Walford Bodie,
163, Blackfriars-road, London.
Thanks T. W. Rowe, Esq., for contracts, Palace, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Whit Week, 1907, at the biggest sharing terms ever given to any Attraction.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
"OLIVER TWIST"
(By arrangement with Mr. Tree).
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, and Easter.
"THE FOUR JUST MEN"
(By arrangement with H. A. Saintsbury),
Vacant March 4, 11, 18, and Easter.
WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, Dec. 24, 31, Theatre or Hall, for First-Class Variety Combination, including Edward Cranston in "Terry." Share or Certainty. Wire, WILLS, 138, The Grove, Hammersmith.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Artists, Xmas Week, played in "Trilby." Rehearse, Margate, Monday. Also MS. and Parts. WEATHERBY'S Agency, 3, Bedford-street, W.C.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen to augment Co., including Good Comedian, to Sing and Dance. Lowest terms, &c., to F. H. NEVILLE, Prince's Theatre, Horwich, Lancs.

MRS. BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, Young Lady, for small parts and understudy, for Répertoire. Address, with full particulars, photos., &c., Mr. G. T. METCALFE, T. R., Waterford.

WANTED, "The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning," Fit-up Tour, Chambermaid, tall, to sing; rehearse Monday next, Dec. 17, Watford. Terms, refs., photo., HENRY CHATTELL, Malden Cottage, Watford.

WANTED, Amateur Lady, for small part in sketch, sing preferred, small premium. Photo., particulars, MANAGER, 15, Westwick-gdns., Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, Young Lady, Small Soubrette part, Comedy Sketch, London Hall. Attractive appearance and figure essential. Amateur not objected to. Small salary; no premium. Send lowest terms, references, Box 4,128, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, a pretty little Girl, for Eva; also Coloured People, for "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Full particulars, CHARLES HARRINGTON, Gaiety T., Burnley.

WANTED, Gentleman, for Tony, in "My Sweetheart," special week, commencing Dec. 22, rehearse on Monday. Wire terms, &c., SYDNEY SPENSER, Theatre, Glossop.

"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW."
WANTED, Gentlemanly Light Comedian, experienced. Terms and full particulars. Silence in all cases polite negative. LIONEL RIGNOLD, 398, Clapham-road, S.W.

Rehearse Dec. 28, open Jan. 7.
WANTED, good Comedian, à la Cattermole, also a good Belinda; reliable people, joint or single. Send refs., lowest terms, to BATES MADDISON, 9, Manor-gardens, Holloway, N.

WANTED, Comedian, to play fiery Colonel in Sketch, open Xmas; long Tour. Letters only, SELLERS, 9, York-buildings, Adelphi, W.C.

WANTED, Young Ladies with good Singing Voices; must be tall and good-looking. Long guaranteed engagement in America.
Address, JESSE L. LASKY,
c/o H. B. Marinelli, 29A, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, Immediately, Ballad Vocalist (lady), to combine orchestral instrument; also dancer. Particulars, letters only, SECRETARY, 13, Tabley-rd., Holloway.

WANTED, Acrobatic Dancers, for Quartette, sisters can apply, speak lines. Call Sunday, 1 till 3, or after 6, Regent Theatre, Hackney.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Miss Katie Ramsdale, Second Girl, Chambermaid, Disengaged. Sea View House, Beach, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, by Soprano, trained by Italian Master, powerful voice, Engagements for Concerts, Musical Evenings, Masonic Banquets, &c.; highly recommended. VOCALIST, Parkinson's Music Saloon, 22, Broadway, Wimbledon.

WANTED, Engagement, by Contralto, experienced, good concert recitals or picture show. Address, MARJORIE IRVINE, c/o Mrs. Lavender, Hendon, N.W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, owing to Breach of Contract, Ladies for Principal Boy and Girl ("Whittington"), South Coast Tour. Rehearse Dec. 19. Letters only, BELASCO BROTHERS, 24, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Lady, for Fairy Queen Rehearse immediately. Address, photos, terms, and all particulars to ALBERT EVERMOND, Victoria Hall, Ripon.

EMPIRE, MERTHYR.
Manager, Mr. ISRAEL PRICE.
WANTED, for Dec. 24, through obliging Artist for Panto., Novelties, Specialities, and Big Comedy Numbers. Wire immediately for Dec. 24.
WANTED, Eight Ladies, Good Dancers, for Gateshead.
Apply this evening,
SAMUEL JAMES, Grand Theatre, Islington

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Panto., Three Alvera Girls, Boy, Girl, Special, with novelty, for Palace, sing and dance. 36, Norfolk-road, Islington, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Harry Barlow, Principal Baritone, late Royal Welsh Quartet, at Lib. Dec. 16, on, for Panto. or Quartet. Best offers to 10, Wellington-street, Stockport.

WANTED, Panto., Ernest Cass, Baritone, Emperor, &c. Last, Dan Thomas's "Aladdin." Offers invited. 45, Lancaster-street, Lower Broughton, Salford.

WANTED, by Mike Asher (of the Ashers), Monday next and following weeks, Panto. or Halls, Comedian and Dancer. 8, Park Hill-gardens, Clapham.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Panto., Bob Baxter, Dame preferred, last two seasons R. Arthur, Esq., T. R., Nottingham. Address, C/o Alma Obrey, Alexandra, Sheffield.

WANTED, Pantomime or Sketch Engagement, by Eric Victor; young parts, Coon Songs and Dancing. Good Agent wanted. See Card permanent address.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Harris invites offers, Animal Impersonation, Pantomimic Parts, Star Traps, &c. Address, 3, Rhyddings Park-road, Swansea.

WANTED, by tall, versatile Singing Comedian, part in Panto., Sketch, or Musical Comedy, London or neighbourhood. Box 4,126, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Myles and May, Comedians, unexpectedly vacant for Panto. Last year Ruffians, St. John Denton's "Babes in the Wood." Wire, Wire, Wire.
Roscommon Music Hall,
or, 21, Stafford-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Pantomime, Turle and Turle, Rollicking Comedy Gymnastic Speciality, First-Class Act, the success of many Pantomimes; parts, Harlequinade if required. Wire, 28, Upper Gough-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday next, by The Two Plants, Comic Musical Act; both do Singles, Panto., or Tour. Wire, 11, Hawksworth-street, Ilkley.

WANTED, by Denby and Dent, Pantomime.
Address, c/o "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Frank Keegan and Co., Funniest Knockabout Act on the Road, at Liberty for Panto., Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21. Com., 8, Somerleyton-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, by Five Abadaroffs, Monday next, and 24th, Big Speciality, suitable for Panto. 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Four Champion Trick Ponies, Single and Double, Great Attraction for any Pantomime. TUDOR, Hippodrome, Blyth.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, the address of Mr. A. E. Johnson, Scenic Artist. Address, Mr. HAGUE, Spa Gardens, Bridlington.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, S. Beltram open to receive Contracts, large or small, Touring Scenery re-painted; salary or contract. Address, c/o Waterloo Hotel, Liverpool.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO. LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams "Theatrical."

WANTED, Known, G. Sackmann, Scenic Artist and Contractor. Painting-room, Kennington Green, Kennington-road, S.E. Tel., N3295 Hop.

WANTED, Contracts for Bright, Effective Scenery, at lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Scenic Factory (20 years' reputation), Artistic Scenery, &c., Dramatic and Variety. Compare prices. W. B. BOSTOCK, 11 Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Music Hall Stage Manager, must be Good Carpenter, with own tools. Apply, stating last two references and salary, to MANAGER, Opera House, Crouch End.

WANTED, Gentlemanly Assistant, by well known Music-hall Manager; permanent salaried engagement. Position as manager assured. Small security required. Amateur entertained. Box 4,114, "The Era."

WANTED, for Palace, Attercliffe, Assistant-Manager, used to Variety business, help advertising and make himself useful. References, particulars, terms, &c., T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Representative in Advance, for a Legitimate Star; must be Good Press Man. Address, with copies of references, to Box 4,111, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man as Advance Agent; one who has knowledge of canvassing institutions, &c. Address, BANVARD, Carrick-on-Shannon, Ireland.

THE CHAS. W. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, for the Greatest of all Poole's Productions, good Lithographers (High Window Billers), for five weeks, Edinburgh. Apply, CLIFF CRAWFORD, Synod Hall, Edinburgh.

WANTED, smart Window-Biller, must be able to use brush if required; also young man for Baggage and Billing; both to join Dec. 17, Lancashire. LAMBERT, 32, Alma-st., Blackburn.

WANTED, Good Baggage Man, smart window biller, capable working cinématograph effects, six months' tour. Refs., lowest terms, SEATON, Post Office, Darlington.

WANTED, Lady's Maid, by Miss Lelia Roze, will be required to appear on the Stage as Maid, must be good dressmaker and make herself generally useful. Apply, with references, to Mrs. DOWNES MARTIN, 3, Highwood-road, Mercer's-road, Holloway, N., any day before noon.

WANTED, Known, Advertiser, Entertainment Secretary, and Stage-Manager of one of the Biggest Clubs in London, open to accept a situation in town or country. Box 4,125, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Edward Walpole, Advance Agent, at Liberty, any class of entertainment. Good refs. Wire, 2 St. Leonards-st., Pimlico.

WANTED, Engagement, by Theatrical Electrician, used to all lines; 11 years in present position; good references. Address, A. H. DAVIS'S Agency, Station-road, Upper Norwood.

WANTED, Electrical and Mechanical Work, by experienced Electrician; arc and gas limes repaired, and general wiring for stage effects, &c. Box 4,121, "The Era."

WANTED, W. H. Grieves, Carpenter, own tools, Liberty now, Xmas, and Spring, for resident or tour, or sketches in music halls, good refs., three tours Dance's Co's., three tours Macdona's Co's. King's Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, evening employment by smart young Lady, of good appearance; Bar or Programmes; good ref. Miss L., 92, Shepherd's Bush-road, W.

WANTED, by Young Man, 19, an Engagement in a London Theatre or Music Hall as Box Office Clerk; 4 years' provincial experience. Box 4,116, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

ROTUNDA THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, experienced Leader, to commence Dec. 24; permanency to good man. Apply, F. THOMPSON, Musical-Director.

WANTED, Leader,
and
Second Cornet.
Apply,
W. COLLINS, Empire, Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, First-Class Leader, Variety, evening dress. Terms, refs., MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Palace of Varieties, Albert Hall, Southport, Lancs.

WANTED, for Theatre, 24th inst., Leader, First Violin, 'Cello, Bass, Flute, First Cornet, and Trombone. CONDUCTOR, Parkstone, Parsonage-road, Eastbourne.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, Violin, Viola, 'Cello, Cornet, Drums, for Circuit. Terms, refs., age to DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, First Violin, must be competent man; also good man to combine Oboe and Viola; join Dec. 17. Address communications to Mr. CHAS. E. MACHIN, Avenue Opera House, Sunderland.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.
WANTED, First Violin, must be well up in Variety business; open Dec. 24. Apply, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR.

WANTED, Xmas, First Violin, Bass, Cornet, Vocalist (ladies), also Smart Pianist. Write, in first instance, Box 4,123, "The Era."

WANTED, Good First Violin, open Monday, Hippodrome, Aldershot. Wire, TIDSWELL, 41, Cavendish-road, Aldershot.

WANTED, Competent, Experienced Violinist. Permanency to good man. Terms, references, &c., to SYDNEY SPENSER, T. R., Glossop.

WANTED, a good Cornet, Clarionet, or Side Drummer, as an Attendant in a County Asylum; salary commencing £34, increasing to £48, together with board, lodging, washing, and uniform; single man.
Apply, with testimonials, W. GRAINGER,
County Asylum, Stafford.

KING'S THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
Managing-Directors,
Mr. ERNEST STEVENS and Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN.
WANTED, Bassoonist, to open about Dec. 20. Terms, refs., and age to DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, String Bass, Double Handed preferred; open Ohmy's Circus, Hyde, Dec. 24. Address, FRANK FISHBURN, 55, Brentnall-st., Stockport.

WANTED, Good Double Bass, to Deputise a few week.
R. STOUT, Grand Theatre, Derby.

JOHN HENRY COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, good Trombone, open Dec. 24, also good strong Second Violin, to open Dec. 31. Last two references and lowest terms to LIEUT. H. WAMBA, Conductor.

WANTED, Good Trombone and Double Drummer; must be young, single, steady, of good appearance, six nights, two matinées weekly engagement commencing Dec. 24. Lowest terms and references, SEEBOLD, Theatre, Worthing.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, DUNDEE.
Managing-Director, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR.
WANTED, on Monday, Dec. 17, for two weeks, First Horn Player. Wire terms to H. E. LOSEBY, as above.

WANTED, Oboe, for Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool, to open Monday, Dec. 17. Permanent. Wire, McDONAGH, 12, Adelaide-road, Kensington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Viola and Trombone, smart, young, and experienced in variety. Mr. Bidmead apply. Send terms and refs., CONDUCTOR, Empire, Coventry.

WANTED, good 'Cello and Trombone, for Terriss Theatre, S.E., open Dec. 26. Letters only, ALEX. HUMPHREYS, 2A, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Pianist, for Short Tour, commencing Xmas; good reader, one with Speciality preferred. State lowest terms, &c., by letter to H. R., 53, Holmdene-avenue, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, for Miss Jessie Dalton's Pantomime Tour (Fit-up), good Pianist, rehearse 19th; refined; evening dress. Particulars, 80, St. Paul's-road, Salisbury.

WANTED, Pianist and Accompanist, with lowest terms, one who can sing preferred, for Swindon, Dec. 22. G. POOLE, Abbey-row, Malmesbury.

WANTED, Pianist and Violinist at Liberty for any business.
BROTHERS LUCAS, 67, Balls Pond-road, N.

WANTED, Pianist, combine other instruments. Terms, references,
MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Drums and Effects, experienced in Variety, open Monday next. Wire lowest terms, permanency. T. HULLEY, Conductor, Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, for an English Orchestra, Touring on the Continent, Young Man, not over 25 years, Two First Violins, 'Cello, First Cornet, also Good Soprano Boy, other Instrumentalists write. Fares paid. MUSICAL DIRECTOR, Scotch Orchestra, Wilhelmshalle, St. Pauli, Hamburg, Germany.

AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, Full Orchestra of fourteen performers, including Musical-Director, to join Dec. 17. Address all communications to Mr. CHAS. E. MACHIN,

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged now. Composer of music, "Silver King," "Lights o' London," &c. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, smart, reliable Variety Musical-Director, unexpectedly vacant, Panto. or Varieties. DIRECTOR, 24, Ellesmere-street, Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, Engagement, by T. Klee, Mus. Dir., or Leader; 7 years Mus. Dir. Queen's, Glasgow (Varieties). 22, Parnie-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, as Conductor, First-class Violinist, thoroughly experienced in Variety, &c.; reliable, smart; best refs. H. S., 8, Hardwick-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by smart young Musical Director (piano, violin), theatre, hall, composer, arranger. HENRI ROCHELLE, c/o Burbridge, 22, Knowle-rd., Brixton.

WANTED, Engagements, as Leader and First Violin, together or singly. Variety or Drama; reliable; good references. VIOLIN, 5, Buller street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Edward P. Delevanti, Musical-Director, Composer, Arranger, Disengaged. 3, Clarence-chambers, Regent's Park, N.W.

WANTED, through disappointment, Engagement as First or Second Violin, any business; good references. Address, W. WILCOCK, Palace Music Hall, Cork, Ireland.

WANTED, Engagement by Solo Cornet, Panto. or Permanency, First-class Performer; experienced; sight reader; excellent refs. Box 4,112, "The Era."

WANTED, by Cornet, good, well up to music Hall and Theatre Business, Engagement or deputising. Fox, 51, Nansen-road, Clapham Common.

WANTED, by Clarionettist, thoroughly exp., Situation, any Business, permanency or deputy; good references of ability. Write, call, CLARIONET, 385, Hornsey-road, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet Player, theatre or variety, fully experienced. W. IRVINE, 44, Catherine-st., Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement by Clarionet, through closing, thoroughly experienced; good refs. BERT HART, 336, Blackburn-road, Bolton.

WANTED, Known, Short Engagement for Bassoon, London district; would Deputise. BASSOON, 15, Warwick-road, Hampton Wick.

WANTED, Engagement as Double Bass, experienced and reliable, Theatre or Music Hall. BASSO, 3, Midland-road, Royston, near Barnsley.

WANTED, Engagement, by Highly experienced Bassoonist; highest refs. Now at liberty. Address, A. DAVIES, 11, Lingdale-cottages, Manor-rd, Dover.

WANTED, Engagement, as Bassoon, for Christmas week and week following; experienced. Box 4,122, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombone, Theatre or Music Hall, or Deputising. W. GOFF, 111, Upper Kennington-lane, S.E.

WANTED, by Euphonium, Engagements, or Deputising, abstainer, ex-Army bandsman. R. G., 208, Albany-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Bombardon, any business, thoroughly reliable, just finished engagement. Friends note address, HARRY WOODAGE, 6, Parnell-rd., Clevedon, Somerset.

WANTED, Engagement by Experienced French Horn; open for Panto. or Deputising; excellent references. HORN, 7, Porten-rd., West Kensington.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement as 'Cellist, Disengaged from 15th inst; excellent refs. S. IRWIN, 37, Badlis-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, Engagement in London, Sundays excepted. Disengaged after Christmas. 'CELLIST, 118, Elgin-avenue, W.

WANTED, Engagement, Oboe, London or suburbs, experienced, military band, young, reliable, abstainer, open till Feb. 15. HAUTBOY, 152, Wellington-rd., Hounslow.

WANTED, Known, Æneas Gibson, Harpist and Pianist, immediate engagement; young, gentlemanly, travel abroad. MUSIC SELLER, Bayswater House, Roundhay-road, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Maud Estlin Grundy, age 19, Harpist; brilliant Soloist. All letters, 7, Provost-rd., Hampstead, London, N.W.

WANTED, by experienced Lady Harpist (Solo and Orchestral), Engagements. Box 4,115, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Miss Florence Maye, L.R.A.M., solo and orchestral harpist, at Liberty. 180, Blomfield-ter., Westbourne-sq., W.

WANTED, Known, Harpist, good, gentlemanly, at Liberty for Pitching; good hotel work, &c, near London preferred. HARPIST, 2, Knox-road, Wellingborough.

WANTED, Engagement, as Flute and Piccolo, thoroughly experienced, Theatre or Variety Business; good and long refs. Open to accept deputising. FLAUTIST, 48, Warren-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, Flute and Piccolo, thoroughly reliable, disengaged Dec. 22. Address, MORVAY, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist (Orchestral), good sight-reader, excellent accompanist; abstainer. Just finished tour. R., 69, Amesbury-avenue, Streatham Hill, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Drummer, or as deputy), Drums, accessories supplied. R. J. WALKER, 15, Moon-st., Gibson-sq., Islington, N.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drums, any business. Address, A. EASOM, 16, Stonebridge-road, South Tottenham, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Steady, Reliable Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, variety preferred, join at once. A. LILLE, 93, Queen's-rd., Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Engagement, as Drums and Effects, any business, or second violin or viola, for panto. CHAPMAN, 140, Hampton-road, Southport.

WANTED the Shakespearean Ladies' Orchestra (Viennese), copyright registered Stationers' Hall, twenty-two (or less) performers, magnificent costumes; highest criticisms. Conductor, Miss GASCOYNE OLD, 238, Edgware-road, London.

WANTED, Known, the Bradfield Ladies' Orchestra, excellent Soloists and Vocalists (three to twenty performers). Miss BRADFIELD, 4, Porteus-road, Paddington.

WANTED, Known, Madam Smith's Old English Quartette of Lady Musicians, Disengaged. Address, 35, Islip-st., Kentish Town, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Miss Muriel Foster's Trio or Quartette Ladies, violins, 'cello, piano (solos and songs), hotels, tea rooms, at-homes, dinners, &c. Letters only, 293, Lordship-lane, S.E.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington. Bookings Johannesburg, Jan. to Dec. Quartet now Disengaged.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, HYDE.
WANTED, for the Opening of this Grand New Building, Dec. 24, and future dates, the very best talent that money can procure, big sensations, and up-to-date novelties, riders, gymnasts, acrobats, clowns, and useful circus artists. Note.—One hundred stars already engaged, and one hundred more still wanted. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's New Palace Circus, Hyde, Cheshire.

WANTED, for Dec. 17 and onwards, for Hancock's Hippodrome, Plymouth, Lady and Gentleman Riders without Horse, Variety Artists in all Lines, also Lady and Gentleman to play in Sketches and Sing. No fancy prices, but money sure.

GRAND PAVILION, CARNARVON, N. WALES.
BOSTOCK and WILDMAN'S
GREAT CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL.
WANTED, for Dec. 31, through unavoidable circumstance, Good Strong Attractive Act, Aërial or otherwise.
Also all Kinds of Acts for later dates.
Nothing too big nor too good.
Address, JAMES W. BOSTOCK, as above.
Have still a few Spaces to Let
for Stalls or Slot Machines.

WANTED, a Smart Young Lady, with slight Knowledge of Wire-walking. Send photos., particulars, WYNDHAM and KITTY, Empire Theatre, Hackney.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence

WANTED, Known, Liberty few weeks only, the Refined John Scott Family of Male and Female Equestrians, &c., five in number (one lady and four gentlemen), including Poor Billy, the King of the Ring.

Lithos., &c., Address,
Bell Hotel, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, Known, the Hanneford Family of Lady and Gentlemen Bareback Equestrians, also Salamander, the great Fire Horse and Trick Pony, now appearing with great success, Algie's Circus, Spennymoor, will shortly be at Liberty.

Address as above.

WANTED, Known, Mr. and Mrs. S. Anderson, bare-backed equestrians and clown, own horse, Liberty. Address, 6, Thornley-street, Wolverhampton.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Fossett's Comedy Animal Circus, the only Act of its Kind, Free for Xmas. All coms., Hippodrome, Aldershot. Big Act for Panto.

WANTED, Comical Walker, Talking Clown, good Entrées; also Globe Speciality. Vacant Monday, wire, O. H., Dunfermline.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lolo, Charming Lady Gymnast, Graceful Trapeze and Teeth Speciality Artist; also Little May, Graceful Contortionist and Irish Dancer. Liberty Monday, 17th. Address, 127, Aughton-road, Birkdale, Southport.

WANTED, Known, the Three Lloyds, only Double Acrobatic Bounding Cable Act before the Public, Vacant Dec. 24, and can accept Pantomime Engagement from Jan. 7 on. Address, Mon., 17th, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy, South Wales.

WANTED, Dec. 24, 31, Les Buena's Great Hand Balancing and Hand Jumping Speciality; elegantly staged. Address, 97, Wheeler-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, the Cycling Cat, Pauletti, Comedy Acrobatic Cyclist, free April, onwards. Panto., Opera House, Dudley.

WANTED, Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 7, Agoustic and Lillian, Comedy Contortionists. Savaro, Equilibrist and Gymnast, Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool.

WANTED, Dec. 17 and onwards, by Two Cliffs, Hand-to-Hand Balancers. Last week, Empire, Paisley. DUNNACHIE, 4, Silverfir-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, the Rolands, Marvellous Equilibrists, and Alfred Siegel, Champion Wrestler; the finest Acts for Tenting. Last season with J. Lloyd, Esq., who says: Absolutely the best he ever had. Coms., 7, Wellington-avenue, Liverpool.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Nothing too big. Send full particulars, with lithos. (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Classes, for 1907. Gala List. Lithos., Memos., FARNSWORTH and DYSON, Agents, 124, Crookesmoor-rd., Sheffield.

WANTED, Variety Artists, for Xmas Day. Address, BACON, Gateshead.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES, BURY.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, week commencing Dec. 24. Full particulars to OTTO C. CULLING.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Dec. 24, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM.
WANTED, Variety Artists, Jan. 14, and on, money sure. People wanting the earth, save stamps. Address, JOHN CASSIDY.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE.
WANTED, for Xmas Day, First-class Variety Artists in all Lines. Apply, T. W. ROWE.

WANTED, Gaiety Theatre of Varieties (fully licensed), Anderston Cross, Glasgow, First-class Artists, Jan. 7, and onward.

In all cases please state lowest actual terms, and when and where last engaged in Glasgow.
Good Comedians,
Good Lady Artists,
Good Comedy Acts,
Good Duettists, Trios, and Quartettes
Good Musical Combinations,
Good Single and Double Turns
of every description, free from vulgarity.
Artists not receiving replies, kindly write again.

W. H. HOWARD, Manager.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Palace, Lancaster. J. FELL, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, of all Kinds. Apply, M. RICHARDSON, for Richardson Bros., Ltd., Olympia, Sunderland.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
General-Manager, H. L. SKIVINGTON.

WANTED, Star Artists in all Lines. Nothing too big. Salary or Share.

WANTED, Known, Artists wishing to be booked for First-class Music Hall Engagements, communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Serios and Dancers, Comedians, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Sister Duettists, &c., Dec. 24, onwards. Lowest terms, EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone, 09261. Wires, "Stebbing, Manchester."

CLACTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
BAND STAND CONCERTS.
WANTED, Known, the above Council will be requiring Artists to appear at their Concerts on the Band Stand, at Clacton-on-Sea during June, July, August, and September, 1907, and will consider applications for engagements.
Particulars, terms, and dates available to be sent to
GEO. T. LEWIS,
Clerk to the Council.
Town Hall, Clacton-on-Sea.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 18. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Refined Artists, Conjurers, Vents., Vocalists, Sketches, Knockabouts, Comedians, &c., Xmas and New Year Weeks. Terms must be low. MANAGER, Palace, Bridlington.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY. 'Phone 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, Artists in every line, for the North, Dec., Jan., Feb., and on. Remember I am the man that books for every Hall of note in Scotland. I want Comedians, Serios, Sisters, good Comedy Acts, and Dumb Shows. Artists writing Proprietors and Managers for one price and me for another save stamps. 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, for Xmas Week. State absolute lowest first instance.
Five Nights only.
HARRY BURNS,
Empress, Hartlepool.
Telephones, 0231 and 0231A.

WANTED, First-class Artists, new to Edinburgh, Dec. 24, onwards. Address, MANAGER, Alhambra, Edinburgh. Call, Monday, for Three Stebbings, G. W. Foster, Rose Waller, Shavo, Gretta May, Miss Onra, Nora Bremner, and Bioscope.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Oldbury and Bilston, for Monday next. Wire, but not reply paid. PRICHARD, Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Empire Palace, Dover, and the Alhambra, Sandgate. FRED DURHAM'S Variety Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Telephone 15, Brixton.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, for Scotland, immediate dates. ANDERSON'S Agency, 5, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists who can work a turn at Barnes, S.W., Boxing Night, Jan. 1, and every Wednesday, to write, with terms, to PAUL VANDY'S Concerts, Barnes, S.W.

HIPPO., TON-Y-PANDY, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, for the above, Dec. 31, Artists in all Lines, also First-class Combinations, Jan. 7 and 14. Address, with absolute lowest terms, D. TAYLOR, as above.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Always send
DALTON'S AGENCY. House Address as well
DALTON'S AGENCY. as Theatre.
DALTON'S AGENCY. A feature in connection
DALTON'S AGENCY. with this Agency will be
DALTON'S AGENCY. Artists Vacant "Monday
DALTON'S AGENCY. next," also "Artists Vacant
DALTON'S AGENCY. Immediate Dates," and Art-
DALTON'S AGENCY. ists are requested to post
DALTON'S AGENCY. me if open Monday next,
DALTON'S AGENCY. and mention at same time
DALTON'S AGENCY. any immediate vacancies;
DALTON'S AGENCY. but "Monday next" being
DALTON'S AGENCY. a feature in the future, a
DALTON'S AGENCY. penny stamp may mean a
DALTON'S AGENCY. shop. Please note to always
DALTON'S AGENCY. send private address where
DALTON'S AGENCY staying in the respective
DALTON'S AGENCY. towns for early delivery of
DALTON'S AGENCY. telegrams. Tele., "Gran
DALTON'S AGENCY. beste Withington," Tele-
DALTON'S AGENCY. phone, 193 Didsbury. 29,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Mauldeth-road West, Withington, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists to write, who are Vacant
Dec. 31, 31, 31, 31,
Jan. 7, 7, 7, 7,
Jan. 14, 14, 14, 14.
Those who will ask reasonable prices, as must be so on account of Small Theatres.
Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14,
Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14,
Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14,
DALTON'S Agency,
29, Mauldeth-road West, Withington, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Concerts and Halls, for present and future dates. SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Dec. 17, 24, 31, on. FRED DURHAM'S Agency, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone, 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Artists, to Note, ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL, SANDGATE, KENT,
is Changing Proprietorship on Dec. 31, 1906. All artists holding contracts to open on that date or later must communicate at once with Mr. Fred Durham, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, to obtain New Contracts, as the New Syndicate refuse to entertain any Contracts other than their own booking.

WANTED, Artists, to Note, ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL, SANDGATE, KENT,
is Changing Proprietorship on Dec. 31, 1906. All Artists holding Contracts to open on that date or later must communicate at once with Mr. Fred Durham, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, to obtain New Contracts, as the New Syndicate refuse to entertain any Contracts other than their own booking.

COVENTRY HIPPODROME.
Proprietors, COVENTRY HIPPODROME CO., LTD.
WANTED, Agents and Artists to please Note that from Dec. 23, 1904, no Contracts will be recognised unless signed by the Secretary and Manager. T. M. SILVESTER, Manager; G. E. WRIGHT, Secretary.

WANTED, Known, Calls for Queen's Hall, Castleford, for Dec. 31, 1906, E. G. Cumberland's Combination, Five Cumberlands (Cyclists), A. Minor, F. Whiteley, Professor Hershal, C. Cowan, The Two Dees, Brown and Spink, Spangelettis, also the Band. Rehearsal for all, 1 o'clock. Manageress, LADY ELO.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession,
Acts New in Dublin, for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland,
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Stars, of Every Description, immediate, onwards.
Full list of bookings.
HARRY BURNS'S Agency,
Empress, Hartlepool.
Telegrams, 0231 and 0231A.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

BARNARD'S AGENCY,
24, Islington, Liverpool.
WANTED, Stars and Specialities, Nothing too Big.
Telephone, 1114.

WANTED, for Xmas Week, New Year Week, and Jan. 7,
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
State towns at liberty for.
Can fix big numbers any odd weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Big Stars, Big Numbers, Anything Big, the Bigger the Better,
Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 7, onwards.
Anything that can draw. Full particulars to JESS VERNO, 16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

JOSEPH POOLE'S MYRIORAMAS.
WANTED, for Immediate and Future Dates. First-class Variety Turns. Long Engagement to suitable people. Good Comedian write. J. W. POOLE, "Verona," Malmesbury.

WANTED, Good Novelty Turn, for Variety Show, Xmas week, at Rotherham. Terms to HAMILTON, Concert Proprietor, Rotherham.

WANTED, few Good Variety Turns. Money sure, for Castleford, near Leeds, New Year's week, Dec. 31. Write, FRANK WHITELEY, Empire, Hull.

ROYAL
HIPPODROME,
BELFAST,
Now in Course of Erection,
and
when
Finished
will be the Largest and Handsomest Building in Ireland.

WANTED, February, onward, all the Finest Acts in the World.
Price no object.
New and Novel Turns of every Variety.
The above is Booked
in conjunction with
TIVOLI THEATRE,
DUBLIN.

WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

LEO FRITZ'S VARIETY AGENCY,
40, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton-road, S.W.
WANTED, the Greatest Variety Acts in the World for Dec. 24, '06, and onward. I can guarantee any suitable act eight months' solid work. Wire or write, LEO FRITZ, Hippodrome, Salford, until Wednesday night.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, Dec. 24, onwards.
MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Dec. 24, S. Wales, Variety Acts and Animated Pictures, gas provided; Gala Specialties, 1907. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, any Star Acts who have odd weeks vacant should send list of vacancies to FRANK LYNNE, 120, Kennington Park-rd., S.E.

HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, Good Acts of every Description, Xmas week, onwards.
Apply, with lowest terms,
GEO. ZALVA.

CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
Rehearsal Monday next, 2 o'clock, for:—
Huline and Le May, Lillian Victoria, Harry Bent, Lottie Lunn, Dyson and Taylor, Barney Noble, Olive Vene, Vet, Vernon's Bioscope.
WANTED, Variety Talent, Share or Salary. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wiggins' Agency, late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c., 151, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
For Dec. 17, 24, 31, Jan. 7, onwards.
Send at once, Terms, Dates, and Lithos.
Those having a Good Act can rely on Immediate Work.
I can give you nine months' solid work.
Also Wanted, Big Acts, of all Kinds, for the Coming Season, for the Seaside.
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester
Manchester.
Manchester.
Manchester.
Telephone 09144.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."

GRAND HIPPODROME, WIGAN.
Proprietors, THE WIGAN ENTERTAINMENTS CO.
WANTED, the Best of Talent (nothing too big), for Dec. 31, Jan. 14, onwards.
Lowest terms for once nightly to WORSWICK, as above.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
Lessee and Manager, JAMES FIONI.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines, Dec. 31, onward Contracts made by previous Management are Cancelled.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Big Combinations, with Singing Pictures preferred, Jan. 7, on; new stage, 22 by 46. When writing, send particulars of acts, with bill and programme, TUDOR, Hippodrome, Blyth.

CIRCUS, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, for Dec. 24, and on, Specialities, Comedians, Duettists;
also Troupe of Lady Dancers write.
Address, C. ALGIE,
P.S.—Good property man may write in.

GRAND HIPPODROME, WIGAN.
WANTED, First-class Magnet Attraction, for Feb. 4 (vacant through postponement of Tour). Address, WORSWICK, as above.

WANTED, the Cream of the Profession, those new to London can have a trial show. Nothing too big. Send lithos., memos., bookings, and lowest terms to BILLY HENDERSON and Co., 30, Handforth-road, Brixton-road, London. Seen by appointment only. Manager, FRANK LANTON.

WANTED, Gala Sensations, to send bookings and permanent address to MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft, Grimsby.

PALACE, DOUGLAS, I.O.M.
Pierrots.
WANTED, First-Class Combination of five or six Artists, must be refined and versatile; engagement for eight weeks, commencing July 15; afternoon and evening shows. No collections. Particulars and lowest terms to C. Fox, jun., Manager.

WANTED, for Dec. 31, and on, Comedy Sketches, Specialities, Single and Double Turns, &c., for Derby, Grimsby, Stoke, and Attercliffe. Particulars and lithos., T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

FETES and GALAS, 1907.
WANTED, the greatest Sensations, High Rope, big Aerial Acts, Lightning Acrobats, Continental Novelties, Ground and Useful Aerial Acts, in fact the World's Greatest Sensations, May 20, onwards. Lithos., Posters, Terms,
EDGAR STEBBINGS, the Gala King,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
First-Class Performers,
especially Big Specialities,
First-Class Performers, especially Big Specialities.
First-Class Performers, especially Big Specialities.
North of England.
Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 7 and 14.
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Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 7 and 14.
G. and F. PEEL,
Granville House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, all Kinds of Good Performers for the Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool. Wire or write, JOHN HARGREAVES, Haymarket Music Hall, Liverpool.

WANTED, Good Marionette Act, for Dec. 24; also Big Tops, and Artists of all kinds, to complete book for 1907. Send full list, lowest price, and permanent address, to FRED NEIMAN and Co., 108, Strand, London, W.C. Telephone, 8488 Gerrard.

WANTED, Serios, Burlesque Actresses, Sisters, and Comediennes, Dec. 24, onwards.
MANAGER, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Girl, aged 14, who can Sing and Dance a little; must be very short and small. Write full particulars, Box 4,129, "The Era."

WANTED, Two First-class Vocalists, Humorous or Sentimental, for Smart Costume Party (all gentlemen). Preference given to good Pianist, Instrumentalist, or other Double Turn. Long engagement to the right men Box 4,126, "The Era."

WANTED, immediately, a smart Tumbler, about 9st., to play Comedy in well-known act; must be good performer, or useless. Write at once, Mr. GRAHAM, 4, Baker-street, West Derby-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Young Man Knockabout, that can tumble or bend a little, to join troupe. Address, letters only, Box 4,091, "The Era."

WANTED, Comedian; must be funny, sing and dance (Pierrot Comedians don't write), rehearse Tuesday. STANLEY CARLTON, P. O. W. Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, Conjurer, must be young and of good appearance, week in each town. State lowest salary and photo. MARTINO, Assembly Rooms, Bath.

WANTED, good Bioscope, with about fifty minutes' First-Class Show, for three weeks' Tour, commencing Xmas. State lowest terms and particulars, HARRY REYNOLDS, 53, Holmdene-avenue, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, Operators, for Walter Payne's Bio-Photoscopes, Electric and Lime; also a married man able to take charge of stores. Apply with terms and refs. 346 Brixton-road.

WANTED, a First-Class Bioscope Operator, used to Lime, must be sober and strict to business. Hambones need not apply. MADAM VALLUS, 129, Whitechapel-road, London, E.

WANTED, a First-Class Operator, for London, Xmas week; all fitted ready; electric. Salary £2 5s. Wire, LINEWOOD, 31, Watcombe-road, South Norwood.

WANTED, Two Experienced Operators, lime and electric. State experience fully, and wages required. FILMS, LTD., 63, Great Charlotte-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, for Cinématograph, an experienced operator, for London, private shows. Letters only. Prof. LENTON, 15, Grange-terrace, Wood Green, N.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator (through misunderstanding), Lime and Electric, open immediately. Refs., lowest terms, COLEMAN DAVIES, 50, Stanley-street, Newcastle, Staffs.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, with own machine two weeks, probably tour. Write low-est terms to FIRTH, 21, Castle-street, Macclesfield.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

PONTYPOOL
CHAMBER OF TRADE FETE,
Whit-Monday and Whit-Tuesday, 1907.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
the Committee
are
prepared
to receive
Applications
from
Agents, Artists,
or anyone desirous of
Engagements
for
this Year's Fête,
both for
Aerial and Stage Shows
(Open Air).
In all cases Complete Specifications as to erections, lithos., showing acts, and, as far as possible, cost of fixing same, must be sent.
None but Artists of the First Rank need apply.
This Fête
is
visited annually
by from
40,000 to 50,000
People.
Particulars to
SECRETARY,
Chamber of Trade,
Pontypool.

WANTED, First-class Bioscope Operator, Open Dec. 24.
Address, WILL ONDA, Crystal Palace.

WANTED, Young Ladies as Hypnotic Subjects. State age, height, and send photo. and lowest terms to MARTINO, Assembly Rooms, Bath.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Mdlle. Roza's Great Canine Electric Spectacle and Hippodrome, through Woolwich changing Licence, and being Barred, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, and Feb. 4 and 11 (Midlands). Great elaborate stage set, top liner, costumes, stage appointments unsurpassable; three people fourteen animals, great electrical final, and the great draw, the Football Team, with the only Canine Goal-keeper in the World; 14in. leather ball (not air bladders). Com., Dec. 17, Barnard's, Chatham; 24th, E., Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Dec. 31, to follow Northampton, and Jan. 14, to follow Chatham, Vacant through T. R., Woolwich, losing licence, and Hippo., Portsmouth, not open in time.
Mlle. VON ETTA,
Mlle. VON ETTA,
The World's Only Lady Illusionist,
Protean and Quick-change Artist.
Wonderful Illusions; Marvellous Changes.
Grand Palace of Electricity,
Four Richly Attired Assistants, Own Electrician and Stage Hands. Top any Bill. Now concluding Starring Engagement on the Broadhead Tour. Dec. 31 and Jan. 14, only vacancies. Opening London Hippodrome, Feb. 4; Moss and Stoll Tour to follow. Address, T. M. PAUL, Business-Manager, Grand Theatre, Hanley.

WANTED, Engagements by Little Lottie Lonsdale, Juvenile Comedienne and Dancer. Last week Hippodrome, Blyth; special return visit, with great success. Write or wire, 13, Summerhill-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Dec. 17, 24, onwards, Edie Sheldon, Beautiful Soprano, Comedienne, and Sacred Concerts. Wire, write, 15, Offley-road, Kennington, London.

WANTED, Known, Clara Hastings, Refined Singing Turn, Voice, Figure, Refinement, re-engaged second week, P. P., Portsmouth; vacant Monday, wire.

WANTED, Monday, by Grosvenor Sisters (three), singers of popular melodies in harmony, Vacant, Hip., Brixton, closing. Grand, Clapham Junction.

WANTED, Monday next, on, or Good Tour, by George Ritter, Versatile Musical Speciality Comedian, just concluding third tour with Jury's Pictures. Notice.—Have you heard the Cuckoo. Musical Ritter must be seen or rather heard to be believed.—Bexhill Observer, Dec. 7, 1906. Wire for Monday. This, Grand, Woolwich; next, perm., Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, with exceptions, Dan Ashton, in Original Copyright Collier's Song Scena. Olympia, or 11, North-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Monday next, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey, a real novelty; also Ventriloquist. Wire, 10, Cobden-place, Leeds.

WANTED, by Frank Caffrey, Monday next and Dec. 24.
Wire, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Known, Harry Jennings, Comedian and Speciality Dancer, vacant Monday, also Christmas. Wire, 56, Buccleuch-street, Glasgow. Also vacant Pantomime, nimble part.

WANTED, by Allan Hanbury, comedian, Xmas week, only immediate vacancy, Moss-Stoll tour Dec. 31. Wire or write, Palace, Lancaster.

WANTED, Known, F. H. Dundas, Actor-Vocalist, requires Monday. Wire for a turn, Palace, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Dec. 24 and 31, by Benbo, the Renowned Mimic, Necromancer, and Comedian. Don't miss my Latest Sensational Comedy Illusion, "The Enchanted Cross." Offers, 2, Marshall-street, Openshaw, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Will Burton, Eccentric Facial Comedian and Dancer, at Liberty Dec. 17 and 24. Wire or write, 45, Liverpool-road, Canning Town, E.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Christmas, W. H. West, Character Comedian, Electric Nose Song Speciality, Comical Donkey. Address, 88, Hurst-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, by De Ora Speciality, Dec. 24, New Year's Week. This, starring, Hippo., Cambridge; next, Empire, Hull, where please address.

WANTED, Dec. 17, 24, and later dates, Alf Berg (late Saxon Trio), in his Great Act Competitions if desired. Best offer, 15, Offley-road, Kennington, London.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, last week terrific success, the Wonder of Colne, Lancs. Finished to packed houses. All coms., MEGSON, 8, Woodsley-road, Leeds.

WANTED, Dec. 31, '06, Jan. 14, '07, onward, by Kyoto and the Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box. A clever contortionist, Comedy Conjurer, Juggler, and Performing "Pug" Dog. Also May Geraldine, a sprightly comedienne and dancer Aq., Scarboro'; Dec. 17, return, G., Birmingham. Dec. 24, Hippo., Yarmouth.

WANTED, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, The Monckton (Fred and Lillie), in latest screamer, "Are Wives Dummies?" Hippodrome, Ashton-under-Lyne (return).

WANTED, Dec. 31 and all Jan., for Wal Pink's la test and best Musical Comedy Duologue, "The Gasfitter." Glorious success Theatre, Ramsgate. Return Monday, Hippo., Reading (second visit in six weeks). Offer to DAISY TURNER, Hippo., Reading.

WANTED, Xmas and New Year, for Successful Duos, "Pity the Blind" and "A Motor Muddle," through obliging Mr. Macnaghten. FERINA, Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, Known, The Elbas, at Lib. Christmas and New Year, with their Refined and Amusing Second Sight Performances. Write, 40, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, 17th, onwards, by Jack Sheppard, World's Greatest Handcuff King, Prison Breaker; also Miss Ruby Vesta, Greatest Trunk Mystery. 249, Bond-street, Byker, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, by N. C. Bostock, and Nellie Elliene, Dec. 24 and 31. All New Songs. Wire, 8, Canterbury-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, the Original Cullan and Coyle, Popular Singing and Patter Comedians, away from all others. Refinement our motto. Please note, vacant Dec. 17 and 24, Jan. 7 and 21. De Frece Tour to follow. 4, Ashton-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Austin and Austin, Eccentric Acrobatic Chair Pyramidist, at Liberty Jan. 14. All Coms., STERBING'S Agency, Manchester.

WANTED Known, Herbert Lenton and Scroggs, Refined Speciality Act. Great Success Coventry. At Liberty Dec. 17 and 24. Wire, Empire, Coventry.

WANTED, by Lambert and Glover, for their High-class, Screamingly Funny Vaudeville Act, Dec. 17, 31. Address, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, Dec. 24, on, The Two Browns, Eccentric Duettists. Next week, People's Palace, Portsmouth. Doubles and single. Good agent required.

WANTED, Known, Wright and Elton, Comedy Act, Vacant Dec. 24 and 31. Wire, Palace, Northampton; after Saturday, 27, Nicholl-square, Hackney.

WANTED, by France and Francis, Acrobatic Comedians, Dec. 24, also 31. Wire or write, this, Circus, Rochdale; next, Palace, Lancaster.

WANTED, Known, Sterling and Cashen, Comedy Duo and Champion Dancers, Liberty Monday next, 17th. Wire, Pal., Lancaster.

WANTED, Monday, offers invited, terms or shares, Turle and Turle, Comedy Gymnasts, one or two smart, funny, lively Acts; sure draw. Wire, 28, Upper Gough-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Dec. 24 and 31, by the Carls, Comedy Trampoline Act. Roars of laughter and applause. Sure success. Hip., Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Known, Reszki and Raszki, Gymnastic Grotesques, vacant Dec. 17, and on. Aquarium, Scarborough; after Sunday, 6, Beachgrove, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Monday, by Chant and Chant, Comedy Duo, between Scarborough and Edinburgh. Great success Hippo., Scarborough, where wire.

WANTED, by The Woolhafs, Versatile Pair, Great Comedy Act, Vacant Dec. 17, on. Wire, 15, Foyle-street, Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, the Two Daniels, Happy Nigs, vacant Dec. 24.
Wire, 63, Sherbourne-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Attillas, the Grecian Gladiators, Lib. Monday and 31st. Wire, Queen's, Swindon. Big draw and success everywhere.

WANTED, by the Five Halyards, in their new Comedy Musical Scena, Dec. 24, 31.
Address, 6, Lower Ford-street, Coventry.

WANTED, Christmas Week, by Los Granadas, Sensational, "Outside an Hotel." Wire, wire, wire. Hippodrome, Oxford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Wulfrunas (three ladies, four gentlemen), Comedy Acrobatic speciality, entitled "Fun in a Café," own scenery and effects. Conclude usual success, Hippo., Wigan; Liberty Dec. 24 through obliging. Monday, Circus, Spennymoor, Durham.

WANTED, Monday next, Walker's Comedy Nippers, Reklaw Globe Speciality. Vacant Monday. Wire, Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, Dec. 24, on by Geo. Gulliver, smart, refined vent. act, "Gulliver and the Liliputians." Success, this week, Empire, Belfast. Thanks Stebbings and three others for offers and contracts. Monday, Empire, Dublin.

WANTED, Jan. 21, onwards, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist; two first-class Acts. Monday, Hippo., Maidstone.

WANTEW, Engagements, for Spectacles, both Juvenile and Adults, "Russo and Japan," "Scalp-Hunters," Pantomime "St. George and the Dragon." Everything carried. Two Clarkes, Speciality Acts 37, King-gardens, Plymouth.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show (only full-grown Male Lions), finest in the Profession, vacant Jan. 7, March 25, and April 15, London preferred.
Address week Dec. 17,
New Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

WANTED, Known, Caban's French Cirque, Ponies, Donkeys, and Dogs, at Liberty Dec. 17, also Christmas and New Year weeks. Big Attraction. Wire for 17th, CABAN, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Spangeletti's Big Show, pony, dogs, and baboon circus, Liberty Dec. 17, 24, with or without contests. Finish to-night, Palace, Boston. Address, 173, Queen's-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Alice Fontainbleau, Famous Dogs. Tremendous Sucess, this week Empire, Merthyr. Agricultural Hall, London, to follow. Few dates vacant.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Human Dogs, at Liberty Christmas week, through mistake. Big show. Theatre Royal, Wednesbury.

WANTED, Engagements, Brandon Medland's Genuine Liquid Air Mystic Kettle and Vitascope; best Films. Also Desseinatograph. 44, Lorrimore-road, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Engagements, public or private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements for Lingwood's Bioscopes, complete change of up-to-date Films weekly; electric or limelight. LINGWOOD, 31, Watcombe-road, S. Norwood.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult TOM NORMAN, Auction Office, Manor Farm, Dallington, Sussex.

WANTED, Known, that owing to my brother-in-law Mr. Harry Noakes having taken over on his own account both the Manor and Acclands Farms, Dallington, Sussex, that on and after New Year's Day next my permanent address will be TOM NORMAN, Showman's Auctioneer, Expert, and Authority, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand.
All Showmen, Travellers, and Others having things stored at Manor Farm to communicate with me immediately.
N.B.—Established at the above address nine years.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know.
Simons, of 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch,
is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c.
Send for Special Xmas Supplement. There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known.—A Word to the Wise is Sufficient. A Client writing June 25, 1906, says:—Bag puncher took £300 in a little over three months. For price, write Sole Agents to the Makers, viz., the Mills Novelty Co. MINERVA AUTOMATIC Co., 120, York-rd., King's Cross, London, N. Largest Variety of Automatic Machines in the trade. No Junk. Don't buy worn-out machines of old pattern; get a genuine Mills 1906 pattern.

WANTED, Known, Electrical, Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, manufacture four and six pole Showmen's Dynamos (improved pattern), also new Flame Arc Lamps, geared motors, for driving organs and roundabouts, large stocks, cable, carbons, globes, incandescents, all classes of repairs; new line, direct coupled portable electric plants, driven by paraffin.

WANTED, Known.—Write or call at Greene's, Falmouth-road, London, S.E., for .22 ammunition, rifles, globes, targets; absolutely cheapest market.

WANTED, Known, Auction Marts and others, R. Owens, 65, Market-street, Manchester, making up good lines; good profit. Write for samples.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, to showmen, Circus, and Roundabout Proprietors, that De Salis and Co., of Leighton Buzzard, are manufacturers of Showmen's Colours, Paints, and Varnishes, suitable for Switchbacks, Galloping Horses, Rounding Boards, Swings, &c., &c. Specially recommended by Mr. A. Higgins, Artist, of Totterdown, Bristol, and others.
All Showmen should send for price list and samples.
Specialities.
"New Royal Red."
"Salisello," a perfect white enamel.
Extra Pale Durable Body and White Copal Varnishes.

WANTED, Known, Showmen's Letter Cloths made and attractively painted in fancy colours. All kinds of showmen's painting undertaken. ROCHE, Artist, 22, Lansdown-road, Lee, London, S.E.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the Gourock Ropework Co., Ltd., Largest Tent Manufacturers in the World, have a large stock of New and Secondhand Circus Tents made from their famous Rotproof and Waterproof Tent Canvas, "Birkmyres Cloth." The most durable and waterproof Canvas for Showmen's Tents &c. Buy from Manufacturers and save middlemen's profit. GOUROCK ROPEWORK Co., LTD., Lancaster-place, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Novelties, and Showmen with Good Shows, for present and future dates, for three good shops in main positions, first in High-street, Merthyr, others to follow; good windows, and free use of organ and money for a good show; can also bring a good double for other rooms if suitable. Old friends write me. I can also do with Shops for future dates; good paintings by Smith of Peckham: Wild Nell, Queen of the Bowies; Levita, with Indian Reptiles; and Cardona, with performing dogs. LUCAS, Exhibition, 92, High-street, Merthyr.

WANTED, Novelties of every description, Fat Ladies, &c. Would Jersey Lily please write? Comfortable living carriage found.
Apply at once, with lowest terms, to
HENRY WALL,
6, Beech-street, Lower Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, for the Winter Gardens, Plymouth, for the Xmas Week, any Kind of Novelty or Side Shows, on sharing terms. Ground to Let for Stalls, all under cover. Redruth, Whit Monday; other Fairs en route.
Apply,
W. C. and S. HANCOCK.

WANTED, Female Novelties, for two good shops, 60ft. long, 18ft. wide, clear; half.
MARWOOD, 53, Chrisp-street, Poplar.

WANTED, Novelties, any quick show; must be good money-takers, shares or salary. Wire for Monday, THOMPSON, 78, Castle-street, Bristol.

WANTED, Novelties, with Paintings or Posters, for Monday next. Wire, MADAM VALLUS, 129, Whitechapel-road, London, E.

WANTED, Quick-showing Novelty, also Lady Palmist, for Xmas, shares or salary. Apply, Prof. SMART, 27, Patrick-st., Limerick, Ireland.

WANTED, Novelties for Shops, best position in Preston; must have Paintings or Blocks. Would John Priest write or call? Address, W. PRIEST, Novelty Exhibition, 16, Church-street.

WANTED, Novelties for Xmas week and onwards; also Lady Palmist and Tattooer.
Address,
BAGAN, 48, North-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Freaks and Novelties, Open at Once, sale of books and post-cards allowed. CHARLES A JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Freaks and Novelties, any good show, open Monday, salary or share. Address, PROPRIETOR, 100, Lower Marsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, good Knockabouts, Benders, or Tumblers, that can do one or two Acts on Parade, and used to Show business, must be funny; also Lady Paraders, that can sing and dance outside, good appearance, dresses found. Long engagement to suitable people. W. BIDDALL, Electric Pictures, International Fair, Olympia, London.

WANTED, good Comedian, must be a steady man, teetotaler preferred.
Apply Box 4108, "The Era."

WANTED, a Waxwork Exhibition. Sharing terms, or rental. Fine prospects to good showman. MANAGER, 38, High-street, Putney.

WANTED, Lady Wrestlers, smart appearance, two months' certain. Apply, NORAH SULLIVAN, Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, London.

WANTED, Immediately, First-class Phrenologist and Character Reader, lady preferred, Caston's Panopticon, business big in Newport. 63, Commercial-street, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Character Delineator, sharing terms, to work Halls, week in each town. State age and send photo. MARTINO, Assembly Rooms, Bath.

WANTED, young Black Man and Black Woman to travel Fairs on the Continent, six or twelve months' Engagements; good home for good people. Address, JEAN BERTI, Directeur, Théâtre Village Noir en Foire à Mons, Belgium.

WANTED, First-Class Comedian and Plankman, to open after Christmas; only workers need apply. Box 4,113, "The Era."

WANTED, for Anderton and Rowland's Modern Show, Good Pianiste, used to Fair Business, one capable of doing a turn. Address as above, Sat., Radstock; after, Market Square, Westbury.

WANTED, Known, Jack Bacon, the renowned doorsman, is at Liberty for Christmas week. All communications, 101, Edward-st., New Cross.

WANTED, to Let, Show Ground,
Tranent Show Ground
is to be Let
during the
Annual Fair Holidays in June.
Apply,
TOWN CLERK, Tranent, N.B.

WANTED, Known, a Few Small Spaces to Let in the Provincial Trades Exhibition. Continuous Tour. Write, stating wants, to MANAGER, Exhibition, Barnstaple, Exeter to follow.

WANTED, to let, Fine Position in Ocean-road, South Shields, boarded round, about 80ft. by 50ft.; thousands pass. BLOOM, White Hall, Haughton, Darlington.

WANTED, to Let, Stands, on Bloom's Fair Ground; best positions in the North. Apply STACEY, Front-street, West Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, Known, the Carnival, Chapelfields, Belfast, will open the same as usual on Dec. 20. Still a few Spaces to Let for Side Shows. Reply, Messrs. TOFT and TURNBULL, Chapelfields, Belfast

NEW YEAR'S FAIR CARNIVAL, GLASGOW.
commencing Sat., Dec. 22, for 13 days only.
WANTED, Known, owing to having considerably enlarged the above ground by taking in more land, we have a few spaces to let.
Price, 4s. per foot frontage.
Apply, G. GREEN, The Carnival, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Touring Exhibition. Spaces Vacant for Photos., Optics, and Jewellery; good in-and-out Side-show entertained. MANAGER, Trades Exhibition, Drill Hall, St. Albans.

WANTED, Known, Spaces to Let, for few good Side Stalls, at forthcoming Trades Exhibition and Fancy Fair, Drill Hall, Motherwell, near Glasgow, Dec. 31 to Jan. 9. Scenic Stalls provided free, moderate charges, for long Scottish Tour; also Space for Good Side Shows and Distorting Mirrors (sharing terms). Address,
MANAGER, Touring Exhibitions Company,
Victoria Hall, Annan, N.B.

WANTED, to Let, a Few Spaces, on the Stall Ground, for fancy goods, gold wire, engraving, sketch artist, or any stall novelties. Apply, MANAGER,
World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall,
Islington, N.

WANTED, to Let, Booths for Novelties, also Spaces for small shows. Apply, J. BEAUMONT, Market Yard, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Known, Room to Let, suitable for massage treatment, beauty doctor, &c. CHAS. A. JAMES, Waxwork Exhibition, Dublin. Palmistry excepted.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, to Hire, with View to Purchase, First-class Pullman Road or Rail Living Carriage, not less than 17ft. long; must be a good one, and price reasonable. Money sure. Box 4,116, "The Era."

WANTED, Space in Shop or Exhibition, good position, for latest Novelty in Photography. Postcards finished in three minutes. Jim Pattison write. Apply LITTLE ARTHUR, Market Hall, Ebbw Vale, Mon.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know.
Simons, of 100, 101, and 102a, Houndsditch,
has Special Departments for 9ct. Rings, Secondhand Watches, Unredeemed Pledges, and Cheap Jewellery. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. All up-to-date Lines.

Important Notice.
WANTED, to Sell, as a Going Concern, that Masterpiece of all Portable Roundabouts,
Edmund Holland's
Steam Razzle-Dazzle.
Not an Imitation.
A certain future for an enterprising party.
If sold with electric light, five loads;
or four loads without light. Price reasonable.
Principals only dealt with.
Communications, E. HOLLAND,
Ivy Cottage, Belgrave-rd., New Moston, Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, a Steam Galloping Roundabouts, in perfect order, and Organ by Gavioli, with up-to-date tunes, and trucks to carry everything. Price £150. All ready to take money. Also Two Sets of Swings and other Side-shows. Can be seen by appointment. Reason for selling, giving up the business. Address, ASTON, 196, Harwoods-road, Watford.

WANTED, to Sell, Auction Mart, handy, nearly new, two loads, tent and shutters, acetylene gas. Very cheap; owner retiring. Box 4,124, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, Husbands, Babies, Love-Letters, Palmistry, Lunatics', Marriage, and Liars' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, of every description, best and cheapest. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-rd,, West Kensington, London. Established 1887.

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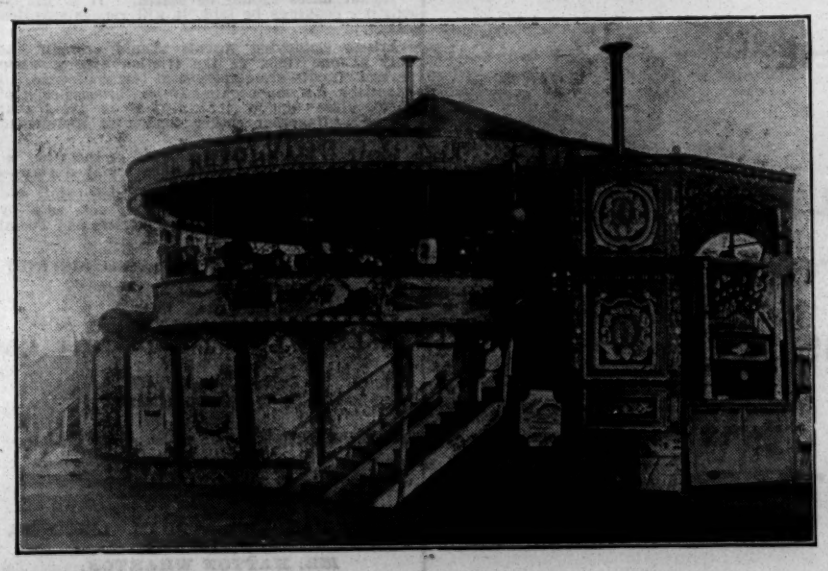

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All About Artists' Luggage.
List of Clubs.
Information about Stamping Contracts.
Foreign Money Table.
London Music Halls and Theatres.
Their Telephone Numbers.
List of Brougham Proprietors.
List and Address of Photographers.
Size of Theatrical Printing Paper.
Names and Addresses of Theatrical Railway Managers, &c., &c.

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EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
Karno's "Jail Birds," Browning and Wally, J. H. Crewe, Maude Marlow, Arthur Lloyd Trio, Graham, Hall and Earle, Chas. Pastor, J. W. Hall, Lavails, Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Harry Tate's Co., in "Fishing," Henry A. Moore, Solari Duo, Nina St. Elmo, Celtic Comedy Trio, Techow's Cats, Lee and Kingston, Counsell and Mills, Bioscope, Pat Rafferty.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
George Formby, Rosie Archer, Lyons Trio, Frank Harwood, Dennis Drew, Clemart, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Bioscope, Rapoli, Morimura.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
"The Magic Carpet," Morny Cash, Bros. Cocoran, Lieut. Travis, Genaro and Theol, Catlin's Pierrots, The Meymotts, Bioscope, Herr Rousby, 3 Amaranths.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Macarte Sisters, Lilieth Leyton and Co., Boyd and Gilfain, Sam Elton, Zanfretta and Napio, Tom Woottwell, Conway and Leland, "The Globe of Life," Bioscope, La Danseuse.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Kellinos, Debreans, Ethel Ra Leslie, Ryan and Hall, Three Sisters Chester, Courtiers, Walter King, Alexandra Edwin, "Crystal Gazing."

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"Betta the Gipsy," Mlle. De Dio, Prince Kokin, Two Butterflies, Petram Sisters, Nina Gordon, Bioscope, Barney Armstrong, Lena Brunton, Russell Brandon.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Ginnett's "Remounts," Walter Curtis, Motramos, Beattie and Blanche, George Newburn, The Clarkes, Selbinis, Henry Taylor Trio, Viviana, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"La Vivandiere," Walter Munroe, Griff and Alpha, G. W. Hunter, Paulinetti and Piquo, Cambrian Trio, Trippello, Parker and Parr, Bioscope, Paxton Trio.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Lil Hawthorne, Mason and Bart, Albertus and Millar, Chas. Whittle, Esta Stella, Walter Forder and Co., Bioscope, Maxwell and Francis, Gadbin, Brilliant and Brilliant.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Jas. Stillwell and Co., Percival, Schwartz Bros., Bioscope, Dion Wade, Lena Willard, Jimmy Shields, Selma Braatz.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Vesta Tilley, Bioscope, Bros. Dean, Mabel Bright and Co., The Westwoods, Boris Lensky, Frank Maura, Spissel Bros. and Mack, Edith Fink, "The Mysterious Mrs. ——"

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"Daily Mirror" Boy Army, Jessie Burnett, Bioscope, Bros. Horne, Montague Bros., Five Bogannys, Stavordale Quintette, Florence Smithers and Co., Harry Leybourne, Madge Lessing.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
"The Yellow Fang," Lilian Lowe, Vasilescu Troupe, Lennie and Hast, Ernest Shand, Kate Traill, Billy McClain and Co., Three Tauberts, Wyndham and Kitty, Sisters Finney.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
John Lawson and Co., Dot Hardy, Michael Nolan, Agnes Hazel, Two Bostons, Four Royal Welshmen, Burns and Burns, The Robertys, Bandurrias, George Lashwood.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Alec Hurley and Co., Marie Kendall, Mascotte Trio, Hurley and Cole, Frank and Jen Latona, Theo Hardeen, Holden's Marionettes. Victor Newman, Chas. Robinson, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Arthur Roberts and Co., Tom Costello, Frobel and Ruge, Three Ramoniers, Young and De Voie, James Brady, Jeannie Mackay, Welsh Wanderers, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Louie Freear and Co., Harry Anderson, Winnie Derson, Three Guitanos, Northern Troupe, Wilson and Waring, The Ohms, Alexander, Harold Hughman, Bioscope.

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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Three Olympiers, Wotpert Trio, Herr Fritz, Strolling Players, Harry Coates, Harry Lawson, Lily Tiso, Bioscope

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
The Dandies, Aurora Troupe, James Stewart, Amoros Werner Troupe, Cliff Ryland, Gordon Highlanders, Ray Maskell, Johnnie and Charlie, Mons. Carl, Bioscope.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
"The Devil's Sunday," Arthur Reece, Amy Sullivan, Mezzetti and Mora, Stein Eretto Troupe, Barton and Ashley, Carlos Caesaro, Eadie and Ramsden, Bioscope.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Fred Eustace and Co., Bioscope, Marguerite Ismay and White Coons, Two Cymeros, Syd May, T. E. Conover, Ja. Reilly, Amy Marsden, Durant Bros., Hale and Francis.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"Happy Holland," Bioscope, Illustrated Song, Althoffs, Maudie Ford, Francis Letty, Time and Money, Los Granadas, Rochez's Monkeys, Paul Conchas.

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Chas. Dare's Minstrels, May Orchard, Picitt and Lizette, George Gulliver, Lora, Pictures, Marie Duma, Three Panamas, Anartos.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Wal Pink's "Repairs," Clarice Netta, H. Leslie Bell and Lillie Pearl, Leverto, Mlle. Sylva's Tableaux, Bernardo, Pat Carey, Mr. and Mrs. Lucas.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Marie Santoi and Co., Bros. Hayes, Albert Christian, Pictures, George Westland, De Wynne Bros., Baker and Balfe, Katie Cohen, W. J. Ashcroft.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"No. 99," Bessie Speers, Dr. Ernst, Jack Drake, King's College Boys, Chas. Russell, C. J. Jerome, Bioscope, Harry Champion.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Six Primrose Girls, L. W. Harris, Cole and Rags, Oswald Williams, Three Merrils, Adeline Yohle, Harry Daniels and Co., Bioscope.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
T. E. Dunville, The Delevines, Fred Herbert, J. G. Taylor, Chas. Clarke, Amy Russell, Florrie Gallimore, Sisters Caselli, Catherine Radford, The Two Bees, Leonards, The Lurins, Burnetti, Three Prestons, Pictures, Steve McCarthy, Marie Kendall.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Both performances: La Milo, Pictures, Ed. Cranston and Co., Ford and Hanson, Muir and Bartlett, Cape Girls, Ethel May, Florence Esdaile, Sisters Dacre, Hill and Lane, Thornbury, Fred Herbert, Ryder Slone.

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ARTISTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT IF THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON, SHOULD OPEN AS A VARIETY THEATRE, IT WILL COME WITHIN THE AREA ABSOLUTELY BARRED BY US.

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IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

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"BOY BLUE,"
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
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"WALTZ ME AROUND AGAIN WILLIE."
"MY BUNGALOW IN BORNEO."
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PALACE, BLACKBURN.
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Colby and May, Tom Lloyd, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Gondolier Glee Singers, Alexander Victor Duo, Chas. F. Best, Geraldos, Nellie Farrell.

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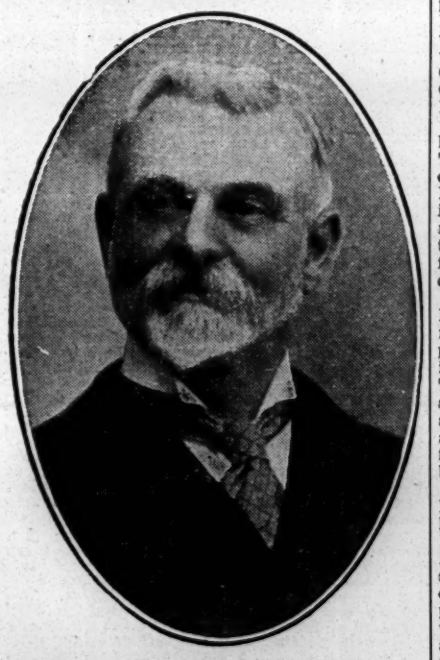
THE ERA ANNUAL, 1906.
"The Era" Annual appears once more in its familiar binding, a compendium of information and amusement for all who are interested in theatrical affairs. In the calendar will be found an array of anniversary dates, some recent, some recalling memories of old times and actors and actresses long passed away. The summary of new plays produced during the past year is admirably done, its value being increased by the alphabetical list which is appended. Well-known actors and actresses contribute stories in accordance with a custom justified by its success.—Daily Telegraph, Jan. 18, 1906.

1906-1907.



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AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, Nov. 6, 1906.—Mr. Bland Holt's revival of *The Betting Book* comes at a singularly appropriate time—just when a Puritanical law prohibits any kind of betting in New South Wales. Mr. and Mrs. Bland Holt are again Ginger and Marjorie Cribb, extracting every possible atom of fun out of the characters. Mr. Walter Baker repeats his performance as Edwin Hurst; the Frank Wilton is by Mr. Albert Norman; and Mr. Charles Brown scores all along as the Jew bookmaker. The other characters are by Misses Harrie Ireland, Jennie Pollock, Violet Canty, Mr. Arthur Styan, and Mr. Carleton Stuart. *The Betting Book* will not be closed for some time.

"THE CHRISTIAN," though several times acted here in past years, has increased in attraction at Her Majesty's each night with the sterling cast engaged by Mr. J. C. Williamson. The chief characters, by Miss Ola J. Humphreys, Mrs. G. B. W. Lewis, Mr. Charles Waldron, and Mr. Cyril MacKay, are soundly played.

MESSRS. MEYNELL AND GUNN will produce *The Little Stranger* at the Palace Theatre on the 17th, with a strong company, largely composed of residential performers.

THE Tivoli has a big list of first-class artists just now, the programme including Duncan and Godfrey, Cassie Walmer, Alf. Chester, Victor Kelly, Miss Brightie Smith, Austin and Hartley, the Phillips Brothers, Ibsen Brothers, Harry Tate's company, Jessie Jee, George Bentley, Olive Robinson, Nellie Maher, and Tim Howard. The Gaumont chronophone discloses new pictures, "The Swing Song" from *Veronique*, and a fine one of Mrs. Harry Rickards presenting the prizes at the annual London Music Hall Sports.

SYDNEY, Nov. 13.—*The Virginian*, as a drama depicting American ranch life, is complete in every detail, and, as acted by Mr. J. C. Williamson's company at Her Majesty's, keeps an audience intensely interested. Miss Ola Humphrey as the schoolmarm, Molly Wood, has a strenuous rôle, in which she is quite successful. Mr. Charles Waldron is manly as the Virginian, and, following up his success as the Indian chief in *The Squaw Man*, Mr. Hardee Kirkland makes the scoundrel, Trampas, stand cut in rugged prominence. The quaint geniality of Uncle Heevie is admirably depicted by Mr. Edwin Lester; Judge Henry is well cared for by Mr. George Carey; and Mr. Rapley Holmes scores as Honey Wiggin. Mrs. G. B. W. Lewis is a motherly Mrs. Heny, and Miss Ada Stirling a handsome, obtuse Mrs. Ogden.

"THE EMPEROR" is a new comic opera by Mr. W. Arundel Orchard, and Mr. W. J. Curtis, barrister-at-law. These gentlemen had previously collaborated in *The Coquette* with success, and the production of this more ambitious effort was awaited with interest. The Palace Theatre was secured, and after the performance the delighted audience called the artists, composer, and author with great enthusiasm. The plot is distinctly good, the period ancient Roman. The book is well written, being full of humour and wit. Mr. Orchard's music is excellent, particularly the choral portion. *The Emperor* is worthy of attention by managers, and I am told that it is likely to be seen in London.

THE Tivoli has a new and vivid sensation in the Alaskas, who created a furore on the 10th inst. by their marvellous turn.

MR. TOM H. RAINFORD, the best known of our concert and operatic basses, died on the 9th, at the age of seventy-five. He came here with the Leslie and Bacchus Minstrels in the sixties, and has been a great favourite. He had a stroke of paralysis a couple of years ago. Mr. Rainford was buried at Waverly Cemetery on the 10th, a picked number of vocalists singing "The long day closes" over his grave.

MELBOURNE, Nov. 13.—PRINCESS THEATRE (Lessees, the Brough-Flemming Comedy Co.).—The Brough-Flemming Comedy Company returned to Melbourne on Saturday evening, and was accorded a most enthusiastic reception by a crowded house. The piece chosen for the initial performance was *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*, and the comedy went with a swing from the start to the finish. The part of Captain Mowbray was ably played by Mr. Herbert Flemming, Mrs. Brough was seen to anvantage in the character of Mrs. Jardine, while the various other characters were ably played by Mr. Carter Pickford, Mr. Payne, Mr. McMahon, Miss Gordon Lee, Miss Kate Gair, and Miss Beatrice Day.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE (Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. George Tallis).—The new musical comedy, *The Spring Chicken*, drew a crowded house on Saturday evening. Miss Morelle, who made her first Australian appearance in *The Spring Chicken*, was given an enthusiastic reception, while the rest of the company appeared to advantage in their various characters. Judging from present appearances, *The Spring Chicken* has come to stay.

THEATRE ROYAL (Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Business Manager, Mr. Julius Grant).—The stirring military drama, *The Ladder of Life*, is proving highly successful, and on Saturday evening the theatre was packed long before 8 o'clock. The many striking incidents of the play entirely suit the taste of Theatre Royal patrons, while a series of realistic tableaux call forth genuine applause. *The Ladder of Life* will only run for four more nights, *The Power and the Glory* being billed for next Saturday.

OPERA HOUSE (Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon).—Race week has been a highly satisfactory one to the various Melbourne theatrical managers, and Mr. Fred Aydon, the popular manager for Mr. Rickards, should feel entirely satisfied with the business done at this theatre, the house being literally packed nightly The already strong programme was further augmented for Saturday by the first appearance of Duncan and Godfrey, coster impersonators, who appeared in the pleasing little sketch entitled, *Me and 'Er*, which met with instant approval. The Sandow Girls also made their initial appearance in Melbourne and were well received. Kelly and Agnes returned after a lengthy sojourn in Sydney, and were warmly welcomed. Little Cliff, the clever young comedian and dancer, also returned for a brief season of two nights, prior to leaving for London to fulfil his pantomime engagement. Other artists include Mr. Tom Dawson, Les Cabiacs, Miss Maud Fanning, Mr. Larry Lewis, and a host of others.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

ANOTHER, and fatal, accident resulting from the thoughtless practice of pulling the trigger of stage pistols has occurred. The victim is Mr. Charles Christian, assistant stage-carpenter, who for fourteen years past has been employed under Mr. J. D. Hunter's management at the Hastings Pier Pavilion. Mr. Hunter's company had given its last performance of *The Danites* on the 1st inst., and Ernest Tubbs, another stage hand, was returning the pistols to their case, unaware that one was loaded, and aimlessly had several times clicked the trigger of one, or perhaps both, as he went to the dressing-room, when deceased, sitting on a dressing-basket, received the charge in his thigh at close quarters. He was at once taken to the East Sussex Hospital. The doctor at first treated him as an out-patient, and he appeared to progress satisfactorily, but last week blood-poisoning and tetanus supervened, and though admitted to the hospital again, he died from lockjaw on Monday last. The unfortunate man leaves a wife and three children; and Ernest Tubbs, who from boyhood was his fellow-employee, regrets too late the sad result of his thoughtlessness.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—PALACE THEATRE.—Managing Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Macdonald's Melody Makers appear in a delightful musical act, *The Burglar's Dream*; and another exceedingly mirthful sketch, *The Little Wonder*, is vivaciously played by Messrs. James Willard and company. The veteran comedian, Mr. Charles Collette, likewise scores with his amusing sketches *Hard Luck* and *Tea for Two*, in the last of which he is ably assisted by Miss Joan Berry. Amandus is highly successful as a mimic; the Lannons are popular both as singers and dancers; Musical Rosini shows wonderful versatility as an instrumentalist; and among the other successful artists may be noted Miss Mabelle May and the Sisters Tinsley, graceful vocalists and dancers; and Mr. Jack Charman, a popular singer.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The delightfully-staged pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, continues to be well patronised. Every performance shows a marked advance on its predecessor in smoothness and artistic finish.

ABERYSTWYTH.—COLISEUM.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. Phillips.—Mr. J. Poole, with his myriorama and variety amalgamation opened here for four nights. The pictures were much admired, while the animated photography created roars of laughter. The artists include Mlle. Juanita de Oliviera, whose cockatoos gave a remarkable exhibition of what training can do; the Paulasto Troupe are clever knockabout artists and musical eccentrics; the Veronas gave a pretty Spanish dance; Mr. Felix Somers was capital in his facial expressions of "people we know"; and Mr. Loudoun Cameron surprised the audience with his magic spectacular act. Mr. Natt Abatt made an excellent guide. The whole is under the able management of Mr. Fred Mayer.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Dickie Clare's company is appearing here this week in *Lucky 'Liza*. Mr. Dicky Clare as Silas Slim and the Judge is the life and soul of the piece; and Mr. T. W. Benson gives powerful support as Peter Pettitoe. Mr. Syd Hind is amusing as Paul; and Mr. Forrest is good as William Biffins. Mr. Bert Collins as the Court usher works hard; Mr. A. W. Thompson makes the most of the part of B. Blatherwick; Mr. George Minto must be complimented on his P.C. Burke; Miss Madge Brownie is charming in the character of Lucky 'Liza; Virginia Blatherwick has a capital representative in Miss Vesta Brownie; and Miss Bella scores as Marie Pettitoe.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parsons.—A good programme is submitted here. Miss Fatma Diard is a lady with a cultured voice; the Gadenbecks are a smart turn; T. C. Edwards, a good baritone, is well received; Hurman is a particularly smart juggler; Molly Martin is good; and Joe Conway is an amusing boy comedian. The Esdale Brothers are funny patterers; the bioscope pictures conclude a good show.

ALDERSHOT.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Williams.—*Her One Great Sin* is being played here this week by Miss Blanche St. Albans and Mr. J. Leicester Jackson's company. Mr. J. Cecil as the hero is successful; Mr. Quinton Fulford capably enacts the rôle of the villain; and Miss Lydia Donovan plays Grace effectively.

HIPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pool and Bosco; Manager, Mr. Irving Bosco.—The capital programme presented here this week includes Tony Spring, Arthur Green, George Harrison, Sid and Valdo, Jack O'Brien, Yelding, Three Itrams, the Groves, and Three Sisters Grovinl.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Mr. Geo. Kirk and Miss Mary Niel's company is here this week with one of Mr. Chas. Darrell's modern melodramas, entitled *Her Luck in London*. Miss Niel is cast for the arduous part of Nellie Harborne, but her understudy, Miss Florrie Groves, is at present playing the rôle, in consequence of Miss Niel's illness, and she thoroughly identifies herself with the varied moods and passions of the lady; Mr. Chas. A. Leicester, as Nellie's husband, acts in manly style; and we get a good interpretation of the scoundrel who lures the poor girl to London from Mr. Val Henry. Mr. Douglas Tremayne makes prominent a curate, the Rev. Lionel Strong; Mr. Tyrone Power is the stern father, Stephen Harborne; and Miss Ada Roscoe ably characterises the farmer's wife, known as Mme. Gabrielle. Miss Pamela Hodson is comical in the rôle assigned to her; and humour is also supplied by Miss Daisy Moss, as a serving-maid, and Miss Irene Smythe, as a barmaid.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Will Walton, comedian, a good singing and patter artist, heads the bill here; Janette Hall—an Ashton girl, by the way—sings two songs in characteristic style; *Are Wives Dummies?* is the title of a little domestic piece, well played by the Monckton; novel business, called "Shadows on the Screen," is that of Mons. Nospmoht; and Diana Hope and other artists win applause in a dramatic episode. Little Tichborne is a clever little burlesque artist and good singer; Ce Me Marie, a young nigger, surprises with his powers of contortion; the Edgertons are smart American lightning gymnasts; Percy Honri and his troupe, however, are the feature of the programme, in the extravaganza, entitled *Concordia*, the stage-setting and dressing of which are attractive, and the singers and instrumentalists excellent. The bioscope illustrates scenes in the Polar Regions.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaughten. — The popularity of the picture entertainments, inaugurated here some time ago, still continues, and each week a judicious and interesting change of subjects is given, with Mr. Baker E. Belphor as vocalist.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne.—A bright and varied programme is provided here this week by the enterprising management. Mr. Henry Carlton, assisted by a capable company, appears in a mirth-provoking sketch, entitled *The Window Cleaner*; the Brothers Lilian are a couple of smart gymnasts and silver chain experts; Miss Marie Weston is a charming vocalist and clever speciality dancer, whose turn is highly appreciated; the Katos give a diverting and pleasing performance with their "automatic theatre"; a sketch, entitled *Shunting*, serves to introduce the Brothers Phillipi in acrobatic and tumbling feats; Mr. Frank Hartley skilfully performs a number of difficult juggling tricks; Mr. T. C. Callaghan, comedian, is as well received as on his previous visit; and Mr. E. C. Clayton is as popular as ever with his pictures.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—On the first three nights of the week Mr. John Clyde and company occupied the theatre with *Lost in London*, preceded by a comedy sketch, entitled *Scots Folks' Wooin'*. Mr. John Clyde, who appeared as Job Armroyd, was well supported by Miss Florence Lambeth as Flounce. Mr. Palmer made an admirable Gilbert Featherstone, Mr. J. L. Wilton a particularly good Sir Richard Loader, and Mr. J. Hargadon a clever London tiger. On Thursday night Mr. Chas. Coborn opened a three nights' engagement.

BACUP. — NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—Mr. Syd Herman's Star Variety Combination is here this week. Little Hackenschmidt heads the list, and gives a very powerful display. Syd Herman, the popular Hebrew comedian; Alvar, in his novelty gymnastic act; the Three Cheers, with their wonderful performing cats; King Leo, a smart ventriloquist; Jimmy Green, a local comedian; Will and Roze, comedy conjurors and contortionists; Miss Lill Dresden, characteristic vocalist; the Arnolds, illusionists; and Fred Lennard and company in their farcical absurdity, *The Quarrelsome Pair*, are other attractions.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Charles Watson Mill's company in *A Wrecker of Men* is here. Mr. Thompson Carruthers makes an admirable Jim Horsley, and Mr. Milner Noble an interesting Pharosaphus; Mr. Charles Earle in the dual rôles of a Jew and a Mummy is very clever, and Mr. Stanley Champion makes a realistic Guise Strange; Miss Beatrice Reynolds is an amusing Vavasole Slopper; Miss Cissie Podmore a sweet Doris Melville, and Miss Olga Andre gives a powerful and artistically dramatic Risca Mallison.

TIVOLI THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Stage-Manager, Mr. Tom Whiting.—Haley Juveniles are exceedingly entertaining, and Roma and Romain give a high-class musical speciality act; Sadie Early, a pleasing vocalist; Crawley, in a clever sketch, "The Regimental Smoking Concert"; Vere and Kenwick, in some good burlesques of popular songs; Charlie Williams, negroistic entertainer; and Rose, in his sensational Denver speciality act, are all pleasing turns.

BATH.—PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—A bright entertainment is provided here this week. The Tom Davies Trio carry through their motoring act in mid-air with all their former daring and success; a more delightful comedienne than Yolande Noble with her refined style one could not desire; the rag-time dancing of Woodward and Walton is of the very best; Bijou Russell, American artist and sand dancer, is to the fore; George Bendon, the white coon, gives new songs with his usual precision and effect; George Leonard proves himself to be a comedian of merit; Frieda Whately, contralto vocalist, contributes ballads with acceptance; Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are the final item. On Tuesday Mr. Macnaghten generously placed the house at the disposal of the Bath Cycling Club for their annual night in aid of the fund for providing the aged poor of the city with a dinner, when, in addition to the company engaged for the week, several local professionals and amateur artists appeared in the cause of charity. On Thursday the management arranged a special matinée for the first appearance in Bath of the marvellous boy pianist, composer, and conductor, Max Darewski, who also appeared at the first house in the evening.

BEDFORD.—CORN EXCHANGE.—At this place of amusement the Clifford Essex Pierrots gave their refined versatile entertainment on Monday before a very good house. Messrs. Clifford Essex and Joe Morley are masters of the banjo; the accompanist, Miss Ella Barkley, A.R.A.M., has a high soprano of penetrating sweetness; Mr. Fred Rome scored heavily in his humorous songs, and Miss Frances Roscorla, a dainty comedienne with a delicate style of humour all her own, did well. Mr. Fitzgerald gave three Irish songs in rollicking style.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James McCann.—Mr. F. Brooke Warren's company opened here on Monday in the sensational drama, *Mysteries of the Thames*. Miss Marie Ramuz deserves praise for her clever interpretation of Kate Brandon; and Mr. Andrew Money furnished a good impersonation of Richard Brandon. Mr. F. Brooke Warren submits a most effective impersonation of Captain James Denbigh; Mr. Gilbert Hall was praiseworthy as Jack Hammond; and Miss Effie D. Crawford was a capable Bertie Fitzgerald. Miss Gwynne Warren was entrusted with the dual rôles of Helen Price and Grace Rochdale, in which she was entirely satisfactory; and Mr. Sydney Vereker furnished a humorous impersonation of Bill Bosco, a London burglar. Mr. Dan Hardie was a capital Peter Waggles; and Miss Maisie Grey delighted all with her winning impersonation of Emma Seaton. Miss Violet Leal furnished a sympathetic interpretation of Little Doris; and other rôles were sustained by Messrs. Arthur George, Edgar Thorne, Robert Vincent, &c.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The bill here is headed by Mr. Wal Pink's company, in the funny sketch, *Repairs*. Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas appear to the utmost advantage in *Scenes from Dickens*; Mr. Pat Carey is a droll Irish comedian, and his songs, including "Widow Doolin," have been heard with pleasure; a hit has been made by the H. Leslie Bell and Miss Lily Pearl company, in the sketch, *A Bit of String*; Leverto submits a fine exhibition of dancing; and Bernardo, comedy juggler, has been accorded a capital reception. Also here are Miss Clarice Netta, soprano vocalist; and Mlle. Sylvia, in her vocal tableaux.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The Alhambra Dramatic Company is appearing here, in the drama, *A London Actress*. Mr. Horace Denton, in the rôle of Clive Crawford, has scored quite a triumph; Miss Nina Blake-Adams furnished a charming interpretation of Phillis Crawford; and Miss Roma Tremayne was all that could possibly be desired as Hilda Langley. The rôle of Lieutenant Ned Kingston was admirably sustained by that clever actor, Mr. Percy M. Stevenson; Mr. Tom H. Solly furnished a funny impersonation of Pat Maloney; Mr. Cyril Grier acquitted himself with distinction as Moses Mendoza; and Mr. Elmore Frith gained much approval for his skilful interpretation of Captain Mannering. Miss Mattie Crawford and Miss Louie Tetley were capable as Rosie Blythe and Mrs. Skinner; and Miss Alice Clarke was Biddy Maloney to the life. The Alhambra Bioscope depicts "The Pay Day."

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—*Home Sweet Home*, admirably interpreted by Mr. Frank Lindo's capable company, constitutes a strong attraction. Mr. Lindo gives a fine and effective rendering of Stephen Armitage; and Miss Marion Wakeford as Joan acquits herself with unmistakable ability. Lucas Lyle is well played by Mr. F. Miles Hodgson; David Armitage finds a suitable representative in Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle; and Captain Gerald Gambier is an excellent Duke of Ancaster. Dora is creditably sustained by Miss Daisy Rochefort; and remaining parts are, without exception, well placed.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Horace Jones, a Welsh comedian of resource, heads the company with much success. Mr. F. V. St. Clair, a versatile topical vocalist, is on a welcome return visit, and scores heavily; and the Norman-Leonard Trio of clever instrumentalists appear in a musical sketch with much acceptance. Silbon's Circus is a marvellous exposition of animal training; and other attractive turns are contributed by Miss May Fallowfield, a talented soubrette; Geoffreys and Benson in their capital sketch *Spoofed*; Mr. E. J. Sheldon (the man in white); Miss Rosie Revel, an accomplished comedienne; and Brown's Royal Bioscope. Mr. Ernest Denney is musical director.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Mr. Auguste Van Biene graces these boards with his world-famed performance of Paul Borinski in *The Broken Melody*, which appears to increase both in charm and popularity, the talented actor-musician receiving rapt attention and enthusiastic applause; Miss Mary Mannering acts with tenderness and care as the wife, Mabel; Mr. Henry Ludlow gives an effective portrayal of General Ivanoff; Miss Grace Lester delivers herself as the Duchesse de Verviers with due emphasis; and Messrs. Herbert Rossmore and Lawrence Grove are eminently successful as Mortimer and Beaujour respectively; Mr. Archie Selwyn amuses the house with his humorous sallies as the Hon. Richard Spinnaker; Miss Rosalie Bolt adds a humorous quota as the Hon. Mrs. Spinnaker; Mr. Chas. A. Morgan contributes a smart study of the lodging-house keeper, Dickson; and Miss Rosie Lewis does well as Mrs. Dickson. On Friday Mr. Van Biene's 'cello solos included the adante from violin concerto (Mendelssohn), serenade (Leoncaralho), valse sentimentale and Faust Fantasia (Van Biene), and at every performance "Home, Sweet Home."

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Lil Hawthorne is the star turn here this week, and is accorded a hearty welcome; Gadbin is a remarkable man, allowing a motor car, with its full complement of passengers, to run over his body; Charles Whittle, comedian, has an excellent style; a delightful sketch, entitled *A Monk's Repentance*, which includes Miss Nellie Tauer, a vocalist of great ability; hearty laughter is caused by Albertus and Miller in their comedy act, whilst Esta Stella is a charming comedienne and dancer; Maxwell and Francis Mason and Barr, and Brilliant and Brilliant are also very good turns.

GAIETY.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Harold Montague's Vagabonds (wandering minstrels) are the star turn here, and their burlesques on modern melodrama and grand opera are extremely funny; the Marlo-Dunham Trio give a clever and novel gymnastic turn; Kyoto and his magic box afford great amusement. His half serious attempts at juggling and conjuring certainly mystify the audience; a much appreciated turn is that of Shirley and Ransom in a coster entitled *'Arf a Quid*; Charles Mildare gives a very attractive item, descriptive of "A day in Birdland."; Florence Deighton, double-voiced vocalist, is well received; Frank Sylvo, comedy juggler; W. H. Morgan, character comedian; and May Geraldine, comedienne and dancer, complete a varied and acceptable programme.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—*The Hotel Grande*, the sketch presented by the Six Bros. Luck, is pure pantomime, and played in an appropriate spirit—it goes with a swing; one of the cleverest Risley acts is presented by the Ergotti and King Luis Troupe; another sketch, overflowing with humour, is given by Fred Cullane's comedy quartette, and is entitled *Pipple from Poppleton*; other good turns are presented by T. W. Royal, Gus Barra, MacDonald and Huntingdon, and Mamie Cannon; an excellent gymnastic turn is provided by the Bros. Krags, and Williams and Warden are amusing in their Irish cross patter.

BORDERLEY PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Forster.—James Stillwell and a powerful company are responsible for a clever melodramatic sketch, the title of which is *The Submarine*. Mr. James Stillwell does full justice to the rôle of Melville Dayne, an inventor, while Miss Katherine Barnett is equally successful as Dorothy Dayne. The comedy portion is allotted to Mr. Harry Liddle, by whom it is capably sustained; Selma Braatz, "the lady Cinquevalli," is a juggler whose tricks display considerable skill and neatness; Jimmy Shields is a clever one-legged comedian, his dancing being very good; Percival, American comedy-pianist, is accorded a hearty welcome; Dion Wade gives clever impersonations of Harry Lauder and George Robey; and a laughable turn is presented by the Schwartz Bros.; Lena Willard has a very smart vaudeville act.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. Addison; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. J. Huntley.—*Sins of Society*, presented by Mr. Ernest Chesney's company, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Alfred D. Adams is a powerful Henri D'Arville; Mr. Cecil H. B. Churton is successful as Lionel Bennett; Mr. Fred Mace is an able representative of Carl Burnside; the character of Lilian is admirably played by Miss Shirley Dalton; and Miss Bessie Elma cleverly sustains the rôle of Mlle. Ilma de Fontaine. An excellent Nana Tremonte is seen in Miss Louie Heathfield; Mr. George Scully and Miss Maud Le Ray are highly amusing in the respective rôles of Timothy Twister and Selina Swizzle.

BLACKPOOL.—PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The Gotham Quartette occupies the premier position in this week's programme here, and gives a very interesting turn of singing and acting; Little Ganty is a dainty comedienne, and Lillian Warren is a singer of songs which are suitably illustrated by lantern slides; Howard and St. Clair provide an amusing sketch, and a similar turn is contributed by Pete and Minnie Lee; Charles Sandon is a fine vocalist, and Madge May a pleasing comedienne; Vernon's Imperial Bioscope shows the latest pictures.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. A. C. Moody.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company is on a return visit with *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, in which Mr. H. C. Barry is responsible for an excellent supply of comedy.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Jno. Grantham; Manager, Mr. Arthur James.—An excellent programme is presented here by a good company, including the Smalleys, in a refined comedy act; Nellie Duval, a smart comedienne; and Bob Campbell, one-legged comedian. A fine series of pictures is displayed by the Gaiety bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. William Tudor.—Jury's Electric Animated Pictures continue in possession here, and are augmented by an excellent variety entertainment, including Miss Amy Bell, in dainty song and dance; Mr. Maurice Love also appears with success.

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—Messrs. Chas. H. Phelps and Harry Tilbury's company is this week presenting the romantic comedy drama, *The Blind Foundling*. Mr. Charles H. Phelps (the author) appears in the part of the hero, Gerald Dalton, with much success, and he is supported by a good company. Songs, dances, and specialities are introduced by the Misses Mabel Hall and Kitty McPherson, and Mr. F. A. Earle.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—This week the members of the Bolton Amateur Operatic Society are occupying the boards here, with their 13th annual performance in aid of local charities. The comedy opera *Dorothy* has been produced under the direction of Mr. Shelford Walsh, of London. The augmented orchestra and the excellent chorus are again under the conductorship of Mr. H. F. Paceyl. The staging is excellently done by the Bolton Theatre Company.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—Mr. Phil Herman and company are paying a welcome return visit here in *Fritz, our Cousin German*. Mr. Phil Herman is responsible for most of the fun, his songs, dances, and patter being enthusiastically received. He is assisted by a most capable company, Miss Vera Mayne portraying the character of Katerina in pleasing style. Sambo Squash has a good exponent in Mr. M. Pears, and Mr. E. Roby is a capital Gregory Graham. Mr. Ed. W. Cudd is a typical Bowery Bill, and Miss E. Maguire as Lena is very praiseworthy. Little Dot Pardy as little Schneider deserves special mention. Other characters are in the safe keeping of Messrs Hugh Carmichael, Percy Vale, J. Roberts, and Fred Dyson.

BOSCOMBE. — HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—This week Mlle. Haydee is paying a welcome return visit with her marionettes, a clever turn, concluding with a spectacular Chinese scena, *The Great Little Chung Ling Soo*; Penstone, assisted by the China-town belle, Tsaou-Ngo, presents some very mystifying tricks; Phillips and Merriott are smart dancers and whistlers; Arthur Boyne causes much laughter; Lily Lawrence is a well-appreciated comedienne; Charles Vincent Adams is a quaint comedian; Mabel Leroy, comedienne and dancer, is most acceptable; the Hippodrome pictures, as usual, conclude the bill.

BOSTON.—PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Geo. Saphrini.—This popular place of amusement was packed on Monday night to witness one of the finest programmes submitted to a Boston audience. The principal attraction is Dr. Carl Hermann, the hypnotist and electric healer, who performed some wonderful cures in sight of the audience, and caused screams of laughter with his mesmerism. Lieut. Albini, with the "Lady in Black," caused much astonishment with his marvellous feats. Cambo, the musical man monkey; Dan Idle; Prof. Milne, ventriloquist; Leslie and Player, duologue artists; the Three Bostonians, vocalists and smart dancers; and Eva Reeve, ballad vocalist, complete the bill.

BRADFORD.—THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—The Selbinis, the wonderfully clever cyclists and expert acrobats, are meeting with well-deserved success here this week, and that excellent actress, Miss Minnie George Newburn, is the recipient of hearty applause. Tom and Marie Motrame combine delightful comedy with good music in a turn which wins unstinted marks of approval; and there is much charm in the dancing by Viviana. A distinct novelty is provided by the Henry Taylor Trio, who are remarkably clever equilibrists; the Clarkes are expert banjoists whose performance elicits applause; a dainty turn is submitted by Beattie and Blanche, comedienes and dancers; the humour of Walter Curtis is quaint and original; the Ginnetts, in their equestrian sketch *Rejected*

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Remounts, are responsible for much hearty laughter; and some excellent films dealing with the coming festive season are shown by the American Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. H. Foster.—In Charles Raymond's living study in sculpture "Clito," presented here this week, there is much to command the admiration of the lovers of the artistic and statuesque, and the series of beautiful poses are much applauded. In her turn as a burlesque artist Florence Schuberth, the dainty comedienne delights her audience; there is a fund of humour provided by Johnny Holland's company in the sketch *Our Betsy;* the Ford and Barris Trio reappear in *From Street to Stage*, and their dancing and vocalism elicit deserved applause; Wallace Whitney's character comedy is capital; Brown and Robinson, who are on a return visit, are responsible for good humour in *Home from Work;* in a comedy character turn of the broad type Beattie Foster is good; and some entertaining pictures are shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BRIDLINGTON.—PALACE AND WINTER GARDENS.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—Messrs. Howard and Preston's dramatic and variety company is playing a round of sketches from popular plays; Mr. Jack Ford scores with his humorous songs; and Mr. J. O. Stephenson is a vocalist of fair ability. There is an exhibition of smart shooting by a clever boy marksman, which excites the admiration of the audience.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—*The Dandy Dick*, a new and original musical burlesque, was produced here on Monday evening, and is fully noticed in another column.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.—A benefit performance, in aid of the widows and children of William Strong and Jobey Dean, who were drowned Nov. 26 whilst fishing off Brighton, was given here on Wednesday evening, when the theatre was lent free of charge by Mr. Ernest Carpenter, who also undertook the entire expenses of the entertainment. The programme was sustained by Miss Marjorie Carpenter, Miss Gracie Moore, Mme. Edith Welling, Jack and Evelyn, the Florodora Girls, Walker and Lake, the Highwaymen, Mr. Hulme Sharp, Mr. Edgar Budden, Mr. G. S. Graham, the Imperial Glee Quartet, the following members of the Brighton Hippodrome company, viz., Charles Woodward, Arthur Stacey, and the Eight Lancashire Lads, and the following members of the Brighton Alhambra company, viz., Mollie Maverne, Walker and May, and the Cromwells. The orchestra was under the direction of Signor G. D. La Camera.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. Fred Ginnett and company evoke great enthusiasm with their performance of the equestrian sketch, *Dick Turpin*, in which Fred Ginnett as Dick and George Jennings as Tom King are highly effective, and Carl Barello (Simon Sharpsent) and Alf. Burgess (Sammy) very amusing; the Folkestones are well received in their original act, *The Channel Swimmers;* Walker and May are clever comedians and dancers; Fred Hallam sings and patters with complete success; Mollie Maverne wins hearty applause for her character songs and dances; the Cromwells are capital comedy artists; Ray Royal is a dainty comedienne; Will Freedo, comedian and dancer, contribute a good turn; and the Alhambrascope pictures are excellent.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is a capital company here this week. Great enthusiasm is aroused by George Gray and Company, Ltd., who appear in the interesting and exciting comedy drama, *The Fighting Parson*. The incidents in the four scenes are presented with realism, and the scenery and staging are excellent. Alice Raymond, American cornetist and bugler, plays on several instruments with great skill, and her conductor, John Kurkamp, sings in artistic style; Arthur Stacey is an eccentric comedian and dancer; the Eight Lancashire Lads sing and dance themselves into high favour; Winona, assisted by Colonel King, submits a capital turn, in which the former proves herself a marvellous shot; Charles Woodward is a pleasing comedian; and "Black Beauty," by the Barrascope, is a series of interesting pictures.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—The Commercial Travellers' Dramatic Society gave a performance here on Monday evening, the proceeds being for the benefit of the Commercial Travellers' Institution and the local beneficent fund.

PALACE THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. V. Welchman.—Joe Peterman's musical comedy extravaganza in three scenes, entitled *The Belle of the Orient*, is attracting good houses. Austin Rudd, comedian, is always popular here; Davis and Gledhill Trio obtain much applause for their cycle and motor-racing exhibition on their own patent track; the Crown Trio are highly successful as speciality vocalists; Harry Bold, patter comedian, is successful; Helen Charles, society entertainer, does a pretty turn at the piano as a mimic and siffleuse; the Claymores are smart in their dancing-juggling act; Stanley and Greenop are exceptionally clever banjoists; and the performance concludes with *The Daughter of the Regiment*, depicted clearly by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope. The matinée on Wednesday was for the benefit of the Bristol unemployed, with special attractions and under distinguished patronage.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Sable Fern heads the bill, and obtains much applause for her songs, rendered in dainty and pleasing style; J. G. Grahame, jun., and Zerlina Harrington are highly successful in the dramatic episode, *A Daughter of Pleasure;* Marie Jones, assisted by Ernest Munro, has a good quick-change act, *The Way to Win a Bet*, in which Miss Jones very cleverly impersonates six characters, her changes of costume and make-up being marvellously expeditious; Nellie Chandos is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; the Paolias do a pleasing drawing-room act, the gentleman also exhibiting wonderful muscular development in classical poses; Mollie Doon is a dainty comedienne and dancer; Harry Marlow and May Manton amuse with their novel sketch *Other People's Babies;* Charles Cardow scores as a vocal comedian; the performance concluded with animated pictures of interest projected by the Empire Bioscope.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*Othello* was the attraction on Monday, Mr. Allan Wilkie presenting the Moor with sterling ability. The Iago of Mr. G. Alexander Marsh was an admirable piece of work. Miss Carrie Baillie as Desdemona was excellent; and Miss Ina Cameron also added to her reputation by the manner in which she portrayed Emilia. The other parts were rendered with an able all-round company. *The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, The Bells, David Garrick*, and *Hamlet* were also announced for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, with Friday reserved for Mr. J. Fred Watson's benefit, the programme including many of the principal artists in the district.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The Moody-Manners Opera Co. extended its visit here until Wednesday, and on Monday evening an exceptionally fine performance of Gounod's *Faust* was given, in which Mme. Fanny Moody sang with exquisite sweetness as Marguerite, and Mr. John Child as Faust was delightful. Mr. Charles Manners repeated his extremely clever rendering of Mephistopheles; and Mr. Lewys James sang with extraordinary purity and expression as Valentine; and Miss Mildred Bryan was a decided success as Siebel.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A very fine bill of fare is presented here this week. The top star is D'Artigan as Le Diabelo in looping the wheel. *The Battle of the Belles* is played by Mr. Fred Moule's company. Mr. Moule as the laughing publican is very amusing. Frank Boyce is a good character comedian; Jack Rae is an excellent gymnast; and the Leotard Brothers are funny clowns. The Stowe Brothers perform a series of very fine equilibristic feats, and are highly applauded; Leslie Race is an acceptable vocal comedian; and "Bonnie Scotland" is shown by the Empire Theatroscope.

[illegible]-N-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE, New [illegible] Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; [illegible] Walter.—Some good [illegible] Boswell's [illegible] highly-

songs in capital style; gymnastic performances of a sensational character are given by Lozelle; some clever dancing is given by Lily Gaston; Vennie Loftus, comedienne, and McAskell, comedy conjurer, provide good shows; Raymond's Biotableaux are exceptionally interesting.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—Mr. Alexander Loftus's *New Barmaid* company opened a week's engagement here on Monday. Mr. Loftus as Bertie White and Mr. James Grant as William, cleverly fill their respective rôles; Mr. Stephen Hall in the part of Mons. Bonsor ably assisting the comic element. Mr. Leslie Austin is a successful Captain Lovebury; and Mr. Harry Collier makes a dignified Col. Claymore. Miss Violet Osmund (Dora Heather) presents a charming picture of a "Gibson Girl"; Miss Amy Preston gives a dainty portrayal of Ethel Jay; and Miss Winifred Preston is a stately Lady Moulton.

CARDIFF.—KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James.—*Her Nameless Child* is the title of the interesting drama presented this week, well staged and capitally acted. Mr. J. W. Evelyn undertakes the responsibilities of the part of Anthony Ford in a reliable manner; as young Ford Mr. F. Gwyn Richardson submits a telling impersonation; and Mr. Ellerslie Pyne acts the part of Lord Henry Woodville most creditably; Miss Pattie Hastings as the much-suffering Phyllis achieves success; and Miss Grace Jones as Lady Sibil Woodville makes a favourable impression; Mr. Alvin Sawyer (Tom Rivers) and Miss Madge Trevelyan (Crayorb) work well together in the comedy scenes.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring; District-Manager, Mr. W. Lea. — *The Houseboat* is the title of a laughable sketch presented this week by Mr. John Leopold's clever company of artists; another well-rendered sketch, named *Aunt Matilda*, is played by Mr. Frank Elliston and his company; the Matweef-Hugoston Troupe of Russian dancers are a most attractive turn; the marvellous lightning painter, Speedwell, proves entertaining; Andrew Roy sings a couple of beautifully illustrated songs in successful style; and Fred Elton's catchy ditties receive well-merited applause. The charming operatic singer, Sybil St. Elmo; the Saphos, in a comedy bar act; and the entertaining Bioscope complete a good programme.

CARLISLE.—THE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—The Schiavonis Troupe of acrobats appeared, for the first time in England, at this popular place of amusement on Monday, and scored an emphatic success; Lady Julia, "the ape with the human brain," is an interesting and amusing turn; Geo. Power and company appear in a funny sketch, *Matrimonial Bliss;* La Belle Nello is a contortionist quite away from the ordinary; Chas. Stevens, vocal comedian, has a pleasing style; and Helene and Emilion give an artistic gymnastic display. J. A. Cassels, Scotch comedian, does well; the Pepiscope completes the bill.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman. — Miss Winifred Maude's company, in *The Sins of a City* (under the direction of Mr. Victor du Cane), is making a welcome return visit here. Miss Winifred Maude still plays Seaweed, and fills the rôle with her well-known distinction of refined grace and scholarly reading; Mr. William Vane takes the part of Seaweed's lover, and is seen to much advantage as the warm-hearted Sandy McDonald; the villainous Ralph Blackwater, K.C., is capably played by Mr. William Bradford; and the adventurous Lesbia receives justice from Miss Ethel Tinsley. Donald McIvor is a capital piece of work by Mr. Leonard Harrison. The comic parts are most amusing. Miss Jennie Hackett as Midge and Mr. Victor du Cane as Isaac Levi keep the house in the best of humours. Mr. Norton Shields in the dual rôle of Joe and Jasper Woodleigh does justice to both parts; Miss Jenny Mason is a capital Mrs. Miggs; while Messrs. W. E. Simpson and Harry Johnson do good service as Jonathan Blyme and P.C. Johnson respectively.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hemingway.—Messrs. J. Pitt and Chas. Halling's company is here this week in the drama, *£1000 Reward*. Mr. J. Pitt undertakes Fred Ingleford with considerable success; Mr. Chas. Halling capitally renders Vincent Rainsworth; Mr. J. Winton Richards ably presents Gilbert Leslie; Mr. Charles Rogers, jun., is a good Dick Springthorpe, and Mr. Frank Dallas a humorous Inspector Gilbert. Miss Daisy Halling, charmingly dressed, fascinatingly plays Madame Sanson; Miss Lynn Darlington makes a good impression as Meg; Miss Crissie Francess is vivacious as Kitty Springthorpe, and Mrs. Sydney Halling good as Mrs. McCarthy.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Herbert J. Montague. — The attraction here this week is the drama, *The Still Alarm*, presented by Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company. Mr. Matthew Glenville acts the hero, Jack Manley, in a manner worthy of high praise; Mr. Tom Beasley does good work as Jack's brother; Mr. George Arthur gives a convincing rendition of John Bird; while Mr. Fred Osmond is highly successful as his comical accomplice. Miss Maud Warburton acts and looks charming as the heroine, Elinor Fordham; Miss Hetty Zillwood displays vivacity as Carrie Wilber; the Lyric Comedy Four contribute some good singing in the third act.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Company; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—Messrs. R. C. Buchanan and Ernest Stevens's company is presenting the pantomime *Cinderella*. The company is a strong one. Mr. Frank Barclay delights audiences with his funniosities as Dandini; Mr. Freddie French comically enacts Hercules; Mr. Harry Ray provides excellent fun as Capers; and Joseph has a clever representative in Mr. Crespan; Miss Lily Eyton in the title-rôle appears to great advantage; Miss Madge Daly gives a delightful impersonation of Prince Cosimir; Miss Edith Barrwell makes a successful Araminta; and Miss Florence Desmond does well in the part of Elvina; the specialities are numerous, and the Waverley Girls (dancers) are enthusiastically cheered for their cleverness.

COLCHESTER. — HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot and Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Ben de Frece.—Miss Aline Sudbury, the little Irish colleen, a vocalist of great ability, tops the bill. A large and well-assorted number of pictures by Ruffell's Bioscope company constitutes the chief attraction this week, and is, apparently, quite in accordance with the public approval.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—On Monday evening this theatre was filled with a large and appreciative audience, the occasion being the tenth annual complimentary benefit to Mr. Lloyd Clarance, the esteemed resident-manager, and his wife. The programme was contributed to by Miss Amy Ellam, mezzo soprano; Mr. John Robinson, comedian; Mr. John Watson Darren and Mr. Arthur Clarance, variety artist. A sketch dramatised from Charles Dickens's novel "Bleak House," entitled *Poor Jo's Last Move*, was given, in which Mr. Lloyd Clarance appeared in the triple rôles of Mr. Jonas Flinty, Mr. Cantwell, and Robert Bunnit, with Mrs. Clarance as Poor Jo. The concluding item was the serio-comic drama, *Milky White*. Mr. Lloyd Clarance as Daniel White was the recipient of well-deserved applause, and as Dick Dugs Mr. Joe Robinson proved himself an excellent comedian; Mr. Wm. F. Macfeggan was a capital Archibald Good, and as Mrs. Saddrip Mrs. Lloyd Clarance displayed some of her old form as an actress of ability; Miss B. Walton was pleasing as Annie White. Entirely new scenery had been painted for the occasion by Mr. John Preston. The programme was repeated on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—The Irish Animated Picture Company is showing here this week electric living pictures, which are capital. Songs and musical selections are also given.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The programme submitted here is excellent. Stack and Milton, America's premier bar performers, are clever; the Sisters Colton are smart duettists and dancers; Royal Best's impersonations are well received; Benson's Fantoches create a good deal of amusement; Hart and Victor, comedians, score in humorous dialogue; Drenda and Green give a marvellous exhibition with Indian clubs and are smart jugglers; American picture songs introduced by "The Lynch" are well received; and the Em[illegible]h displays new pictures.

COVENTRY. — THE EMPIRE. — Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.—This popular house is this week given up by kind permission of Mr. George Dance to the Coventry Thespian Club of amateur performers, who are giving a performance of *The Red Lamp*, the profits being given to the Coventry and North Warwickshire Hospital. The piece is well staged, and under the direction of Mr. Malcolm Bell.

THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Wm. Bennett.—*The Way of the World* this week is being played here by Messrs. Beaudyn and Crowe's company. Mr. Herbert Skardon capitally portrays the part of the hero; and is ably supported by Miss Marie Fontaine, as the heroine, Kate Montague; Mr. Vivian Charles is successful as Captain Fred Slade; Miss Sydney Crowe is seen to advantage as Adela de la Roche; Mr. Fred Bentley is successful in the difficult character of Matthew Malyon; Mr. F. J. Edwards as Joe Sparrow; Mr. Frank Stanley as Horatio Bluff and Miss Mary Rosine as Polly Bell are very humorous.

THE HIPPODROME.—Manager, T. M. Sylvester.—A bright and much varied programme is heartily received by large audiences this week. The Ten Loonies give their musical sketch, entitled *Dotty*, which is highly amusing; the Pasquali Brothers, a troupe of expert acrobats, introduce some clever balancing feats; Miss Elsie Earle, vocalist, is a Coventry favourite; Natalia and Diana are clever aerial gymnasts; J. C. Heffron is an eccentric vocalist and dancer; Chinka Panna (cymbal virtuoso) and Rita Bell (the little Hollander) are capitally received; the animated pictures are much admired.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—A return visit is paid this week of Miss Bonwin Carlton's company with *The Plucky Nipper*. Miss Carlton, in the title-rôle, gives an exhibition of good acting. Mr. Fred Rivers, as Richard Vanbrugh, is in capital form; Mr. Edward Surrey, as Bill Burgess, gains constant applause; Mr. H. J. Butler makes a commanding Colonel Fenwick, ably assisted by Mr. P. Watson, as Captain Frank Leslie, who has a good face. Mr. Claud Kingston deserves mention for his powerful rendering of Henry Paget; Mr. Frank Dalem makes a good John Grip; and Mr. Douglas Cambell dances and sings well as Tommy Atkins. Mr. T. Hadlin, as Bill Brown, is well placed; Mr. Thomas Macdonald, as P.S. Smith, is well chosen; and Mr. William Lewis has an easy part as Van Voch. We cannot speak too highly of Miss Evelyn Derwent for her careful study of Ina Fenwick, nor of Miss Kitty Maynard, whose rendition of Blind Daisy Paget pleases all.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—The American Indian actress, Go-Won-Go-Mohawk, is paying a return visit with *Wep-Ton-No-Mah*, in which she appears with her usual success. Mr. Edward Leroy does excellent work as Manuel Lopes, Mr. C. W. Charles scores as Colonel Stockton, Mr. Henry Kennedy does justice to the rôle of Captain Franklin, and Mr. Pascoe Bioletti is well placed as Chief Ga-ne-Gua. Mr. Guy D. Hackney and Mr. Dan Ryan, as Sam White and Carry Cullen respectively, are responsible for much merriment. Miss Minnie Goepel is a charming Nellie Stockton, and Miss Jessie Hart successfully sustains the part of Matilda Sniffles.

CROYDON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Herrick.—Mr. Fred J. Kirk's company, *In Old Madrid*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. Lawrence Tessier gives an excellent portrayal of Frank Lyndhurst; Mr. Edward Martin as Mendoza Stittagano does well; Mr. Frank Beaulieu submits a good representation of Fernando Cassilus; Mr. Walter T. Hubert as Horatio J. Roberts causes much merriment, and proves himself very capable; and Mr. Chas. H. Burns is very amusing as Marmaduke R. Fitzsimmons; Miss Edith Claris appears to advantage as Madeline Ellesmere; Miss Lily Seymour as Martha Montmorency is commendable; Miss Amy Shaw and Miss Nancy Shaw as Gracie Featherstone and Maud De Vere are well received, and their dancing appreciated; Miss Annie Brunette as Violet Lyndhurst acts with strength and power; and Miss Louie Fountaine as Lila Stittagano earns distinction.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Miss Dorothy Grimston's company is here this week with the evergreen *East Lynne*. Mr. Guy Hastings acts creditably as Richard Hare; Mr. Wilfred Beckwith is at his best in the rôle of Archibald Carlyle; Mr. Walter Russell deserves praise as John Dill and the Earl Mountsevern; Mr. Eric Maxon acts carefully as Captain Francis Levison; and Mr. Albert Johnston is good as a detective; Miss Dorothy Grimston wins all hearts with her sympathetic rendering of Lady Isabel; Miss Blanche Stanley, always reliable, is commendable as Miss Carlyle; Miss Beatrice Bell is natural as Joyce; Miss Ena Ferry makes a handsome Barbara Hare; Miss Dora Crisp deserves a word as Willie; and Misses Lois Crampton and Amy Peters complete the cast as Wilson and Suzanne.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—An enjoyable programme here includes the Wynfords, who perform some astounding jumping feats; Reuben Hill is a clever character comedian; the Mozondos, speciality dancers, make a decided hit; C. E. Stelling and his trained dog are well received; Donald Hall and company are pleasing in the scena, *Will You Dance With Me, Marie?* Alice Maple is an excellent dancer; St. John Denton and George Rowland's company of juveniles give a bright and entertaining turn; and others are the Fa Sanos, pierrots; and Harry Maxam, comedian.

DARWEN. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson. —A variety company is here this week, the principal attraction being Charlie Green, heavyweight wrestler; W. T. Burgess and Co., are capital in the dramatic sketch, *Found Faithful;* Flemine, one-legged acrobat, receives well-deserved applause; whilst Le Wist (ventriloquist) and Reno (conjurer) provide much amusement; Listen (comedian), Alec. Alexander (actor-vocalist), the Ormondes (speciality artists), Eva Freere (vocalist), and Charles and Grin (paper tearers) complete a capital programme.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles. Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Albert Orton.—Mr. Morton Powell's company occupies the boards this week with *The Woman who Gambles*. Miss Louisa Peach is thoroughly successful in the title-rôle; Mr. James Duncan makes a capital Count Steinbach; the villain is well portrayed by Mr. Ernest H. Clarke; and Mr. Reginald Fox as Lieut. Ctzarteriski leaves nothing to be desired.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwards; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor. — Gustave Fasola, Oriental wonder-worker, who tops the bill here this week, is proving a great attraction; Mlle. Fredrica's performing terriers and cake-walking pony are another draw; Frank Hope is a clever trick cyclist; the Prinellas evoke much merriment in their song scena; Bessie Willow is a versatile vocalist; and Raynor and Reece contribute good dancing and singing; Fred Dunstone, comedian, is well received; and the Bioscope has humorous pictures.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King. — Dion Boucicault's well-known Irish drama, *The Colleen Bawn*, is meeting with a most gratifying reception here. Mr. Larry Clements had a hearty reception as the generous Irish lad, his impersonation of the part being loudly applauded; Mr. J. T. Lallen was also a success as the young Squire, Hardress Cregan; good work was also done by Messrs. Tommy Gough, C. W. Oliver, W. Terriss, R. Gould, and the Misses M. Woodward, E. Kay, E. Constance, and N. Roberts.

DUBLIN.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. M. Dawson.—Mr. Whitbread's company, in *The Shaughraun*, is here this week. Corry Kinchella is ably depicted by Mr. Henry Forrest; and Clare Ffolliot has a capable representative in Miss Cecilia Dare; the rôle of Conn is impersonated by Mr. James O'Brien with rollicking humour; and Miss Jessie Glenn as Moya submits an excellent portrayal; Harvey Duff has an able exponent in Mr. Ion Ireland; and Miss Madeline Hurst is eminently suited as Arte O'Neale; Mr. Dane Clarke successfully represents Captain Molyneaux; and Mrs. Glenville causes merriment as Mrs. O'Kelly; the part of Father Dolan is played in a creditable manner by Mr. Tom Bailey; and as Robert Ffolliot, Mr. James Daly is capital. *The Colleen Bawn* is also billed.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The attraction here this week is Charles Dare's famous minstrel troupe, who are accorded an enthusiastic reception nightly; Picitt and Lizette create great hilarity in their speciality act, *The Crazy Cook;* Marie Duma is an accomplished operatic vocalist; the Anartos are clever comedians, and achieve success; and George Gulliver is a ventriloquist of more than ordinary merit; the Three Panamas, in a refined and pleasing potpourri act, are well received; and May Orchard, juvenile comedienne, displays much talent, and is deservedly applauded; Lora, the marvellous "talking bird," contributes an entertaining item; and the Empire pictures are up to the usual standard.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Heading the bill here are the Four Sherrys, Continental comedy acrobats, who evoke hearty applause; as a vocal comedian, Smiler Lee has established himself a favourite; and Vosper is a clever mimic, and well appreciated; the Bros. Carpos, in their speciality act, score a success; as does also Mike Cray, comedy juggler, and his dog, Dooley; Jack Truman is an excellent tenor vocalist; and Connie Mascot, comedienne, sings and dances with much grace; Blanche and Powell, society entertainers, who remain from last week, are still to the fore; and other acceptable items are T. C. Jacques, comedian; and Linton Rope, equilibrist. The Bioscope is also an attraction.

DUNDALK.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Proprietors, Urban Council.—This week we have Mr. Chas. Poole's New Imperial Myriorama and variety entertainment. The Lizette Troupe of lady acrobats are deservedly applauded for a clever display; Miss Molly Augarde is a capital comedienne; the Three Almos provide a smart, as well as mirth-provoking, entertainment; Le Brun and Irene are clever jugglers; the Swift trio afford much satisfaction; Lillie Edie is a pleasing child vocalist; the American Bioscope is showing some excellent films; and the Myriorama, under the direction of Mr. Couper, gives a pleasing exhibition.

DUNDEE. — HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—The D'Oyley Carte Opera Company commenced a fortnight's engagement here on Monday, when an appreciative audience welcomed *The Mikado*. Mr. Fred Billington as Pooh-Bah, had a flattering reception, his quaint humour being as delicious as ever; Mr. Charles R. Walenn was very amusing as the Lord High Executioner; and Mr. Stanford Moss as Nanki-Pooh shared the honours of the evening. Mr. Albert Kavanagh was excellent as the Mikado; Miss Theresa Rassam unfortunately could not appear, through illness, and in her stead Miss Phyllis Grey took the part of Katisha, displaying her capital voice to advantage; Miss Hope Hastings made a charming Yum-Yum, her singing being delightfully sweet; the parts of the other Two Little Maids were delightfully played by Miss Lulu Evans and Miss Mabel Burrege respectively. On Tuesday the fairy opera, *Iolanthe*, was given.

PALACE THEATRE. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—A varied programme is submitted here this week, top-liners being the Virginians, a group of coloured artists, who excel as coon singers and dancers; Bob Nicoll impersonates a number of well-known music hall artists to the life; and Jack Walker, Scotch comedian, sings well; the Livronis, burlesque comedy artists, are successful, their turn being genuinely funny; the Two Cliffs, hand balancers; Florence Leo Ville, lady conjurer; Ena Richards and Madge Walker, comediennes, and Vernon's Bioscope complete.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—The top turn here is George Melvin, a Scotch comedian, who has a capital budget of songs; Les Uniques present a very effective ladder act; and Ariel and Astarte give an exceptionally clever bar performance; Lou Maby, a chic comedienne; G. W. Walker, vocalist; Master Harry Maxwell, a wonderful boy vocalist; Les Trois Ettenas, and the Gaiety Bioscope are amongst the other attractions.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The animated pictures are still drawing good houses here. This week several capital films are shown, one, "Oliver Twist," taking over fifteen minutes to unfold. The variety turns appearing are Johnnie Beveridge, humorist; and Arthur Bright, comedian and pipe player.

EASTBOURNE. — PIER PAVILION. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—The St. Louis pictures form the chief part of the entertainment given here this week. The living pictures are excellent, and the chronophone, an ingenious combination of gramaphone and animated photographs, is very interesting. Mr. Alan Wright's songs are admirably given and illustrated, and are well received.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Day; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Smith.—Ruffel's Imperial Bioscope provides the chief item here in a special series of coloured animated pictures. In addition, the following artists successfully appear:—Mr. Pueblo and Miss Katie Cropp, clever sand danvers and patterers; Miss Clara Victor, who pleases the audience with her ballads; Miss Erminie Earle, a very engaging comedienne; Mr. Charles Ashdowne, an able comedian and dancer; and Miss Jenny Reeve, a bright vocalist.

ECCLES.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Hamilton Baines; Manager, Mr. Ernest Hales; Secretary, Mr. P. Ryan Smith.—We have here this week Mr. Fred Granville's company with *For Better or Worse*. Mr. Charles Whitlock takes the part of Captain Frank Hilliard in an able manner; the Major Gerald Crawford of Mr. Robert Forder is all that can be desired; Mr. William Sage impersonates Lieutenant Hector Dalrymple creditably; Mr. Edmond T. Sayers as Horatio P. Ranter is capable; Mr. Charles Doyle as Ned Earnshaw is admirable; Miss Georgina V. France is a decided success as Olive Heathcote; Miss Harrietta Taylor deserves praise; Miss Jenny Sage as Dolly Delancy is effective, and Miss Dolly Varden as Melinda Little is amusing.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull.—Mr. Edward Peple's pleasing melodrama, *The Prince Chap*, has been staged here this week with much acceptance by the original Criterion company, including Mr. H. R. Roberts, who gives an excellent rendering of the part of the sculptor, William Peyton. The successive stages of Claudia's life, from the child of five to the young woman of eighteen, are very delightfully presented by Miss Olga Hope, Miss Geraldine Wilson, and Miss Lorna Lawrence; clever character acting marks the portrayal of the butler, Runion, by Mr. Victor Widdicombe; and Miss Marie Wright is equally successful in her delineation of the slavey, Phœbe Puckers. Miss Ethel Hollingshead acts well as Alice Maltravers; Mr. Wilfred Drayton is good as the Earl of Henningford; and Messrs. A. E. Greenaway, Leonard Robson, Albert Powers, and Ivan Berlyn, with Miss Kathleen Kelly, all do admirable work. Mr. Robson, Mr. Greenaway, and Miss Lawrence appear to advantage in a curtain-raiser, called *The Girl from Biarritz*.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Fred Karno's Troupe heads the bill here this week in *Jail Birds*, which is received with unceasing roars of laughter; a very novel turn is given by Graham, the human marionette; the Arthur Lloyd Trio present a screamingly funny sketch, entitled *Little Charlie; or, The Twin Sisters;* Hall and Earle are seen in many new and distinctly smart tricks in the eccentric acrobatic line; a daring trapeze act is performed by the Lavails; J. W. Hall is a quaint comedian; Chas. Pastor is amusing; and J. H. Crewe, comedian; Maud Marlow, a charming comedienne; Browning and Wally, gymnasts, who do some clever feats; and interesting pictures by the bioscope complete an excellent programme.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS. — Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—Large and demonstrative audiences continue to give the strongest possible evidence of the popularity attained by *Ally Sloper's Water Carnival on the Thames*, which is recognised as one of the most successful holiday productions ever put on at Mr. Cooke's long-established and famous house. The spectacle abounds in fun and drollery from start to finish, intermingled with pleasing scenic effects; and the clever circus turns and variety items which precede the carnival are also greatly appreciated. Phœnix and Phaeton give a marvellous fire-eating display; Nina is a remarkably well-trained and intelligent mule, with an equally wonderful dog named Woof as a companion; Du Calion, the lightning ladder-climber, and James Humel, the extraordinary equestrian, still have a foremost place in the bill; while the eccentricities of the clowns afford genuine amusement; and interesting films are shown by the bioscope.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—This season's pantomime, *Jack, the Giant Killer*, opened on Wednesday to a crowded and enthusiastic audience; and Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Ernest Stevens, who present it, are to be congratulated on their brilliant spectacle. Like their last season's success, *The Fair One, with the Golden Locks*, this, the latest production, is from the clever pen of Mr. Stanley Rogers, and the music is composed, selected, and arranged by Mr. H. Henderson, Mus. Bac. Miss Eily Helene, in the title-rôle, is charming, both in manner and appearance; as Mephisto, Miss Evelyn Robson has been well chosen for the part; Miss Pattie Fairley makes a splendid Queen Caressa; Miss Emmie Cozens as Margery Daw does full justice to the rôle; Miss Winifred Murray is chic as Daisy; Miss Mamie Gould as Spirit of Love, Miss Kathleen Ferrers as the Old Year, and Miss Milly Mervyn as the New Year, suit the characters admirably; Mr. Harry Farrow makes a whimsical King Fad; Mr. Jonny McElroy as Dame Gabble, Mr. Gilbert Payne as Simple Simon, Mr. George Helm as Donal, are all very amusing. Mr. W. S. Stevenson (who is also stage manager), takes the part of the Giant, in which he excels; while Mr. George Dix appears as the Wonderful Cow; Messrs. Harris and Worth also fill an important niche in the gallery of comedians. The scenery is tasteful, and the dresses are gorgeous.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—This week, Mr. A. Campbell-Kelly and company are presenting here *The Trail of the Serpent*. Mr. Leo Whamboult makes a good Sir Gerald Kingston; and Mr. Bradford Crosby is excellent as the younger Kingston; Mr. A. Campbell-Kelly is well suited in the part of Ralph Hammond; and Mr. Vincent Kelway is a capital Gipsy Jake; Mr. Robert Cromwell as William Higgins and Miss Gladys Newcombe as Rose Wilson are amusing; Ethel Maynard is ably represented by Miss Marie Barrett; and Miss Nana Cameron as Rachael gives a pleasing portrayal of a gipsy girl.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. H. W. Rowland, the genial manager of this theatre, took his annual benefit on Monday. "The Gipsies and their Jester" contributed several enjoyable items. Abbas, the famous Dutch 'cellist, received rounds of applause; Miss Ecca Van Leer recited

Editha. *The Little Widow* was the attraction for Wednesday and Thursday, and *Lady Audley's Secret* for Friday and Saturday.

GRAND, LTD. — Managing-Director, R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, D. Macfarlane.—The pantomime, *The House that Jack Built*, has been running very smoothly for a couple of weeks, and everybody and everything seems now quite settled. The whole production goes with a fine swing, and in the matter of staging, dressing, and setting generally, congratulations may be readily extended. The production has been judiciously pruned since the opening, and all goes merrily as the proverbial nuptial bell. Miss May Mars is quite captivating as an actress and singer in the part of Prince Veritas, and is ably seconded by Miss Hopkins as the Princess Sincerita, while Miss Luna Love has fully ingratiated herself into favour as Jack, her charming and easy grace being admirable. She could not be matched to a more engaging Jill than Miss Frances Kapstowne. We must refer again to the excellent performance of Mr. Fred Kitchen as the Dame. His fun is genuine and plentiful, and he never subordinates the other male parts.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Mussett.—The company appearing here this week includes several well-known artistes. The most attractive turn is that furnished by Harry Tate and company in their amusing sketch, entitled *Fishing*. Pat Rafferty, Irish comedian, has also had a capital reception. Other notable items on the programme include Techow's performing cats; The Celtic Comedy Trio, vocalists; Nina St. Elmo, comedienne; The Solari Duo, instrumentalists; Henry A. Moore, versatile mimic; Counsel and Mills, comedy duettists; Lee and Kingston, speciality artists; and the Bioscope, with a novel series of pictures.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, E. H. Bostock.—The company here includes George Formby, appearing in four turns, whose quaint songs and humour are appreciated; Rapoli displays his skill as a juggler; Clemart is an excellent ventriloquist; a military scena, with nine assistants, by Dennis Drew, is one of the best things in the programme; Miss Rosie Archer is a clever mimic; *Coming Home*, played by the Leonards, is a clever sketch; and in a pantomime sketch the Lyons Trio are seen to advantage; Morimura, a Japanese illusionist of ability and dexterity; and Frank Harwood, in well-acted and descriptive songs, are each very acceptable. The Bioscope shows the Springboks versus England, an admirably clear film.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The management here have again made a decided hit by securing Miss Victoria Monks, and the popular comedienne has been a big success. Then there is Miss Lottie Lennox, always a strong draw, who comes provided with several new chorus songs; Harry Grey is a comedian of novel methods, and in his first turn as a "hoboe" he is very good, while as a lady ballad singer he introduces a number of clever ideas. J. W. Rickaby is another artist of distinct merit, and he has had a hearty reception; Collins and Rice are established favourites, and give a smart show; The Mannons contribute a lively pantomimic turn; Keir and Kempton sing sweetly; The Arleys are smart gymnasts, with a number of well-trained dogs; Hettie Lee sings and dances well; Harry Nation gives a descriptive song, which is well received; and Irene Meldon, comedienne, completes an exceptionally good company.

COLISEUM. — Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette. At the head of the bill here is Mr. John Warren and company, who appear in a military mystery, viz., *The Magic Carpet*. The Meymotts, who are well known to Glasgow audiences, reproduce their hilarious interlude, *Semi-Detached*, and meet with the applause they so well merit. In presenting something new, Catlin's Pierrots deserve much credit, their "show" being exceedingly entertaining. The Herr Rousby electric spectacle, *In Paris*, is also much above the average, and thoroughly enjoyed by those present. The Three Amaranths are a trio of dainty little dancers; Lieutenant Travis continues to amuse in his humorous ventriloquial entertainment; Genaro and Theol are clever contortionists also known to local audiences; Morny Cash in his amusing "Bed" ditty causes much mirth, while the Bros. Corcoran are clever instrumentalists. The performance winds up with the ever-popular Bioscope.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Although in the last week of its successful run, John Tiller's funny Christmas pantomime, *Aladdin*, is still a great attraction. The company is exceptionally strong in every sense, special mention being due to the efforts of Miss Jessie Wilton as Aladdin and Miss Clara Beck as the Princess. Being ably assisted by Messrs. Fred Dark, Harry Eliston, Harry Morgan, and Little Briton in their respective characters, there is no lack of fun, humour, and smart local hits, the latter being much enjoyed by the audience. A decided attraction is the engagement of Helen Martin, vocalist, who fairly capitivates the audience with her delightful singing.

HARMONIC CONCERTS.—Musical-Sec., Mr. Wm. Biggam.—Prince Bendon, with his ventriloquist turn, tops the bill here; and enjoyable items are given by A. W. B. Kingston and his sketch party; The Brennans in their neat step-dancing; Bros. Weston as musical tramps; Gilroy and Gross, in a comedy turn; Mark Cobden, impersonator; Ina Lorimer, comedienne; Nellie McNab, Frank Rogerson, and the St. Mungo Vocal Quartette.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE. — Owners, Messrs. C. W. and J. R. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—The Cattaneos, acrobats, present a clever exhibition; and the Bros. Huxter, also acrobatic speciality performers, are exceedingly smart; Cliffe Dover is a neat comedian and dancer; the performance of the Bros. Zampah in chair-jumping is very good of its kind; a capital horizontal bar act is given by the Bros. O'Brien; the Camerons are entertaining in a comedy sketch, *The Ploughboy and the Lady Guide*; Mr. Will Cornish scores a success with his musical bell act; and the Percys are applauded for their duets and dances. The Bioscope appropriately shows the picture, "The Night before Christmas," with other laughable items.

GRAVESEND. — GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. David Hart.—We have here this week Paul Pelham and company, in their scena, *King's Navee*, which has done well, the full chorus, special scenery, and costumes, all being fully appreciated; Cope and Hagen, good comedians; Maude Gwynne, a sparkling comedienne; Lewis Chapman, a clever card manipulator; and Millie Howell, a pleasing descriptive vocalist. Edie and Ramsden, in their latest success, *Charlie's Visit*, have been highly successful.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—*Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush* is being presented here this week, by Messrs. Durward Lely and William Mollison's company, with much success. Mr. Mollison contributes a really fine piece of acting in the character of Lachlan Campbell; Mr. W. A. Mackersay gives a clever impersonation of William MacClure; Mr. Eric Mayne ably takes the part of the Rev. John Carmichael; Wee Posty has a humorous representative in Mr. A. F. Thompson; and Mr. Kendal Chalmers makes an excellent Tammas Mitchell. As the Earl of Kilspindie and Lord Stony Mr. D. Lyall and Mr. Archd. W. Chappel are also successful; Miss Evelyn McNay is responsible for the part of Flora Campbell, which she plays to everybody's satisfaction; Miss Alice Francis most successfully fills the part of Kate Carnegie; and the part of Margaret Stowe is in the capable hands of Miss J. Woodward.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—Mr. W. Permanes and his educated bears are proving a big attraction here; the Royal Temples (three in number) are much applauded for their fine singing; Frank Newbury, whistling comedian, supplies a good entertainment; and the Royal Quintette gain liberal applause for their well executed national dances. Other good turns are the Sisters Lylle, vocalists and dancers; Raymond and Colly, comedians, patterers, and dancers; and Story and Trigg, burlesque eccentrics.

PAVILION THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—The company here includes Oakdene, a ventriloquist, who is responsible for an amusing turn; Edwards and Darce, a smart comedy couple; the Four Hearnes, in a clever acrobatic speciality; Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian, is well received; Jessie Star, described as the female Harry Lauder, is much applauded; Fred Keeton, comedian, is also successful; and some capital pictures by the Paviscope complete.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Chairman of Directors, Mr. H. J. Curry; Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry.—A choice of two plays has been offered to the visitors to the Prince of Wales's this week, Mr. Hilliard Vox's company presenting *A Man in a Thousand*, and *Alaska*, on alternate nights. Mr. Hilliard Vox appeared in the principal character in each play, representing Owen Primrose in the former, and Skookum Jim in the latter. Other prominent parts were taken by Mr. H. Naylor Grimson, Mr. G. W. Millington, Mr. J. Howarth, Mr. William Sisson, Miss G. Hastings Walton, Miss E. Turner Elliott, and Miss Leslie Wynne, whilst Mr. Albert Rogers is worthy of special mention for his amusing impersonation of negro character in *Alaska*.

CURRY'S TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Plantation songs, choruses, and dances, as performed by a quartette of genuine coloured artists—the Kentucky Four—have proved a diverting form of entertainment; whilst the introduction of Topsy, a smart dancer, lent additional attractiveness to the turn. Billy Farrell also occupied a prominent position in the programme, his songs and stories being well received; the Kyasyas gave an exhibition of strength on novel lines, lifting heavy and bulky articles by means of their teeth and hair; the illustrated songs by Martine and Son were popular; and other good turns were the Carina Sisters, refined instrumentalists; Kitty Clover and Co., in an amusing sketch; GeorgeCampbell, comedian; and Johnson and Bert, in a comedy act.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. A. Edwardes; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. W. Moyes; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Allton.—An acceptable addition to a variety programme is the speciality of the Regal Opera Singers. They are a quartette of experienced operatic vocalists, and present popular operas in miniature. They have given selections of the favourite numbers from *Maritana* and *The Bohemian Girl*, at alternate houses. The Kurios supplied the main portion of the comedy element, their knockabout business being extremely funny; Dora Lyric contributed excellent ballads; Eric proved a ventriloquist with original ideas; Wilson Blackledge was successful as a humorist and mimic; Almon gave a smart equilibristic performance; Hugo accomplished pleasing conjuring feats; and Dick and Dorothy were stylish duettists and dancers.

THE HIPPODROME. — Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Arthur Vivian.—There has been a complete change of pictures, introducing subjects appropriate to the season. Varieties were supplied by R. C. Note, a comedian and vocalist, who is a favourite in Grimsby, and Daisy Davenport, comedienne and dancer.

HALIFAX.—PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Ed. Harrison.—Mr. Tom Lloyd keeps one and all in exuberant spirits here, his parody on "Irish Molly" being especially acceptable. A club-juggling and hoop-rolling act is presented by the Four Geraldos, who meet with instantaneous approval; the Gondolier Glee Singers make a great impression; Mr. Chas. F. Best's humour is irresistible as a burlesque mountebank; and Miss Nellie Farrell (comedienne), the Alexander Victor Duo (juvenile duettists), and Colby and May also keep the audiences well entertained.

HANLEY.—GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—The premier positions are held by Mlle. Von Etta, the lady illusionist, who contributes a clever and interesting performance; and Ben Hur, in his wonderful strong turn, which is much appreciated. The Steinway Quartette are successful in their scena, *Songs of the Sea*. Fred Bronte is an actor-vocalist of ability. The Dancing Gilberts provide a most acceptable turn; Wild, Willie, and West, in the acrobatic scena, *The Bounding Navvies*, are excellent; Rita and Roma are entertainers who are well received; Lily Esplin is successful in her items; and the Urbanora shows pictures which prove most interesting.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Everton and Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—Mr. Charles Chard presents this week his pantomime *Goody Two Shoes*, a production in eight scenes. Goody has a capital representative in Miss Annie Casey; Miss Florence Black makes of Roland an ideal pantomime hero; Miss Hawthorne Thwaites is a sweet-voiced Fairy; Mr. James Topping as Simple Simon, Mr. Sidney Dean as the Dame, and Mr. James Kurry as Sammy Sopps are responsible for much of the fun; and the Baron Grab is drolly realised by Mr. W. Cyrus; and Mephisto is represented by Miss Julie Fuller. Specialities are introduced by Messrs. Sword and Robb, who play the parts of Phil and Tom, and by the Misses Lily and Gladys Bronson, who are pretty and active as Dolly Dimple and Peter Piper.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—*Lights Out* is this week being played here by Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory's company. Mr. Leigh Lovell presents the rôle of Lieut. von Lauffen; and the misguided Klara Volkhardt is acted by Miss Octavia Kenmore. Mr. Wilton Reed obtains recognition for an admirable performance as Sergeant Volkhardt. Mr. Kenneth Brampton supplies a well-conceived portrayal of Lieut. von Howen. Mr. Richard Fielding cleverly realises the unhappy position of Corporal Holbig; Mr. F. Clive Ross plays admirably as Major Paschke, and as President of the Court-martial, is very impressive; some pleasing light comedy is supplied by Mr. Lambert Plummer in his rôle as Capt. Lehdenburg; and Mr. Frederick Clifton is amusing as Private Michael. The play is preceded by *Nan*, with Miss Eileen Barry in the name part.

PIER PAVILION. — Pier - Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Gerald Hunt is on a welcome return with up-to-date animated pictures. Mr. Sid Stante gives a musical speciality; and Miss Beatrice Royle, soprano; Mr. Harry Newman, ventriloquist; Mr. Mill Tidney, sabot dancer; and a second-sight seance by Mr. Newman and Miss Royle, are other attractions.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope opens the entertainment here, and gives three other turns during the evening. The pictures are both excellent and amusing. Tom and Edith Felix as clown and clowness provide an amusing turn; Miss Adey Spencer, "The Milliner Girl" at the piano, is a delightful performance; Miss Nellie Nora is a charming instrumentalist; Kisbey, the call-boy, is entertaining in his various impersonations

HORWICH.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee Mr. Fred Lewis.—Mr. F. H. Neville is paying a return visit here with *The Silent Witness*. The company is a good all-round one, and includes Mr. Neville as Jan Vedder, nicknamed Satan; Mr. Thos. Byron as Philip Meredith plays effectively; Mr. Bob Leslie appears as Joe Jorum, a part full of rollicking fun; Mr. F. A. Fortescue as Dandy Dick, Mr. A. Easley as Tom Lockwood, and Mr. J. Holt as Joel Wardyck, all score. Miss Mildred Monteath gives a very sympathetic rendering of Estelle Meredith; Miss Dolly Bell as Polly Lockwood is decidedly good; and Miss Carrie Leslie plays the part of Anita, the Spanish circus rider and dancer, in admirable style, her dancing being loudly applauded.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's No. 1 company is playing here the drama, *A Warning to Women*. The weird part of Dr. Marcus Dread is forcibly presented by Mr. Watson Mill; whilst that of his principal victim, Moira Kennion, is well played by Miss Rosalind Tate. Other parts less prominent are capably supported by Miss Emmie Barton as Sheila, Mr. George Harvey as Shawn, Mr. Norman B. Cannon as Fergus, Mr. N. C. Slaughter as Eversleigh, Mr. Gerald Nolan as Mike, and Mr. G. M. Davidson as Rev. Wallace.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The bill here consists of Albertine Melich, with a clever and highly trained collection of parrots, cockatoos, and macaws; Arthur Slater, a fine whistler; Lucia and Viata, in a neat turn on the tight wire; Henri Foden, a hand jumper of great strength; Miss Lizzie Kirk, comedienne; Frank Leon, a wonderfully clever exponent of the art of intricate clog-dancing; Miss May Glen, soprano vocalist; Zelda, musical medley artist; Wal Owen, comedian; Celest, bâton manipulator and slack wire artist; the famous Crosland Moor hand bell ringers; and new pictures on the biograph.

HULL.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*The Prodigal Parson* is the attraction here. As the prodigal cleric Mr. Garrod has a rôle for which he is eminently fitted; as the Parson's wife, Miss Vera Fordyce succeeds beyond question; the heavy side of the play finds two admirable exponents of villainy as illustrated by the Bros. Jaggins, rôles admirably filled by Mr. A. Northway and Mr. W. Hayward.

ILKESTON.—QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—Sill and Silicott, comedy artists, give satisfaction; Wm. Kingsley, hand-bell soloist, is a pleasing turn; the Raymonds are much applauded in their comedy sketch, *The Lady and the Pupil*; Florrie Emerson, balladist; Harry May, patter comedian; the Two Emms, in *Married Life* and *The Masher and the Laundress*; Isa Bernard, comedienne; Will Emerson, comedian; and Sillcott, in a monkey act, complete the bill.

IPSWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The chief item of an attractive programme this week was the first appearance at Ipswich of Vosse's Ju-Jitsu wrestlers. These athletes gave several striking examples of their system, and combined instruction with amusement in their various feats of strength and dexterity, eliciting repeated applause from large audiences. Other turns were, Miss Madge Fields, a pleasing singer; Will Vokes, an eccentric dancer; Bert Weston, a clever comedian; Dorothy Dandas, an accomplished singer; Viola, musical instrumentalist; Atroy, a clever juggler; and the Three Rickards, a troupe of tumblers calling themselves "The Giddy Golfers."

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jerold E. Reed.—Mr. Carson's company opened here on Monday with *The Modern Adventuress*. Mr. Charles Draycott is excellent as Pietro Donelli; while Mr. Sydney C. Cranston is a manly Harry Delby; the part of Wallace Danton is forcibly played by Mr. Ernest J. Fare; Mr. Will White is quite at home as John Compton; Mr. J. Dobson Clyde makes the most of the part of Walter Beale, a detective; Miss Muriel Thompson gives a powerful rendering of Violet Meredith; and Miss Marie Robson submits a life-like portrayal of Vivette Dalby, the heroine.

KIRKCALDY. — KING'S THEATRE. — Managing Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Burton.—This week Miss Lillian Beszant's company is appearing here in *An Actor's Romance*. The heavy rôle of Harold Davenport is undertaken by Mr. E. Eardley Howard. Mr. Howard proves himself a capable actor, and is loudly applauded. Another artist of considerable talent is Mr. Harry Agar-Lyons, who gives a skilful interpretation of Jack Woodford; Mr. C. F. Clive is a fairly satisfactory Robert Livingstone; and Mr. Percy Warlow is capital as Ikey Isaacs. Mr. Harry Wren is clever as Charley; Miss Beatrice Hone gives a careful and refreshing study of Louise Davenport; and Miss Beszant is pleasant as Dotty. Miss Florence Nelson as Florence Hastings has a part which suits her well; and Miss Marion Ryder as Little Phyllis speaks her lines admirably.

LANCASTER. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Martin.—Another interesting programme is submitted here. Mr. Harry Edson has a couple of remarkable dogs; and the Three Transfields supply a pleasing musical turn. David Poole (an old favourite) scores in his ventriloquial sketch; Miss Ray Ford is a delightful comedienne and dancer; Miss Myra Dove has a powerful contralto voice; and Johnny Walker, comedian and Bugler Carr, equilibrist, win hearty applause for their smart turns. The Hippograph, with a series of new pictures, completes the bill.

PALACE.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. and C. Fell; Manager, Mr. John Fell.—Spencer and Marks, comedians, in a sketch, *The Stage-struck Waifs*, head the bill this week, and have a flattering reception. The Decars, in a speciality act, are also well received; and others who contributed successfully include Allan Hanbury, comedian; Schuyler, saxophonist; Chris Chambers, actor-vocalist; and the Woellhafs, speciality artists. The Edison Swan animated pictures are also interesting.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Edward Cadman.—Sir Charles Wyndham, with Miss Mary Moore and the entire New Theatre company, paid a flying visit here on Friday, 14th, when a matinée performance of *David Garrick* was played to a crowded and distinguished audience, comprising all the élite of the city. A most cordial reception awaited the popular actor-manager, and the experiment proved a brilliant success.

EMPIRE PALACE.—MOSS Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—The appearance of a notable artist from the operatic stage, Mme Alice Esty, has been hailed with delight by full Empire houses this week—the presentation of a specially-concocted romantic gipsy scena having served to exploit her wonderful vocal abilities. Good support has been rendered by Miss Lena Pierpoint and Mr. Crawford Kent, amongst others, in addition to a strong chorus. The week's bill also includes De Dio, whose weird and mystic dance arouses considerable interest. Prince Kokin is doing an Eastern jugglery act full of novelties. Of the fun providers, Barney Armstrong is quite successful; two clever juvenile gymnasts appear under the title of the Two Butterflies; Petram's marionette show is again an enjoyable feature; and some unusually good mimicry is supplied by Nina Gordon and Lena Brunton. That remarkably smart acrobatic dancer, Russell Brandon, is also in the bill.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Claude Shayler and Mr. Chas. Weldon. The Britton's speciality is a lively and eccentric dance, and its execution has been much appreciated. A humorous sketch by Damerell and Rutland's company evokes much merriment, and a novel frontier speciality by Cordite and Buffalo is unique. That fine vocalist, George Adams, gets the usual demonstrative reception; Ross and Grayson are a pleasing comedy pair, some clever impersonations are introduced into their admirable sketch by Wilton Heriot and Co.; Francis and Alfred are expert jugglers; the Lizzette troupe of lady acrobats arouse much enthusiasm; and Elsie Rubina, the wire performer, is also a principal line.

CITY VARIETIES. — Proprietor, Mr. Fred W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—That clever vocal and comedy pair, Terry and Lambert, are appearing in a new speciality this week, and big success attends their efforts; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud are an admirable trio of vocalists; Jack Lane, a local comedian, is very successful; the Jays are to the fore with eccentric comedy; sensational acrobatic feats by the Goldinis are a much-admired feature; and the Two St. Johns, with musical act, and Little Rose Pink, a juvenile vocalist, also earn the appreciation of their audience.

LEICESTER.—PALACE THEATRE, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—The principal attraction this week is the first presentation here of a powerful sketch, entitled *The Devil's Sunday*, played in excellent style by Mrs. John Lawson's company. In the leading part of Fay Faber, Mrs. John Lawson is conspicuously successful. The variety includes Barton and Ashley, who create endless merriment; Arthur Reece, an entertaining light comedian; Carlos Cæsaro, in feats of strength; the Stein-Eretto troupe of acrobats are exceptionally smart; Eadie and Ramsden in original comedy act; Mezzetti and Mora, with their amusing triple bar act; Amy Sullivan, vocalist; and the American Bioscope.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—There is a good show here this week, at the head of which are H. C. Lovell and company, who arouse great laughter with their comedy sketch, *Mam'selle Pom-Pom*; the Treshams present their musical absurdity, *Roads Up*; Phil Bransby, coster comedian, scores with an entertaining turn; Rose D'Alberg is a chic and popular comedienne; Rell and Butt are capital dancers; George Phillips is a speciality dancer; and Walter H. Pallister's American Bioscope throws some good films on the screen.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Rousby.—This week the boards here are occupied by Miss Winifred Chalmers' company in *The Master Criminal*. The title-rôle is impersonated with skill by Mr. Henry L. Osmond; Mr. Victor R. C. Moors is realistic as Ben Beaudy; Miss Winifred Chalmers is an admirable Cecile, Mr. Leonard Williams an effective Philip Manners; and Miss Maude York capitally portrays Mabel Manners. Mr. Harry Cook creates laughter as Tommy Dale, his efforts being well seconded by Miss Mabel Tremere as Peggy Perks.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee, Mr. Ph. Bennett; Business-Manager, Mr. J. Larder.—An attractive programme is provided here this week. Mr. Harry Barker makes a big hit with his songs; Miss May Duma, comedienne and dancer, is well received; Mr. Alex Fox, ventriloquist, is greatly appreciated, and the pictures shown on the bioscope are particularly interesting.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager Mr. John Darlison.—The pantomime season opened here this week with a successful production of *The Fair One with the Golden Locks*, written by Mr. Stanley Rogers. The scenes are delightful in their setting, and Electra's Bower forms a most beautiful picture, ablaze with a thousand electric lights. In this act Alma, Abdullah, and La Superbe appear in a grand illuminated spectacle, which is undoubtedly one of the hits of the performance. Miss Beatrice Bonnie makes her début before a Leith audience as principal boy, filling the part of Avenant with much spirit; and Princess Allfair finds a charming representative in Miss Gertrude Branscombe. Water Lily and Lizette, a sprightly maid-of-honour, are well portrayed by Miss Olive Prince and Miss May Lupino. The cast includes a goodly number of smart comedians, foremost among whom come Mr. James Chippendale, a very amusing Queen Vinaigrette; Mr. Barry Lupino, a humorous and athletic Sanciboy; and Mr. Will Letters, a droll Prince Pippin. Efficient support is given by Messrs. Hilton Frances as Tarradiddle, the Prince's Tutor; Charles Calvert as General Slopoff; and Grafton Williams as Admiral Bunker, all of whom contribute to the fun. Sixteen little Leith lasses, trained by Mr. John Darlison, appear successfully in a number specially written for them.

LIVERPOOL.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Garside and Knowles' capable company is paying a return visit here this week, with the interesting drama, *The London Fireman*. Mr. J. Forbes Knowles, in the title-rôle, was especially popular, playing the part with marked effect; Miss Nellie Shirley gave a sweet rendering of his wife, and earned loud applause; Mr. Edward L. Garside, as Hal Curtis, had a character to which he did every justice; a capital Viscount Fleming came from Mr. Oliver Birrell; Miss Beatrice Sinclair did credit to herself as Grace Curtis; a humorous Nixey Stinger was provided by Mr. Harry C. Momber; and other satisfactory parts were held by Miss Nellie Garside (Polly Bramble); Mr. Lionel Thomson (Abel Fortnum); and Mr. Walter Wilby (Joe Bluener). The staging was excellent.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—An interesting and entertaining programme here includes Dr. Walford Bodie, who holds premier position, and is responsible for much laughter. The Ringling Trio's tricks are decidedly clever; Frank Cass is a comedian of merit; Tony Iveson as the "Aristocratic Ragman," is laughable; May Bruce sings in a finished manner; and Vincent performs remarkable feats.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—The Novellos are prominent here this week, with their fine spectacular equilibristic act, *Europe in India*, in which they show to advantage their trained elephants, ponies, and dogs. George Leyton and company remain another week with the dramatic episode, *The Wreck of the Birkenhead*; Lydia Yeamans-Titus has a flattering reception for her delightful work; a particularly pleasing musical, vocal and comedy act is submitted by the Bensons; Allsopp and Bekwith cause much merriment with their *I'm Coming Upstairs*; Vansart shows remarkable strength with his fingers; Keen and Waller are smart eccentrics; and the list also includes the names of A. E. Clifford, vocalist; Jennie Hartley, soubrette and dancer; and Ada Parker, coon vocalist and dancer.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The ever-popular drama, *Kathleen Mavourneen*, has proved a draw here this week, being well presented by the Royal stock company. Mr. Percy Boucher was extremely funny as Bill Button Cap; Mr. Sydney Grant made a sufficiently villainous Bernard Kavanagh; as David O'Connor Mr. Robert Wilton afforded the utmost satisfaction; Mr. Cecil Ravenswood was well suited to the part of Father O'Cassidy; Mr. Harry Tresham gained much deserved favour as Terence O'More; Miss Florence Palmer played Kathleen very sweetly; Miss Beryl Ravenswood made an excellent Dorothy Kavanagh; and Miss Florence Cameron deserved praise for her Kitty O'Lavery. The bioscope had some fine pictures, telling the story of Aladdin.

PADDINGTON PALACE, LTD.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery. The capital domestic drama, *Hazel Kirke*, is being given here this week by the Royal stock company. Mr. Albert Sember carries his audience with him in the rôle of Dunstan; Miss Lina Nazeby plays sweetly as Nancy; Miss Lilian Burns makes a delightful Hazel; a stately and well-handled Lady Travers is supplied by Miss Sara Blumenthal; Miss Florence Barnes is a merry Dolly; Mr. Walter Foster does every justice to Arthur Carrington; Mr. H. G. Brandon is an exceedingly humorous Peticus Green; and other good parts are Joe, Mr. Francis E. Wybert; Squire Rodney, Mr. Frank S. Strickland; and Met, Mr. Arthur Lloyd.

PARK PALACE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Amy Anderson and company head the bill here this week with the sketch, *The Banana Queen*; Ruth Molloy shows herself to be a clever mimic of musical celebrities; as Novelty comedy acrobats the Du Gros trio arouse much laughter with their "Willie, come here"; Arthur Woodville has some good songs, and dances well; the Campions, a smart couple of comedy duettists and dancers, are cordially received; and Dulcie Milner, sings and dances tastefully.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—At the top here this week is Herbert La Martine, who wins favour for his singing, eccentric dancing, and bâton manipulation; the musical abilities of blind Henderson are highly appreciated; Copeland and Son are a couple of capital double dancers; Charles Valvo causes a deal of laughter with his ventriloquial doll Tommy Atkins; a comical sketch, *Military Tac Tics*, given by the Dwight Trio, is much enjoyed; and Howard and Townsend have some pretty vocal duets. The bioscope pictures are much appreciated.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Needless to state, Miss Vesta Tilley has proved an immense draw here this week, and has had to respond to repeated demands for encores. Mr. Charles Berte's company of able artists have afforded much satisfaction with their detective sketch, *The Mysterious Mrs.*; the humorous and clever cycling by the Westwoods has been followed with interest and pleasure; Herr Boris Lensky exhibited remarkable powers on the violin; Dean Bros., as whistlers and dancers, provided an excellent turn; Mabel Bright and company presented a lively sketch, *Girls will be Girls*; some taking comedy came from the Speseell Bros. and Mack; and the bill also contained the names of Frank Maura, the Mexican wonder; and Edith Fink, character comedienne.

HAYMARKET.—Licencee, Mr. J. S. Childs.—One of the principal items in the programme here this week is the bioscope, which shows coloured pictures of a very beautiful nature, telling the story of *Aladdin and his Wonderful Lamp*; Bertha Duckett is a prominent line, and her male impersonations and clever dancing are particularly good; Fan shaw and Lewis have a capital show as eccentric comedians and speciality dancers; some fine work as an equilibrist and gymnast is shown by Mons. Savaro; H. O. Molyneux, an eccentric comedian, whose singing and patter are well worth listening to, is cordially recognised; and Leo Trainor renders several taking songs in a manner that wins loud applause.

OLYMPIA, LTD.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—Madge Lessing heads an interesting programme here this week, and had a cordial reception for her capital songs; the "Daily Mirror" Boy Army have proved exceedingly attractive, their drills and horsemanship being loudly applauded; Florence Smithers and company presented a funny sketch, *Hard Lines*, in which Owen Dacroy, L. Reynolds, and Leslie Martin also took part. The Stavordale Quintette proved exceedingly acceptable, with their remarkable imitation of voices on banjoes and harps; the Montague Bros. had a pretty sketch, *The Sculptor's Dream*; an amusing trifle was *The Biter Bit*, by the pugilistic Horne Bros.; and also in the list were Harry Leybourne, comedian; Jessie Burnett, comedienne; and the Five Bogannys, who offered a smart risley performance entitled *The Lunatic Bakers*.

TIVOLI. — Proprietors, Liverpool Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. James Marks.—Public appreciation of this latest addition to the list of places of amusement has proved great. This week the list is headed by George Gilbey, who is exceedingly popular in Liverpool. His newest creations, especially "Spouty, the Goal-keeper," have been received with much gratification. The remarkable and clever show by the Achmed Ibrahim troupe of Bedouin Arabs aroused a deal of interest, and the applause they received was of a hearty character; the popular Martin Conway came in for a cordial reception; Theo Boumeester and company, with *Who is Guilty?* in which that artist presents seven distinct characters himself, are a strong line in the bill; the original Cecilias, lady instrumentalists, offer a refined turn; Gold and Sterling render some neat vocal duets; and the programme has the additional names of Flora Leonard, vocalist, and J. W. Ellison, light comedian.

ROSCOMMON.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot.—Will Hebden's company of comedians head the bill here this week with a highly diverting sketch, *Kelly's Night Out*. Dalton and Lever, comedians and dancers of considerable merit, submit a smart trifle. *Just in Time*; the popular Joe Huda, negro comedian and dancer, is a good turn; George Christian, character comedian and patterer, causes endless laughter; some neat coon songs and dances come from Edie Mine; and others in the list are Fred Eldon, comedian; Harry Leaton, vocal comedian; and Kitty Kearns, comedienne. The latest cinematograph pictures form a pleasing feature of the evening's entertainment.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietress and Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Messrs. Green and Hinton's company, in *When a Man Hates*, is here this week. Miss Leila Zillwood appears with much success as Olga Gwynne; Mr. W. Travis Green as Pietro Daneli being very good. Mr. Percy E. Davidson is a manly Rev. Lawrence Hastings; Mr. Pleon Gains is well placed as Sir Rupert Treharne; Mr. Arthur Hinton as Paul works hard and successfully; Mr. Lewis Vere as Peter Pimple and Miss Jennie Clare as Dolly Dimple join forces with comic effect; and Mr. Henry Compton as Detective Smart and Miss Dot Rosson as Letty are both capable.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Galley.—*A Traitor Prince*, staged by Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company, was here for the first part of the week. Mr. G. M. Montanim ably sustained the rôle of Prince Rao; Frank Derrick had a fine exponent in Mr. W. H. Porter; Mr. D. Wynton, as Hon. Bobby, was all that could be desired; Miss R. Routledge made a sympathetic Lola Vane, and Miss A. N. Livesey a sufficiently villainous Vashti. Mr. E. O'Grady amusingly filled the part of Billy Bright, and provided the fun in conjunction with Miss K. Thomas as Pansy and Mi

Grand Junction Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—An old favourite, *The Drama of Life*, by Lingford Carson, is offered here this week, and, as usual, the piece is very well played by Mr. Carson's company. Mr. Edward M. Hamilton is in the rôle of Harry Beech, the banker, whom he renders with notable skill; and Miss Kate Hallam is seen in a fine and sympathetic impersonation of Sylvia, the banker's wife. Among many other admirable delineations, that of Walter Beech, by Mr. John J. Hooker, Count de Foi by Mr. Edward Van Biene, and Betty Black by Miss Nellie Birchenough, are deserving of special praise; and the play as a whole is enhanced in effect by the good quality of the staging.

Queen's Theatre. — Lessee, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Berry.—Last week's production of *The Sleeping Beauty* still occupies the stage at this theatre.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—A brisk dramatic sketch, *Our Curate*, played by Fred Eustace and company, heads the bill successfully here this week; Syd May, the mimic, adds a prominent and highly pleasing turn; and a very fine exhibition of hoop-rolling and club-juggling is given by Hale and Frances. Other good turns are contributed by J. A. Reilly, in a song-scena; Durant Brothers, the airship kings; Tom E. Conover and company, in *The Drink Cure;* Marguerite Ismay and her white coons, in song and dance; the Two Cymros, Welsh vocalists; and Amy Marsden, a genuinely funny comedienne. The pictures are interesting, as usual.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Clark and Hamilton, the popular comedy duo, top the bill here this week, and are vastly entertaining in song, dance, and patter; Jock Whiteford, a Scotch comedian who is rapidly coming to the front, sings two songe, and scores a big success; Arabella Allen, contributes two Dickens impersonations very cleverly; Walton and Lester, "the world's worst wizards," provide an excellent turn; the Violas, second-sight experts, create a good impression; Harry Freeman, comedian, is as breezy as ever; Shanghai is a smart Chinese magician; and the Deer Family of real North American Indians, present a series of tableaux, entitled *Indians of the Past*.

Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Jake Friedman (of "one-man opera" fame) and company are here this week in a delightful Dutch operetta, entitled *Happy Holland*, produced by Mr. G. Everard. The piece is well staged, the dresses are effective, and the singing and dancing excellent. Paul Conchas, the famous military juggler, is also here, and his performance is nothing short of wonderful; Frances Letty, a first-rate American comedienne and dancer, makes a decided hit; Maud Rochez presents a new animal novelty (a variety theatre entirely performed by monkeys) successfully; and the Althoffs are amusing in a musical sketch. Other good items are offered by Maudie Ford, comedienne and dancer; Time and Money, knockabout comedians; Los Granadas, "the bounding boys"; and two enjoyable items by the choir, and the "Conjurer's Pupil," shown on the bioscope, complete the show.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The Countess Olga Romanow is posing here this week effectively; Otto and Olga, in mirth and music, are decidedly entertaining; the Sisters Temple, dainty and refined duettists, are well received; and Frank Exley and Alice Hamilton are capital vocal and instrumental entertainers. Other smart turns are those of J. Wellesley, who presents "Tharsi"; Bessie Travis, musical ventriloquist; Ernie Williams, vocal comedian; and Will Sullivan and Charles Sloman, comedians of the eccentric order. Raymond's Vivagraph pictures are good, as usual.

King's, Longsight.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company is playing here this week in *The Indian Mutiny*, adapted to suit two performances nightly. The company is a strong one, and includes Miss F. Melrose Millett, Miss Lillie Grey, and Messrs. George Steel, Charles Boult, Villiers Stanley, Cecil Morand, Cyril Harrison, John Davidson, and J. S. Seddon.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The chief attraction here this week is *The Cruise of the Calabar*, a musical comedy, presented in excellent style by Milton Ray's company of comedians. Principal parts are in the safe hands of Messrs. Arthur Milton, Joe English, F. Russell, and Miss H. Lind, who are exceptionally good. Tuneful music, neat dances, pretty dresses and scenery, and good singing, help to make a big success. Gorman's Youngsters are excellent in song and dance, and are deservedly applauded; Leon and Leoni are expert banjoists, and are well received; the Saletos are clever hand-balancers; O. G. Kribo is a smart comedy juggler; Russell Carr, a popular ventriloquist; and Maud Vera, a charming vocalist and coon artist. "Following in his Father's Footsteps," shown on the bioscope, is capital.

Hippodrome (Hulme).—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Claude Ginnett and company are here this week in their big attraction, *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, after a most successful week at the Queen's Park Hippodrome. Signor Francia is an excellent mandolinist, his selection from *Zampa*, and a trick piece, "A Scotch Patrol," being especially noteworthy. Billy French, comedian, is a clever dancer; the Three Dorians are seen to advantage in a neat act of skill and training; and Pringle, Gray, and company, in a farcical absurdity entitled *A (K)Night of the Garter*, are good. Other satisfactory turns are contributed by Lily Watson, patter artist; the Brothers Curran, in a comic boxing act; Cleland and his lightning assistant, in juggling act; and Ridgwell, character comedian. "The Midnight Son" is depicted on the bioscope.

MANSFIELD.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietors, Mansfield Theatre Company; General-Manager, Capt. Cecil Clayton.—The foremost place in the programme was occupied by Miss Ella's lions, which give a most astounding performance; Charles Morritt, the wonder-worker, submits a mystifying turn, and is applauded; Sisters Brenton's singing and dancing are appreciated; James Goodwin, the blind man of memory, gives a marvellous performance; Charles Bradford is successful; Boy Samson gives a fine exhibition of weight-lifting; Brenda Leslie's illustrated songs are well received.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Tom Jennings.—Theodore Jones and company top the bill here with *Jack Sheppard*, which was received with much applause; J. W. Lenner gives a quaint turn; Miss Florrie Wright has a very sweet voice, and uses it to great advantage; Ernest Foster gives a good rendering of sentimental songs; the bioscope gives an interesting series of pictures.

MARGATE. — Hippodrome. — Sole Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Freece; Business-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree. — The programme here this week is made up of a series of animated pictures, shown by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, in which many subjects are dealt with; Ailsa Douglas, vocalist, has filled in the intervals.

MERTHYR TYDFIL. — Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Lewis Gilbert.—Variety reigns supreme here this week, the management having secured a strong company, which includes the Six Brothers Luck, Tom Parker, Mme. Sims Reeves, Oakley and James (speciality artists), Ingram and Irving in Sketches, Ethel Dove (comedienne), Marriott Edgar (comedian), and the Theatre Bioscope.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—The following artists are engaged here this week: Stylo; Phinas and Aida; Marie Tilley, comedienne; Mario, juggler; Dave Wallace, comedian; Noel, versatile artist; and Tom E. Johnstone, mimic and vocalist.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—This week the costume play, *Monte Cristo*, is being presented here by Mr. Junius Booth and company. Mr. Booth as Edmond Dantes gives a strong, well-balanced, and altogether satisfactory performance, and Miss Clare Elstob submits a refined womanly [illegible] excellent impersonation of M. Nortier, [illegible] figures with great effect as [illegible]augustin Bowerman acts [illegible] Danglers, and [illegible] La Carr [illegible]

be desired as portrayed by Mr. Walter Huron and Mr. Leonard Marshall respectively.

Opera House. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. W. K. Chutto.—The Russell-Rose Répertoire company commenced their second week here on Monday night with the comedy drama, *Captain Swift*. Interspersed with the more serious parts are a number of mirth-provoking items, which are not overdone, and contribute in a large measure to the success of the play; in the title-rôle Mr. Frank Liston acquits himself admirably, and Miss Nolan O'Connor is charming as Mrs. Seabrook; Mr. A. J. Harding does full justice to the part of Mr. Seabrook, and Miss Rachel de Travis is a decided success as Lady Staunton; Mr. R. B. Fielding gives an excellent impersonation of Harry Seabrook, and Miss Ida Phillips is exceedingly good as Stella Darbyshire; Miss Edith Hesketh as Mabel Seabrook leaves nothing to be desired, and Mr. H. W. Montague is excellent as Rayan; Mr. J. Boyd Pearson as Gardiner, Mr. Norman Clark as Seabrook's butler, and Mr. Clarance Pelham as Butes, the footman, are also most successful in their respective parts.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—The Hebrew dialect comedians, Jordan and Harvey, head the bill here this week, and create roars of laughter with their songs and patter; Luis Hardt performs some clever feats of strength, and Ava, Zebra, and Vora are exceedingly good in the novelty, *Indian Pastimes*. Lionel Vaughan's company causes much laughter in their sketch *In Trouble;* and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelley score in the comedy duologue, *Miss Summerson's Baby;* Harry Walker, comedian, pleases; and Nina Martino provides some good singing; Ross Cass, comedienne, does well; and the film "The Venetian Tragedy," is well appreciated.

Oxford Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf Graham.—An exceptionally good programme is presented here this week; Gus Harris proves a distinct success in his latest vocal scena, *The Synagogue;* whilst Henry Hallam and Josephine Stanton cause roars of laughter in their sketch, *A Broken Journey;* the Sutcliffe Family of Scotch pipers, dancers, and acrobats give a pleasing entertainment; and James Shingleton, singing collier, has a gratifying reception; the Sessons provide a clever juggling turn; and Harry Quetter, comedian and dancer, scores; Milner Perrin is exceedingly good, and Minnie Wren, vocalist, pleases.

MOTHERWELL. — New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant.—The Kingston Répertoire Company is this week appearing in a series of dramas, *A Rogue's Daughter* being chosen for the opening night, when Mr. Tom Armitage played the part of Sir George Mynard in a creditable manner; Mr. A. W. B. Kingston gave a good portrayal of Frank Tyler; Colonel Foster and his accomplice found suitable exponents in Mr. Jack Armitage and Mr. Jas. Somerville; Miss Emily Peel did well in the title-rôle; and Miss Flo Stanfield showed ability in the part of Lettie Grey. Miss Clarice Jenner was a vivacious Priscilla, and mention should be made of Miss Dora Hamilton as Dicky, the waif. There is abundance of low comedy relief, in which Mr. Harry Egan and Mr. Jas. T. Dale appeared to advantage.

NELSON. — New Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. George E. Mudd.—On Tuesday the popular manager, Mr. Mudd, had his complimentry benefit, at which a gold cigar case was presented to him by the staff. The short dramatic sketch, *Dream Faces*, was played by Mr. Jack Haddon as Robert, Mr. Wm. Attfield as Phillip, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft as Lucy, and Miss Marie Rayner as Margaret, at the end of which beautiful bouquets were presented to the ladies. Amongst the variety artists, special mention may be made of Miss Kitty Upton, who received a hearty welcome; as a whistler and mimic, Mr. Harry Wellock proved a great success; Messrs. Barrett and Knowles are capital comedians; the Hansons are exceedingly good duettists and dancers; Miss Nellie Burdette is a charming singer; Mr. Billy McHeenan and Miss Ada McCobern are clever as American bag-punchers. The admirable programme also included Mr. Albert Wilkinson's animated pictures.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Empire Theatre.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Andrews.—The chief item this week is supplied by two American cyclists, Wizard and Irene Stone, who cycle, with amazing speed, at all angles, the inside of a huge wire-netted globe; Sam Elton, always a favourite, comes in for a great reception, his droll antics causing incessant laughter; the Macarte Sisters give a novelty act on the wire; Conway and Leland are a lively pair of entertainers; and another partnership in Miss Lilieth Leyton and Mr. John Spurling are equally good in their little comedy; Boyd and Gilfain are very amusing. Tom Woottwell, as a highwayman; Zanfretta and Napio, as musical knife-grinders; and La Danseuse, dancing scena, complete a capital entertainment.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clarke.—*Under the Czar* is the attraction here this week. Miss Lillian Harriss's impersonation of the Russian girl, Sonia Gregorovitch is very effective; and she is ably supported by Mr. Gerald Smythe and Mr. R. Merring as the English captain and student respectively; Mr. Louis Weston's Paul Ingat is a capable piece of acting; and Mr. Wilson Howard and Mr. George H. Doyle embody their several parts of police officials very finely.

Pavilion Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Miss Irma Lorraine's series of fine pictures presented in classical poses are greatly appreciated; the Smart Set, Mr. Walter George, and Misses Light and Martin, are well received; Mr. Horace Wheatley scores in his combination of fun and pathos; Claire Creta is possessed of a fine voice, and finishes a good performance with a Spanish dance; the Sisters May and Marion, vocalists and dancers, are much appreciated; Charles Ulrick, the barrel king, and the Four Athos, ball manipulators, complete the bill.

NEWPORT.—Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll. — The Three Olympiers give quite an interesting show in posing; the Strolling Players provide a good turn in dancing, singing, and ventriloquism; and the Wolpert Trio of acrobats are above the average. Herr Fritz is a capable illusionist; Harry Coates, the singing navvy, is well received; pretty Lily Tiso sings and dances admirably; and Harry Lawson gives a smart mixture of popular ditties.

NORTHAMPTON.—Opera House. — Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—The Northampton Operatic Company occupies the boards this week with a successful production of *The Silver Stick*, a full account of which appears elsewhere.

Palace of Varieties.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—Leonard Barry and company are making a great success in *The Moucher's Walk*. Marie Empress is a pleasing comedienne; Rhoda Burnhill, a fascinating transformation dancer; Bert Brantford, a capital comic; Billie Hobbs, a successful coon comedian and dancer; Tray and Rich, smart cross-talkers; C. Vincent shows a series of pleasing views on the bioscope; and George M. Schilling gives some interesting details of his globe-trotting.

NORTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Miss Loie Esmond's company opened here on Monday with *The Anarchist Terror*, which had a cordial reception. In the title-rôle Mr. Edward Neville was seen to much advantage; Mr. Fred Cherry gave a good impersonation of Silas Washington Goldstraw; Mr. Wilfred Langley was clever as Lieutenant Armstrong; Mr. H. Evan Gibbon made the most of Ismael; and Mr. Herbert Carrington put in some good work as Mickey Doolan. Miss Loie Esmond as Kitty Malone gave a satisfactory portrayal; Miss Nita Langford as Marita won much favour. Miss Jenny Croft made a praiseworthy Zara, Miss Kate Parr was a capable Floretta, and Miss Rosie Neville was well received as Columbia Goldstraw. *The Sorrows of Satan* has also been produced during the week.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—A good programme is presented here. The Clavers, speciality artists, are very clever; and Clarke's Nippers have come in for their usual hearty reception; Sabino, in his musical act, is much appreciated; Miss Lizzie Leaver is a pleasing juvenile character-vocalist and quick-change artist; Messrs. Steeley and Dowton, vocalists and dancers, are smart; Mr. George Edney is a popu[illegible] character comedian, and the Bio-photoscope is a [illegible]ctiv

NORTHWICH. — Central Theatre. — Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Secretary, Miss E. Golden.—A drama, entitled *A Nobleman of Nature*, depicting Russian life, is presented this week by Mr. Whitmore Ledger and Miss Hettie Jeffries. Mr. Ledger proves himself a clever actor by the skilful manner in which he portrays the part of Michael, a secret agent. Great credit is also due to Miss Flora Leslie, who, in the dual rôles of Edith Nehludoff and Katusha Vodski, twin sisters, stamps herself as an actress of versatility. Mr. Walter H. Wilson gives a careful, lifelike rendering of Prince Ivan; Mr. Geof. Broughton, as Barrie Forsythe, depicts a villain of the deepest dye. As Vera, Miss Hettie Jeffries acquits herself well. Mr. N. E. Purnell scores as Philip Hampton. As Bill Drinkwater, Mr. Clifford Spencer is very humorous.

NORWICH.—Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Councillor F. W. Fitt.—A varied programme is presented this week. Ruby Dahl's "Marionettes" are as mystifying as they are good; Wishart's conjuring is marvellous; Frank Bernard and company's sketch, *Hello*, is laughable; the Three Romas exhibit some clever gymnastic feats; Goggin and Davis, acrobatic artists, are amusing; Dick Kendall is good as a singer and dancer; and very droll, too, are Rezene and Robini. Raie Walters, the fisher-girl also appears; and the Hippodrome bioscope presents some good pictures.

NOTTINGHAM.—Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Bowmaker.—The top of the bill is held by Carl, an exceedingly smart comedian, whose dancing in long boots is greatly appreciated; the clever and sensational feats of the Aurora Troupe of cyclists call forth unstinted applause; as also do the skilfully-arranged military movements of the Gordon Highlanders. As a pianist, James Stewart shows himself an accomplished executant, and his drolleries are highly enjoyed. The Amoros-Werner Troupe submit a neat exhibition of juggling in a remarkable sketch; the Five Dandies gain approval for their singing and dancing; and the patter of Cliff Ryland keeps the fun rolling. Johnnie and Charlie are good comedy acrobats; and Ray Maskell sings and dances with spirit. The American Bioscope displays some capital comic films.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales' Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Fred Karno's company opened on Monday to a well-filled house with *Saturday to Monday;* Mr. Mark Milton keeps the audience in a perpetual roar as John Willie Jaggs; Miss Amy Rogerson excellently portrays Clorinda; Miss Daisy Stone sings and acts well as Violet Blake; Mr. J. W. Bradbury's Mr. Blake is a part well played; Mr. Dick Harcourt does well as Mr. Potts; Mr. C. Herbert Summers is good as Tom Freeman; and the mischievous John Willie, jun., is energetically filled by Mr. V. H. Crawford.

OLDHAM.—Colosseum.—Manager, Mr. W. Eastwood.—Mr. Edwin Dare's company occupies the boards here with the sensational drama *By Sheer Pluck*. Mr. Dare is well to the fore as Richard Desmond. The villainous Capt. Gaspard is ably impersonated by Mr. Alfred E. Calver, and Mr. Arthur Lowry is very good as Phineas E. Wyley. Mr. A. Burrows makes a fine old farmer of John Faber, and Mr. Chas. Collins scores as Major Desmond. Miss M. Lowe-Dare is a sweet and sympathetic Nancy, and Miss Ethel Tooney as Elsie is capital. Miss Minnie Thurgate is capital in the comedy part of Martha, and receives able assistance from Mr. Alfred E. Maskell and Mr. Fred Morgan as Jock and Pedro respectively.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—Inimitable Nellie Wallace heads the bill this week in eccentric comedy with good results; Billy Howard and Harris Kathryn cause roars of laughter in a capital comedy turn; the Lukushima Troupe, introducing Otora San, are smart in their marvellous balancing feats; Bromley and Fontein amuse greatly in a comic operetta; the Two Cellos give a refined musical show; and Bert Lytton, the swell comique, is well received. Oswald Batty is a good comedy conjurer, and Ernest Pace sings some capital songs. The Royal Dottoscope concludes with some excellent films.

Hippodrome. — Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Nuttall.—The Zaro Family are very smart acrobats; Vardon, ventriloquist, gives an amusing turn; the Hispanas, in a refined musical act, are clever; and the Bros. Ralston are good vocalists. The Donovans are capital in their Irish scena; Tom Moy, comedian, is well received, as is Dundas, character vocalist, and a good picture is shown by the Dottoscope, under the title "A Bad Boy." Hector and Paulus, comedy acrobats, are billed, but did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

OXFORD.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr C. C. Dorrill.—On Monday a most successful matinée was given here by Miss Rosina Filippi in aid of the Oxford Eye Hospital, and so well did her friends rally round that after paying all expenses Miss Filippi was able to hand over £60 to the very deserving institution. The programme consisted of *Arms and The Man*, admirably played by Messrs. J. McNaughten-Duncan, P. Gawthorne, E. d'Oisby, C. Cargill, and P. Clarke, and by the Misses Vera Cockburn and Cissy McFarlane. Miss Filippi herself sustaining with her accustomed skill the part of Major Petkoff's wife, Catherine. Miss Filippa's short street scene, entitled *The Dancing Coon*, well rendered by Miss Sophie Carl Rosa, Mr. P. Gawthorne, and Miss Rita Legers, also met with hearty commendation; and between Acts I. and II. of the first play Miss Rita Legers, a clever little lady, gave a short recitation.

PAISLEY.—Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Wilson.—Shawlene, the famous mimic and sifleur; the Wallys, in an expert juggling act; the Brothers Wartenberg, double foot jugglers; Dolly Golden, a smart danseuse; the McConnell Trio, in their sketch, *A Musical Mistake;* Violet Beatrice, a dainty boy impersonator; Matt Wilkinson and company, in a comedy sketch, *The Registry Office;* and Gena Manon, soubrette, are entertaining here. The Hippodrome Bioscope, as usual, shows some fine pictures.

Empire.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Joe Wesley.—Flem Darroch, descriptive vocalist; Leedo, eccentric comedian; Eva Lynn, speciality dancer; Jack Henri, Scotch comedian; Marie Mason, comedienne; Leslie Wolfe, basso; Merit and Moore, in *The Reporter and the Actress;* the Brothers McLean Henry, Scottish dancers; and *The Press Gang*, a clever sketch, contributed by Joe Wesley's up-to-date minstrel troupe, are the attractions of the bill here.

PERTH. — Theatre Royal. — Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—*The Throne of Terror* is being successfully staged here this week. Mr. Wm. J. Miller is a powerful exponent of Robespierre; Mr. Roy Milton displays talent as Captain Eugene de Lisle; Mr. Arnold Harley's Comte de Roquefort is highly appreciated; Mr. Bert Ellis creates considerable amusement in the rôle of Fougon; Mr. C. Carsdale is prominent as the spy, Maillier; Messrs. Fred Emery, Palliser-Acock, and William Russell are suitably placed as Fournier, Sergeant Vanton, and the gaoler respectively; Miss Katherine Maud Davies' charming rendering of Marguerite de Roquefort elecits warm admiration; Mrs. Walter Bentley also receives hearty approbation for her impersonation of Victorine; and Miss Georgie Whyte's Peppietta is entertaining.

PLYMOUTH.—Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—An excellent entertainment here includes Zaid, the Spanish Moor, who goes through some remarkable contortions; and the Tom Davis Comedy Company, in their funny sketch, *Ferguson's Dog;* the Drummond Trio have a tuneful and acceptable musical number, which is generously applauded; Carl Lynn is a realistic animal mimic; Doody and Wright are highly diverting Australian comedians; and Carl Havard is accurately termed a unique concoction of comedy and magic. The remaining turns are Laurence Barclay, Lily Foy, and Vernon's pictures.

PONTYPRIDD. — Royal Clarence Theatre. — Owners and Proprietors, Mrs. Trenchard and Miss L. Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The Ashley Vaudeville company is the attraction here this week. In a first-class bill are included Mons. Gounon, assisted by Mlle. Dallin, in their illusions; Beale and Bell, in their dialogue, *By the Sea;* Harry Bently, comedian; the Smalleys, in their triple bar-act; Preston Holmes, musical expert; Nellie Duval, comedienne and dancer; Bernard Bransby, comedian; and the Bioscope.

PORTH. — The Palace (late Opera House). — General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—An excellent programme is submitted here. It includes Fred Harris, comedian, and Tambo, soloist. Arnetti, eccentric comedian; Cara Magda, Continental lady gymnast; May Francis, dainty comedienne; the Nettas, in their pleasing vocal harmony numbers; Ryde and Beeman, in a comedy act; Kid Johnson and Maisie Pelham, novelty artists; Rex and Ford, refined cross-talk comedians; Silent Tait, the eccentric wizard; Austin and Cowan, vocal entertainers. Some capital pictures are also shown on the bioscope.

PORTSMOUTH. — Theatre Royal. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell. — Mr. Arthur Hardy's company is here this week, playing to highly-delighted audiences the amusing comedy, *Beauty and the Barge*. Captain James Barley, whose "haffability" is infectious, is portrayed with unctuous humour by Mr. Blake Adams; Messrs. Edward Coventry and Pennington-Gush do well as Lieutenant Seton Boyne, R.N., and Herbert Manners; the irascible Major Smedley is ably depicted by Mr. Walter Pemberton; Mr. Fred Knight as Tom Codd is all that could be desired; and Mr. Charles A. White submits a clever study as John Dibbs. Miss May Fairclough plays charmingly, and is well placed as Ethel Smedley; Lucy Dallas is extremely well personated by Miss Mary Pemberton; Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Baldwin are both well represented by Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite and Miss Ruby Wyndham. The comedy is preceded each evening by the trifle, *Jerry and a Sunbeam*.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—The sensational drama, *The Face at the Window*, is being played here by Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company. The detective, Paul Gouffet, is acted by Mr. T. W. Dunscombe with conspicuous success; Mr. Lionel D'Aragon plays the part of the Chevalier Lucio Delgado, alias Le Loup, with admirable force and skill; Mr. Alfred Warme does well as Henry de Brisson; Mr. Malcolm Wills ably fills the rôle of Lucian Cortier; Mr. George Phythian as Le Blano is excellent; and Mr. C. Alan Hineson is responsible for much amusement as Peter Pottlebury. Miss Eugene Magnus displays much charming ability as Marie de Brisson; the part of La Pinau, Queen of the Rogues' Retreat, is successfully undertaken by Miss Marie Tennant; and Barbette is amusingly enacted by Miss M. Leslie-Cudd.

Empire Palace. — Secretary, Mr. W. Peatt.—Heading the bill for the week, the comedy illusion, *Iona*, by Charles Fraser and company, is meeting with a large amount of approval; Walter Stanley, with some new numbers, is as amusing as ever; the Sisters Valli are a capable pair of instrumentalists and dancers; Phillips and Terry, sketch artists, do capital work, much appreciated; Gicardo, boy juggler, gives an excellent exhibition of his manipulative power; Kidden and Hayward, comedy team of pianoforte experts, are clever; Stewart and Morgan, in the vocal scena, *Leaving Ireland*, are praiseworthy in their singing of Irish ballads. Included in the programme are Vi Raynor, comedienne and danseuse; J. P. Walsh, vocal comedian; and Payne's Bio-photoscope, with some popular pictures.

PRESTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Messrs. A. Hamilton Warden and Chas. V. Standford's company is appearing here this week in *A Woman's Past*. Miss Maisie Handbury met with an enthusiastic reception in the rôle of Bessie; Mr. W. Henry Hargraves gave an admirable impersonation of David Heath; Mr. Chas. V. Sandford as Frank Delannoy and Miss Violet Ennis Lawson as Dorothy Heath, contributed some really high-class comedy. Mr. A. Hamilton Warden deserves great praise for his clever embodiment of Clement Harper; Mr. G. Moreton-Williams ably sustained the difficult part of Uriah Craven; and Miss Eva Bertram showed great dramatic ability as Clara Darrel.

Royal Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—A capital programme is provided here this week. The chief attraction is Hy. Cadle's latest Casey's Court production, entitled *Mick Whittington*, which greatly pleases the audience; Sam Redfern, "the black Emperor," scores a success with his topical songs; Hilda and Leigh appear in a diverting sketch, *Another Man's Wife;* Brull and Helmsley present an amusing trifle, *Fun in a Music Shop*, including some good dancing; the vocalism of the Royal Naval Quintette is cordially appreciated; the Prince and Milner Trio give a brilliant display of bowl spinning and balancing on the tight wire; Kroney Bros., the "lazy coalmen," submit a clever acrobatic performance; and Maud Vera, vocalist and coon artist, is an acceptable turn. Bioscope pictures complete the entertainment.

RADCLIFFE. — Grand Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman. Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is here, in the ever-popular drama *A Royal Divorce*. As usual, Miss Cole plays with ability, which always ensures success. Mr. Frederick Victor as Napoleon displays much talent; Mr. Claud Agnew as Talleyrand is a success; as also are Mr. Graham Woods as the Marquis de Beaumont, and Mr. Alfred Grenville as General Augeress. Miss Agnes Imlay is good as Marie Louise; and Miss Helen Richmond as Stephanie is worthy of a special word of praise. Miss Gertrude Entwistle as Blanche D'Hervas is well placed; and Miss Maggie Cardiff makes a dear little King of Rome. The dressing and stage effects are in keeping with the general excellence of the company.

RAWTENSTALL. — Grand Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. George Dickinson.—This week we have a return visit from Messrs. A'Dell and Chabot's powerful company in *The Romany's Revenge*. Miss Ethel Ashleigh is, as usual, a most accomplished Zamet; and as John Hope Mr. Evelyn A'Dell gives an excellent impersonation. Mr. John Loden is an excellent David Renard; Miss Kathleen Eckart as Lillian Hope submits a fine portrayal; and Miss Ada Stelling as Pollie Puck is most successful. Mr. Fred Rose keeps the house in good humour with his representation of Bobbie Bloom; and Miss Lil Francis is good as Archie.

RHYL.—Town Hall.—Mr. Howard Lees (late manager of the Queen's Palace) gives two farewell performances at the above hall this week. On Wednesday Mr. Harry Leslie's Costume Comedy Company appeared, and on Thursday the Lyric Humorous Carnival Company provided an entertaining programme.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*An Unwedded Wife* occupies the boards here this week. Mr. J. Edward Whitty appears to advantage as David Drummond, and Mr. Kingsley Roydon cleverly portrays the part of Frank Armstrong. Miss Violet Wilson makes a capital Elsie Langham; Miss Jessie Gillette is a bright and amusing Caraway Crumpet; and Miss Ethel van Praagh fills the title-rôle with conspicuous ability.

Circus and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Smith and Co.—An attractive bill of fare is presented here this week. Huline and Le Maz, musical clowns, submit a capital turn. Other items include Olive Veno, lady dancer; Harry Bent, mimic; Lillian Victoria, impersonator; Harry Cross and his dog Vet; Dyson and Taylor, club swingers; Lottie Lunn, serio; Vernon's Bioscope; and Barney Noble, naval raconteur.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Spry and Monti, in the *Dandy Guardsman*, create roars of laughter; Lillian, lady cyclist, contributes a clever turn; Little Violet, in *Britannia's Friends;* Bros. Adderley, duettists and musical mimics; Hesketh Meade, baritone vocalist; Charles Coll, vocal comedian; Empire Bioscope; and the Frasettes, musical experts, complete the list.

RUGBY. — Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross.—Amongst other turns in the variety combination entertainment here is *A Day at the Seaside*, which meets with much appreciation. Hicks's Clerks prove themselves versatile and capable; and Fred Dice (comedian), Lottie Carr (dancer), May La Kella (instrumentalist), Gravetta and Parr, and Master F. Sidney (vocalist) all do well.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Stanley Carlton's company in the society drama, *A Marriage of Vengeance*, opened here on Monday. Mr. Harry Dean portrayed the hero, Paul Earnscliffe, very satisfactorily; the heroine, Elsie Dean, being charming in the hands of Miss Alice De Lacy. Stella was a fine performance by Miss Ruby Maude. Villainy was forcibly presented by Mr. Edward Fryer as Geoffrey Vannoc and Mr. J. W. Henson as Max Rheinhardt; Mr. George Porteus was successful as Glymne Barnscliffe, Mr. Victor T. Raymond as Bob Shorner, and Miss Susie Beaven as Amelia kept the comedy business to the fore.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Alf. Gibson, with his comical songs, tops a good bill; and Gertie Gitana gives a pleasing scena. A marvellous electric act is given by the Marconis. The other turns include Gus Hindell, comedian; Arthur Goodman, tramp juggler; Geo. Young, the blind collier—a smart musician; Culpitt, comedy juggler; Ted Saunders, clever mimic; and Frank Keegan and company, comical cycle act.

Royal Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—*The Brewery*, in three scenes, is a most amusing panto, presented by Bert Bernard's company, including some extraordinary acrobatic feats by Mr. A. B. Stayner. A sensational sketch with a drawing-room fight, entitled *Conscience*, is presented by Mr. J. K. Reynolds as Barney Miranda, Mr. Syd Freebar as Henri Panquha, and Miss Maud Yarrell as Lady Joselyn. Prince Ishmael and Mlle. Valerie do some wonderful Hindoo magic. Other clever appearances are by Farrimond and Roberts in a scena representing a concert rehearsal; Raglus, a smart eccentric lawn-tennis ball manipulator; Mons. Slippere, blind musician and vocalist; Charlton, in eccentric musical variety act; and Evelyn Taylor, male impersonator with songs.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. Wm. Greet's production, *The Shulamite*, is proving a powerful attraction here this week. Mr. Algernon J. Hicks shows a masterful grasp of the salient points in the character of Simon Krillett; and Miss Ruth Shepherd proves herself equal to the exacting part of Deborah Krillett. Mr. Herbert Belmore gives an earnest and convincing rendition of Jan Vanderberg; and Miss Fanny Olive affords complete satisfaction as the austere and merci

Marriott-Watson gives a most acceptable impersonation of Jean Berand. Mr. James Chippendale is very effective in his portrayal of Zorak, the mad wizard; Miss Annie Hylton acts sympathetically as Agnes Weyland; delightfully pleasing is Miss Lilian Ramsdale as Bessie Blazer; and Mr. Allen Charles as Archibald Brown Tee and Mr. Elton Morgan as Ben Rattler provide abundant amusement.

EMPIRE.—Acting-Manager, M. W. Black.—Madge Grey, comedienne, is a popular favourite here, and has headed the bill this week with great success. Among others appearing are the Five Savonias, in an entertaining musical act; the Two Dixons, clever bâton-swingers, banjoists, and song and dance artists; Mons. Carlos, a talented juggler; Lilian Hodge, a pleasing ballad vocalist; the Three Clarions, amusing comedy artists and expert dancers; Jim Alston, comedian, in funny parodies; Les Louberts, in their comedy act *Uninvited*, in which they display smart acrobatic ability; Nellie Elder, a capable Tyrolean artist; and Joe Humphreys, vocalist, in songs that were greeted with favour.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The New York Animated Photo Company continues here this week, being favoured with a crowded audience at every performance.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—HIPPODROME THEATRE. Proprietors, Messrs. Geo. and Robt. A. Nicholson; General-Manager, Mr. W. Ainsworth.—The above theatre is taken this week by the Hartlepools' Amateur Operatic Company, who are performing Basil Hood's and Edward German's comic opera *Merrie England*, their efforts being greatly appreciated by large audiences. Messrs. Nicholson have granted the use of the theatre free, and the proceeds are to be devoted to local charities.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—The Scottish Meisters head the bill this week, and their refined singing and clever comedy are highly appreciated. Other good turns include Livesey and Rosebery, Carr and Rose, Conway and Garland, and Richardson Taylor; and Harry Taft, comedian and whistler, scores greatly.

SUNDERLAND.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Sunderland Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Hemingway.—The well-known play, entitled *Lady Godiva*, drew a crowded house here on Monday night. Miss Ethel Griffie's impersonation of the title-rôle is excellent; and the Lady Aldyth of Miss Katherine Brook could not well be improved upon; Miss Edith Lorraine is a bright and winsome Elfrida; Tom, of Coventry, finds an apt exponent in Mr. W. B. Woulfe; Mr. William McCready scores as Algar; and Mr. R. Seath Innes makes the most of his opportunities as Leofric Unwolf Unwolfson is in the able hands of Mr. Ernest Hamilton; whilst Mr. Bob Anderson is an amusing Robin Shacklerod. *Nell Gwynne* and *Jane Shore* are also included in the week's bill.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. A. Browne and S. B. Stringer.—Leoni Clarke and his animals head the bill, and is a most interesting turn. Rose Elliott is a sweet and cultured soprano; the Three Consol Girls are acrobatic dancers of considerable ability; the Villions, acrobatic cyclists, perform some clever feats; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden score in a farce, entitled *Two in One*; Chas. Vincent (comedian), Adelina (facialist), and Will Bell (Irish comedian) also contribute acceptable turns. The entertainment winds up with an admirable and up-to-date show of animated pictures, shown by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners; Musical-Director, Mr. Fred Lucas.—*The Conscript* is being staged here by Mr. F. Wybert Clive's company, under that gentleman's personal supervision. Mr. E. Bellenden Clarke is seen to advantage as Karl Truevitch; the efforts of Miss Lilian Ross as Nadia are keenly appreciated; Mr. Walter Steele gives a sound portrayal of Ivan Manloff.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—*The Destroyer of Men* is the attraction here this week. Miss Irene Clifford delineates Olga Mischla with much skill. The Count Starevitch of Mr. Harold Lewis is satisfactory; Miss Gladys Lloyd plays with marked effect as Vidal Raval; Mr. James Hare as Karl Meschla appeals powerfully to the audience; Mr. Ross Warren makes a comical Coco; Miss Alice Buckland as Nina causes much merriment.

HIPPODROME.—Director, Mr. D. Taylor; General-Manager, Mr. Curline Baldry.—Topping the bill most successfully is Peggy Pryde. The Three Lloyds, on the bouncing cable, maintain their popularity; *Fun in a Café*, as provided by the Carlos, is extremely mirth-provoking; the Donatos, one-legged acrobats, are very smart; while Shelia McNeil and Nelson and Thomas also give valuable assistance.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Charles Carey; Manager, Mr. L. J. Gunnell.—An amateur performance of *Trilby*, organised by Mr. Carey in aid of the local hospitals, proved a brilliant success. There were crowded audiences on Friday and Saturday, and the production was well mounted and went excellently. Mr. Carey himself took the part of Svengali, and was successful in discovering a local amateur of great promise in Miss Wix for the title-rôle. Mr. Carey had a most enthusiastic recall at the close, and alluded to the fact that the successful charity production coincided with the second anniversary of his lesseeship of the theatre. Miss Wix was also the recipient of a number of beautiful bouquets.

WAKEFIELD.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Messrs. Granville and Thorne's company is here this week with *Napoleon the Great*. Mr. Hugh Montgomery gives an able and powerful rendering of the title-rôle; Mr. Henry Earlesmere is seen to advantage as Colonel Laverennes; Mr. Phil Harper is an able Colonel Meuron; Mr. Bartlett Garth a successful Paul Laczinska; Mr. Frank M. Thorne a capital Pierre Pomponnet; and Mr. Albert Sindan is well placed as Sergeant Choupin. Miss Leslie Warner acts with ability in the trying part of Marie Walewska; Miss Maud Russell is commendable as Mlle. Marboeuf; Miss Marie Harcourt does justice as Marcelle Choupin; and Miss Florence Thorne wins favour as Mère Dumont.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Selwyn; Manager, Mr. Sidney Tolfree.—The bill is headed by Marcus Boyle, an amusing comedian. Other artists performing are Miss Nellie Dunbar, comedienne; Seth King, comedian; Miss Ada Whitton, male impersonator; Hook and Eye, sketch artists; Rene and Smith, comedy couple; and Mr. Chas. H. Gould and Co. in a sketch entitled *The Matchless Match*.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—An attractive programme is being submitted here. Heading the bill is Oswald Williams, the Wizard, supported by Miss Winifred La Berle and company, in a capital performance. Adeline Yohle, a charming songstress; the Three Merrils, marvellous cyclists; the Six Primrose Girls, in singing and dancing; Cole and Mags, jugglers; L. W. Harris, in his latest success, "Ellaline"; Harry Daniels and company in the musical sketch *Rent*; and the American Bioscope are the main items of the bill.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. Charles Carte and company are appearing here this week with *A Noble Brother*. Mr. Charles Carte, as Jerry, the tramp, submits a wonderful portraayl; Miss Doris Brookes, in the part of Nana Leigh, is satisfactory; Mr. Arthur A. Tomlin makes a capital Jack Elsworthy; Mr Frank Lyndon is well placed as Henry Travers; and Miss Rosie Conroy as Rosie Rapid is responsible for the light comedy element.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General and Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Potter.—Mr. T. Arthur Jones's company is here this week in the stirring play, *Life's Sweetest Sin*. The staging effects are very fine, and the scenes depicting the submarine boat afloat and on the bed of the ocean are wonderful specimens of stage ingenuity. Mr. T. Arthur Jones as Captain Harold Marston acts with a manly bearing throughout; and Mr. Oswald Douglas scores as Doctor Colbrooke. Mr. Robert Sawin as Kimberley Coutts and Mr. Clem Horlock as Rev. Edward Grey are equally well placed. Mr. Fred Wilson is good as Ernie Woodstone, and Mr. Edgar Morgan causes much amusement as Bob Tanner. Mr. George Ryan is a typical policeman; Miss Hazel Dent as Doreen Rivers displays real histrionic abilities, and Miss Elsie Walton acts charmingly as Bess Grayson.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; General-Manager, Mr. J. Potter; Director of Amusements, Mr. F. Willmot.—Wyndham and Waters are here again and delighting with their laughable absurdity, *The Professor and His Pupil*; Ernest Montefiore and company score in the dramatic scene, *The Little Colonel*; Lady Fauntleroy is a pleasing lady ventriloquist; and Allen Hardman, the blind pianist and vocalist, supplies a good turn; Lord, Murray, and Lord, in a gymnastic mélange, *The Intruder*, are entertaining; and the Cosman Couple are smart vocalists and patterers; Claude Tomlin, comedian, and the Royal Bioscope pictures make up a good programme.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby.—This week Mr. Battersby is introducing variety with *The Streets of London*, played by Professor Devereaux and his troupe of dogs. Mlle. Telka, ballad vocalist, evokes loud applause; the Sisters Delmore, duettists and dancers, are a big success; Terrie and Darnley, eccentric duettists, do excellent work; Signor Bosco, in his clever musical act, and also Titian, in his feats of strength, are well worthy of special mention; and the engagement of George Bryant is heartily endorsed.

WEST BROMWICH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harding Thomas; Manager, Mr. Herbert Vere.—West Bromwich people have had this week the opportunity of seeing the new lessee of the Theatre Royal in several new rôles, in which it may be said at once he has appeared with distinct advantage. Miss Elaine Verner's company, under the direction of Mr. Thomas, is appearing in three of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's plays, and is meeting with a capital reception. On Monday and Tuesday the attraction was the well-known drama, *The Middleman*, which with Mr. Thomas as Cyrus Blenkarn is a great success. Miss Elaine Verner plays the part of Mary with great skill; and the Nancy of Miss Ada Clarke is a clever study. Mr. John J. Hooker as Joseph Chandler has a rôle well suited to him; Batty Todd, Chandler's managing man, is in the capable hands of Mr. Edward de Vere; and Mr. Edward Kent is good as Jesse Pegge. The Mrs. Chandler of Miss Maud Beard is effective; and Miss Ruby Romer is a charming Maud Chandler; Mr. E. Rayson Cousins is a capable Captain Chandler, and the other parts are well sustained. *Saints and Sinners* and *Judah* have been staged with equal success.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. Player.—There is another particularly attractive programme at the Carlton Green place of amusement this week, and large audiences have been delighted with the fare that has been provided for them. Joe Reichen and his wonderful performing dogs give one of the most interesting turns that has been seen in the town. The Mackweys give a sensational performance on the wire which meets with rapturous applause; the Two Browns are clever coloured musical comedians; Fox and Melville are capable American song illustrators in vocal pictures; Ruby Holly is a dainty comedienne who sings well; Kitty Gresham also provides some good songs; the acrobatic bicycle act of the Original Hartfords is very smart; Tennyson and Wallis are capable comedians, and the Hippodrome pictures complete a programme of exceptional merit.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—At the top of the bill here are Galletti's monkeys; Duncan and Brasque are seen in a smart and original playlet; Louis Kerno gets a hearty welcome; comedy and dancing are well featured by the Players; a capital athletic display is that of Amurat; and a series of interesting pictures is shown.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy and company are here this week with *In Holy Russia*. Mr. Robert Cockroft gives a capital impersonation of the Czar. Mr. J. R. Cassidy finely sustains the rôle of Colonel Richard Forrest; Mrs. J. R. Cassidy makes a good Renee Rubinoff; and Miss Kate Randolph cleverly handles the part of Catska Lavotski.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawa; Responsible Manager, Mr. John Cassidy.—The bill here this week includes Bert Serony, comedian; Train and Tosh, with a creditable juggling performance; the Three Lednas, vocalists and dancers; Miss May Burkett, a smart little dancer; the Mentis Duo, in a thought transmission act; Voso, the comedy conjuror; Onzeto and Onro, with a clever trapeze turn; Sam Shipley, the Lancashire comedian; and the Poole Pelham Troupe, with a fine display of dancing.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clark.—Mr. Charles Majilton's company is engaged here in *The Trippers* and *The Plumber*. Mr. C. Majilton is as mirth-provoking as ever; and he is capitally supported by Mr. H. Ashmore, Mr. Jim Bond, Mr. Randle Wilson, Miss Maddie Majilton, and Miss Amy Majilton

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—This week we have here Messrs. Oswalle Silverstone and John Belton's company in *Shadows of a Great City*. This drama of American life wears well, and its reception at the hands of a Widnes audience has been good. Mr. Stanley Radcliffe makes a fine, manly Tom Cooper; Mr. Joseph Millane acts forcibly as Benson; Mr. A. Kenyon Gray does clever work as Arkwright; the Jim Farren of Mr. Clarence Ibbotson is a capital piece of characterisation; and Mr. John Belton plays the Jew, Abe Nathans, on excellent lines; and Miss Florrie Kelsey's acting in the dual rôles of Annie and Nellie Standish is most sympathetic. Miss Mary Dawson is a droll Biddy Roonan; and Miss Bella Moody a capable Mrs. Higgins.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company.—The Wigan Amateur Operatic Society has during the week, and before packed audiences, given admirable performances of the operas *San Toy* and *Les Cloches de Corneville*.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—The Savonas and Elliotts prolong their stay in a varied programme; the Royal Tokio Troupe give sensational ladder and rope performances, which evoke tumultuous applause; and J. A. Wilson comedian and dancer, assisted by his wonderfully well-trained "singing" dog, Private Towser, is also well received. Herbert Clifton is an exceedingly faithful mimic of popular vocalists; Billy Burns, the Wigan collier vocalist, is nightly recalled; and the Maros give an amusing act on the triple-bar. Kate Lynd, Charley Dixon, and Leonard and Larry, comedians, likewise score successes.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week the Reays, in their acrobatic show, do some exceedingly smart things; the Forsyths create roars of laughter with their comedy act, *The Tramp in the Nursery*; Mr. Harry Towers, vocalist, is loudly recalled; Mr. Will Souls, the "laughing comedian," goes well; Miss Daisy Lannon, pedestal dancer, is good; while the pictures, as usual, conclude a pleasing entertainment.

GRAND THEATRE, ISLINGTON.

On Monday, Dec. 17,
the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND."

For the concluding week of the dramatic season the above drama is paying Islington a third visit, Messrs. Beaudyn and Livesey's company being responsible for the production. Nothing now need be said about the drama itself, which lends itself readily to effective acting and mounting, and it is again exercising its familiar attraction on the patrons of this theatre. Mr. Montague Beaudyn as Paulovitch acts the repellent rôle with power and effect, and gains the usual reception from the "gods." Mr. J. P. McBride as Kasaleff gives a sound performance, making the most of his many opportunities. Mr. Albert Wray as Strogoff is good; he has but few openings, however. Mr. Harry Oats as Christopher Crackles provides abundant laughter, his acting being very humorous. Mr. W. Robertson Foulis as Malachi also does well. Mrs. Arthur Mewburn as Trolski submits a capital study that deserves all praise; Miss Irene Munro as Nadine plays with sympathy and power, and has made a good impression. Miss Annie Cherier as Patty is bright and vivacious, and does much for the comedy scenes; Miss V. St. Lawrence in the title-rôle acts with power, and to her much of the success of the performance is due. Numerous smaller parts are all capitally filled, and the drama is received with every sign of popular approval. The scenery and mounting are above reproach. On Tuesday next pantomime holds sway here, Mr. Samuel James producing his second annual, *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

WHEN Mr. Beerbohm Tree brought out *The Charlatan* at the Haymarket Theatre he had been trying in vain to obtain an illusion of a vision. Finally, he sent for Mr. J. N. Maskelyne, of Egyptian Hall fame, stating that the time was very short, as he was going to produce the play the next day. Mr. Maskelyne and his son worked at the theatre from eleven o'clock until two o'clock in the morning, and were lucky enough to get an illusion ready for Mr. Tree. It simply consisted of a little luminous speck of light which appeared at the back of the stage, and gradually extended into the head and bust of a performer. Everybody was delighted that the idea worked so satisfactorily.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, DEC. 5.—*Susan in Search of a Husband*, a comedy in three acts, adapted by Eugene W. Presbrey from a short story by Jerome K. Jerome, was produced at the Liberty Theatre a few days ago, with Miss Eleanor Robson in the title-rôle, this being the second of the series of new plays in which she is to appear during the present season under the management of Messrs. Liebler and Co. Susan Gambett, a young American girl who applies for a situation as chambermaid at a Welsh inn, was married seven years ago to a sailor in New York. He disappeared immediately after the ceremony, and she has searched for him in vain. At the inn she meets an old friend, Miss Pennicuique, an American heiress, who has made an impression upon a certain Lord Rathbone. The latter arrives at the inn, and in order to test his sincerity Susan and her friend exchange identities, and Lord Rathbone proves to be Susan's long-lost husband. He fails to recognise her, however, but is plainly smitten, and when Susan has completely captivated him she tells him that Miss Pennicuique, the pseudo-chambermaid, is his deserted wife, just at the moment when the latter is unjustly accused by the landlady of stealing some silver spoons. To the relief of Susan, Rathbone stands by his supposed wife and acknowledges her. This satisfies Susan that her husband is a man to be trusted, and the pair are reunited, the spoons being found in the nest of a predatory crow.

As Susan Gambett, Miss Robson has another congenial part like Merely Mary Ann and Nurse Marjorie, and she plays it charmingly. Mr. H. B. Warner is manly and sincere as Lord Rathbone. Miss Isabel Irving and Mr. Reuben Fax distinguish themselves in important rôles.

"A TENEMENT TRAGEDY," a one-act play by Clotilde Graves, is presented as an after-piece. The scene is laid in the East End of London, but the story bears a strong resemblance to a tragedy in real life that actually occurred in New York a few months ago. Bill Kelsey, a young coster, has married a girl named Tina, who has been employed by an Italian organ-grinder. The girl is totally ignorant of the difference between right and wrong, and has been ill-used by her brutal employer. Conversing with Kelsey's blind mother just after the wedding, she learns that she is unfit to be a wife. Kelsey receives an anonymous letter containing information which impels him to seek the Italian for the purpose of killing him. During his absence, the Italian calls on Tina, and in the quarrel that ensues she stabs and kills him. The wife of the Italian witnesses the murder through the window, and Tina gives herself up to the police as the curtain falls. The little play is cleverly acted by Miss Robson, Miss Emily Rigl, Miss Ada Duyer, Mr. H. B. Warner, and Mr. Frederic de Belleville.

THE English version of Puccini's three-act opera, *Madam Butterfly*, is delighting large audiences nightly at the Garden Theatre. The principal male rôles are filled by prominent members of Mr. Henry W. Savage's English Grand Opera Company, including Messrs. Francis Maclennan and Joseph F. Sheehan, tenors; Messrs. Winfred Goff and Thomas D. Richards, baritones; and Mr. Robert Kent Parker, basso. The title-part is sung in rotation by Mme. Elza Szamosy, from the Budapest Royal Opera; Mme. Rena Vivienne, a pupil of M. Victor Maurel; and Miss Florence Easton; while Miss Harriet Behnée and Miss Estelle Bloomfield alternate as Suzuki, the maid. The opera is mounted in exquisite taste, and has scored such an emphatic success that it will remain at the Garden Theatre for at least several months to come.

"SIR ANTHONY," a comedy in three acts, by C. Haddon Chambers, has just had a brief but successful run at the Savoy Theatre. The purpose of the play, apparently, is to rebuke the practice of tuft-hunting by placing it in a ridiculous light. Clarence Chope, a young clerk employed by a Mr. Bulger, who deals in bacon, has crossed the Atlantic to New York to testify in a law suit. On the way over he has met Sir Anthony Mellish, a former Cabinet Minister, and he returns to his mother's house at Herne Hill with a monocle and all the airs of a superior person, and representing himself to be the intimate friend of Sir Anthony. His sweetheart, Olive Bruton, is enraptured with the new Clarence, his mother is greatly impressed, his employer invites him to dinner, and his pastor talks of making him a deacon. His rival in love, Bob Morrison, a rude young man of pugilistic proclivities, hates him, of course, and his sister Sally has her doubts, but she stands by him. Sir Anthony is not in evidence at all, but his private secretary writes pointed letters repudiating Mr. Clarence Chope. The scenes are laid in Mrs. Chope's modest suburban drawing-room and in the conservatory of Mr. Bulger's mansion at Dulwich. In the first act we have Clarence in his glory, in the second the fall of Clarence, and in the third his redemption, brought about by his victory over his rival in a fistic encounter, which is not seen but heard, and is described in an effective and comical manner by Clarence's sister and sweetheart, who witness the combat from a window.

"THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN," the latest play from the pen of Charles Klein, author of *The Lion and the Mouse*, deals with the problem of capital and labour. Grace Crosby is the daughter of Matthew Crosby, an arrogant plutocrat, who is fighting federated interests opposed to capital. He leads a hollow life in which Mammon is god. His daughter Grace, tiring of such an existence, falls in love with John Stedman, a young lawyer, who has dedicated his life to the uplifting of the labouring class. Old Crosby is enraged, and tries to break off the match, but all that Grace will do is to go to Stedman and ask him to settle the differences between Crosby and those who work for wages. In Stedman's rooms she encounters Louise Stolbeck, known as "the Daughter of the People." She is the child of a German Socialist, and has come to warn the lawyer of a plot to ruin him. Her father, believing that the love of Stedman for Grace has caused him to turn traitor to the cause, is plotting against him, and the girl openly denounces Miss Crosby when she finds her with Stedman. The representatives of capital and labour come together, and begin a discussion of their difficulties which is apparently to end in the complete undoing of Stedman, but when the situation appears to be hopeless the senior member of the "Federated Companies" agrees to a compromise, being old-fashioned enough to believe that business dealings should not be utterly devoid of sentiment. The outcome brings happiness to the lovers, and is satisfactory for the cause of labour as well as capital. The play has been well received at the Astor Theatre, the principal characters being ably represented by Mr. Herbert Kelcey, Miss Effie Shannon, Mr. Orrin Johnson, Mr. Ralph Delmore, Mr. George Parsons, Miss Dorothy Donnelly, and Miss Grace Filkins.

MR. EDWARD PEPLE, who wrote *The Prince Chap*, is the author of a new play, entitled *The Love Route*, which has had a favourable reception at the Lincoln Square Theatre, a new playhouse at the corner of Sixty-sixth-street and Broadway. The play is melodrama of the good old-fashioned sort, and is interspersed with many comical and highly-entertaining situations. The scenes move rapidly from New York to Texas, and the plot has to do with the efforts of some Eastern financiers to build a railroad through a Texan ranch in defiance of the wishes of the young woman who owns the place. The financiers place the construction of the road in the hands of a stalwart young engineer. He falls in love with the pretty ranch owner, and she reciprocates his affection, but refuses to allow the railroad to be built through her property. In the ensuing complications and conflicts of love and duty there is plenty of "gun play" on the Texan ranch, and a liberal supply of strong language of the frontier. The engineer is shot down by the ranch foreman at the end of the third act as the climax of a stirring and realistic railway building scene. He ultimately recovers, and finds the railroad completed by his sweetheart, who was stricken with remorse as she saw her lover fall. Mr. Guy Standing gives a fine impersonation of the young engineer, John Ashby, his fine physique standing him in good stead for such a rôle, and Miss Odette Tyler is very popular as his sweetheart, Allene Houston.

MISS LENA ASHWELL, who created the title-rôle in *Mrs. Dane's Defence* when the play was first produced in England, and Miss Margaret Anglin, who played Mrs. Dane in the American representations, made two joint appearances lately in the above-named play at the Princess Theatre. At the first performance Miss Ashwell impersonated Mrs. Dane, and Miss Anglin was seen as Lady Eastney. On the following afternoon the two rôles were reversed. Thus a highly-interesting study in contrasts was afforded, each exponent revealing the qualities which have so agreeably impressed the playgoers of London and New York respectively.

MME. ALLA NAZIMOVA, a Russian actress, who won high praise by her admirable work in M. Paul Orleneff's company of players, recently made her début upon the English-speaking stage at the Princess Theatre in Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, and scored a most emphatic success, her complete mastery of the English language during the last twelve months being a remarkable achievement. Her embodiment of Hedda Gabler was lifelike and convincing. Mme. Nazimova is appearing in this character at a series of matinées, under the direction of Mr. Henry Miller, who is very much in the public eye at the present time as an actor-manager and producer of plays. Mrs. Sarah Cowell Lemoyne is giving special matinée performances of Browning's *Pippa Passes* at the Majestic Theatre, under Mr. Miller's direction, and his delineation of an uncouth plainsman in *The Great Divide* is applauded heartily every night at the Princess Theatre.

MR. JAMES K. HACKETT recently appeared in *The Walls of Jericho* at Ottawa. On the opening night there was a brilliant and representative audience, Earl Grey, the Governor-General, attending with his suite.

MME. FRITZI SCHEFF laid the corner-stone of the new Edwin Forrest Theatre in Philadelphia last week. In the stone were placed copies of the local papers and signed photographs of a number of prominent players.

MISS GEORGIA CAYVAN, for many years one of the most popular actresses in America, died on the 20th ult. in a sanatorium. Her mind became affected about seven years ago as the result of an unjust accusation in connection with a society divorce case. For several years she had been an honoured member of the old Lyceum Theatre company under Mr. Daniel Frohman. Three years ago the entire theatrical profession rallied to her aid and gave a benefit performance, at which the sum of 8,000 dols. was realised, this ensuring her comfort during the last few years of her life.

MESSRS. B. F. KEITH AND F. F. PROCTOR have opened a new vaudeville theatre in Jersey City. The house is thoroughly modern and beautiful in its appointments, and every possible precaution has been taken to guard against fire. The asbestos curtain is operated from the stage floor instead of from overhead, and the dressing-rooms are in a separate building, connected with the stage by fireproof doors.

MISS JENNIE YEAMANS, daughter of Mrs. Annie Yeamans, and sister of Mrs. Lydia Yeamans-Titus, died in New York on the 28th ult., of tuberculosis.

IN the opinion of Mr. Alfred Sutro, what we need in this country is not so much a repertory theatre, where the plays of past successful writers could be produced, as a theatre with a man at the head of it who would recognise talent, and discounting blemishes, would give a chance to the man who could show he had the [illegible]. For eleven years Mr. Sutro has been knocking at doors which have refused [illegible]

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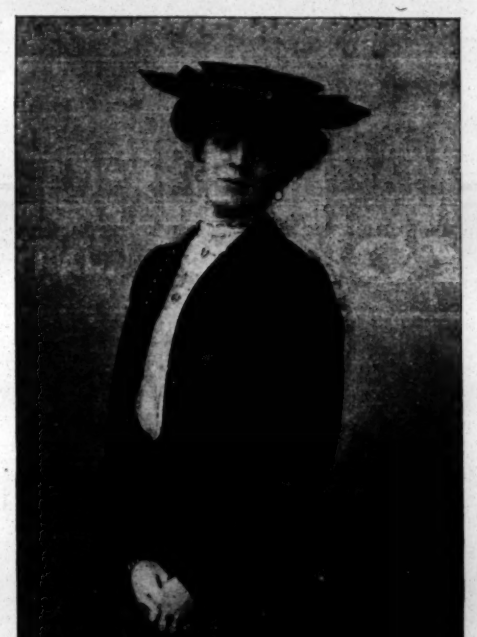

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"THE TYRANT."

A Drama, in Four Acts, by Fred C. Somerfield and Frederic Ludovic; produced for the first time on any stage at the Royal Osborne Theatre, Manchester, on Monday, Dec. 17.

Homodei ..... MR. FRED C. SOMERFIELD
Angelo ..... MR. ROY FORTESCUE
Rudolph, Prince de Roma .. MR. LIONEL ATWILL
Pan ..... MR. ALEC MAYHEU
Victor ..... MR. LYNN
Nobbo ..... MR. ALBERT ROGERS
Lieutenant Taska ..... MR. ALEC FINDLATER
Arch-Priest ..... MR. STANLEY WHYLIE
Doctor ..... MR. KURSON PROCTOR
Rev. Dean of St. Anthony ..... MR. CHARLES E. WARNE
Abrussi ..... MR. CHARLES E. GEARY
Roderic ..... MR. ROWLAND WADE
Usher ..... MR. SIDNEY
1st Night-Watchman ..... MR. GRAHAM BYNGE
2nd Night-Watchman ..... MR. COPE WILLIAMS
Lady Katherine ..... MISS THERESA OSBORNE
Eulie ..... MISS LALLAH SHELTON
Daphne ..... MISS CLARA SANTLEY
Reginella ..... MISS LIZZIE CHAMBERS
Tisbe ..... MISS MARIE DAGMAR

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Described as a romantic drama, *The Tyrant*, produced by Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield at the Royal Osborne Theatre, Manchester, on Monday last, is a story of love, jealousy, and revenge. In the manner of its development no one can complain that incident is lacking; indeed, it errs on the side of profusion, especially in the first act, which is so complicated by the various threads that it is hard to distinguish the main line of interest. The "Tyrant" is Angelo, Governor of Padua (so one gathers from the dialogue), and though he is a strong and a mericiless ruler, capable of implacable hatred, he has just that weakness for women which has proved the downfall of many others of his kind—among them some notable historical examples. Three years antecedent to the action he had married by force, without love, but for her money, a fair and gentle lady called Katherine, whose heart was then, and is still, in the keeping of Rudolph, the Prince de Roma. Katherine is now kept a close prisoner at his palace, while he carries on a serious flirtation with Tisbe, an actress, at the latter's mansion—the opening scene. But Tisbe is a pretender, for she also is in love with Rudolph, who for purposes of his own has been leading Tisbe to believe in his affection for her, while still cherishing a tender memory of Katherine. The worst thing against Angelo, however, is that he has seized a poor half-demented girl and outraged her out of sheer brutality, and when he finds her raving in the street, trying to escape and find her brother, he coolly orders her to be executed, on the pretext that she had made an attempt upon his life. The order is not carried out, and the brother and sister meet. This brother is a formidable personage named Homodei, from Venice, in the course of whose search for his sister it transpires that he is hugging a feeling of hatred against Katherine, the wife of Angelo, for having refused his love with scorn. He seems omniscient; he knows all about everyone concerned in this intricate situation, and one of his schemes is to bring disaster upon Katherine and Rudolph by compromising the guiltless lovers and turning both Angelo and Tisbe upon them at the critical moment. From this subtle design arises the clever and dramatic climax of the second act (in Katherine's bedroom), a really satisfactory piece of work, in which the further discovery is made by Tisbe that Katherine, whom otherwise she would have sacrificed to certain death, was the girl who had once saved the life of Tisbe's mother by intercession. Homodei is thus defeated, but Angelo is not satisfied with the joint evasions of Tisbe and Katherine, and is subsequently assured of the existence of a lover by his intercepting an unsigned letter from Rudolph to his wife. A later scene in Katherine's bedroom promises to end in the fair lady's death, in view of which her husband has provided a headsman's axe and a draped block upon the bed; but this, at Tisbe's suggestion, is waived for the cleaner expedient of poison. The upshot is that the poison which Katherine is forced to take, and which has been provided by Tisbe, is not poison at all, but a sleeping draught; and the access of pity for Katherine which now inspires Tisbe impels the latter to have the apparently lifeless body conveyed to her mansion, wherein we see it lying upon Tisbe's bed. Homodei, in the meantime, having discovered that the author of the outrage upon his sister is Angelo, has taken a sinister resolve to kill the tyrant; and his movements to this end are simplified by his having revealed himself to sundry of the tyrant's bodyguard as one of the Council of Ten. Preliminary to the end of the play, therefore, a terrible scene is enacted by Homodei and Angelo in the former's home, to which place he has invited Angelo, ostensibly for the purpose of revealing to the latter the name of his wife's lover. Having first given Angelo poison, he then announces his object of revenge. They fight, but the poison is insidious and unnerves Angelo's arm. The coward, not the tyrant, is now revealed. He dies pitifully, stabbed and cursed repeatedly by Homodei. After this nothing remains but to end the play as agreeably as may be. It is done cleverly. The despair of Tisbe; the rage of Rudolph, who would kill her for her connivance at the supposed murder of Katherine; the awakening and intercession of Katherine at the critical moment; Tisbe's attempt to poison herself, utterly hopeless now of Rudolph's love; the appearance of Homodei with his sister, whom he confides to the care of Tisbe; and the uniting of the lovers, all combine to make a thoroughly interesting and skilful conclusion. Much comic interest is contrasted against these serious events, and much laughter was created by it on Monday. Miss Lizzie Chambers, Mr. Lynn, and Mr. Albert Rogers did their work in this line very well indeed, and were appreciated as they deserved.

Miss Marie Dagmar's rendering of Tisbe stood out prominently as the work of an actress skilled in emotional and character parts. From the first moments of her dissimulation and bitter jealousy to her transfiguration by the power of love—a disappointed but potentially heroic woman—she retained the sympathy of the house. Of Homodei, embodied by Mr. Fred C. Somerfield, complimentary words must also be written; a reserved and powerful delineation, it reached a high pitch of drama both in the scene of his sister's revelation about Angelo and in his arraignment of the tyrant in the latter's final hours. Mr. Roy Fortescue as Angelo acted well, yet hardly seemed to embody the frightful villainy of the man, perhaps because of the lack of sinister features in his make-up. As Rudolph, Prince de Roma, Mr. Lionel Atwill looked well, and acted with a manly emphasis that was invested with just the right tone of sincerity and sympathy; he was, in fact, one of the marked successes of the evening. Mr. Alec Findlater also deserves a word of praise for a bold, though somewhat overdrawn, depiction of the mean Lieutenant Taska. Miss Theresa Osborne was particularly well suited by the rôle of Katherine, the suffering but guiltless wife; and Miss Clara Santley offered a neat and reserved impersonation of Daphne, Katherine's maid. The part of Eulie, Homodei's sister, was in the hands of Miss Lallah Shelton, who made quite a success of a difficult task in which many might easily have failed; and as Pan, Rudolph's friend, Mr. Alec Mayheu gave a quietly satisfactory performance.

The play was well received, and is likely to prove a prominent and highly successful acquisition to current drama. It is staged and costumed brilliantly.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. ROBERT MILSTEAD.

Mr. Robert Milstead's first appearance on the stage was made as a violinist at the age of eight, but early promise in this direction was not fulfilled, as at eighteen his violin master—of course, a different one—brought him the same "concert" sonata, telling him to "have a cut at it," but he feared it was too difficult for him.

Mr. Milstead says he never quite knew why, but he started engineering when he left school, and was articled to a London firm of consulting engineers. Most of their work was in connection with various theatres, and while with them he worked at the Grand, Fulham, the Kennington Theatre, the Bradford Music Hall, and Wyndham's Theatre. Later on he toured the United States with an idea of finishing his engineering education; and this he literally accomplished, as on his return to England he promptly joined Mr. Ben Greet's *Royal Family* company. While in America, Mr. Milstead figured in the Colorado papers as the hero of a small adventure with card sharks, in which, with his usual luck, he came off best.

One of the passengers on the return voyage was a well-known American dramatist, who was on the look out for a promising young English actress for a leading part in America, and Mr. Milstead was loud in his praises of Miss Edith Wynne Matthison. He does not know whether she was ever approached on the subject, but he is very proud of his "spot" for a future star.

[*Photo by Watts.*

MR. ROBERT MILSTEAD.

After playing a large number of small parts with Mr. Ben Greet's own company on tour and in Pastorals, Mr. Milstead joined his *Sherlock Holmes* company to play Billy and understudy Sid Prince. In a few weeks he was called upon to play the latter part, and he continued in it for the rest of the tour. During the following autumi he was with Mr. Bernard Copping's Répertoire Company in such parts as Diggory, Glavis, Piper (*Garrick*), Gustave de Grignor (*Ladies' Battle*), and Bamfield (*Sunlight and Shadow*), returning later to resume Sid Prince for Mr. Greet. The whole of the following year he was with Mr. J. Bannister Howard's *Eternal City* company, playing Minghelli and as assistant stage manager. During the vacation, to his great delight he had the opportunity of playing Jerry in *Jerry and a Sunbeam*, and Sam Gerridge in *Caste*.

An engagement to play Will and Blib in *Bluebell* followed in the spring, and in the autumn Mr. Milstead was again under the same management (Messrs. Murray King and Clark) in *Sweet and Twenty*, playing Eustace for the greater part of the tour, but fininshing up with Prynne when Mr. King himself was out of the cast. Last Christmas he was engaged by Mr. Philip Carr as assistant stage manager at the Royalty Theatre. Asked if he preferred musical comedy to the legitimate, Mr. Milstead's reply was: "Well, I am fond of variety and contrast. Really, I think my preference is for modern comedy, but I am afraid a 'fat' part and a correspondingly 'fat' salary are my first considerations, and so I am rather prejudiced in favour of musical comedy, in addition to which it was in *Bluebell* that I met my wife." The press notice he prizes most is one that he earned in the "Referee" for his performance of Crab in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*—"An entertaining, but somewhat impatient comedian."

Mr. Milstead is an occasional contributor to the Press of light articles and poetry; and this year he filled in the vacation by taking the temporary post of secretary to the Royal Society of Painter Etchers. This opportunity came to him through a fellow Wykehamist, and curiously enough his last two theatrical engagements have also been under old Winchester men.

DALSTON THEATRE.

The members of the North London Operatic Society commenced at this Dalston theatre on Tuesday evening a series of five performances of the musical comedy, *An Artist's Model*. The company consists of fifty performers, and additional zest is imparted to the representations by an augmented orchestra. Miss Mabel Palmer undertakes the title-rôle, appearing as Adele, the rich widow, who formerly was an artist's model. Miss Palmer has a good presence, appears quite at ease in the part, and she sings some rather trying songs with evident ability. She is consistently vivacious throughout the piece. Lady Barbara Cripps finds a dignified representative in Miss C. Macdowall; while Geraldine (a model), is played by Miss Nellie Craig, is piquant, and gets through some dances that give evidence of her sustaining powers. Other lady characters are represented by Miss Netta van Eitzen, Miss May Jennings, and Miss Katharine Craig. Mr. Murray Short causes amusement as James Cripps (husband to Lady Barbara); Mr. Percy Short is quaint as Smoggins; and other characters are sustained by Mr. A. D. Hale as Sir George St. Alban, a diplomatist; Mr. Charles D. Dickinson as his son, an amusing personage; and Mr. Harry Evans, an art student. Mr. Arthur Robey is musical director, and composed the song, "Girls I adore," sung by Mr. Chas. Dickinson in the second act.

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THE NEW KING'S THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.

The new two-tier theatre to be opened on Monday next is a worthy addition to the handsome buildings in the Wearside Borough. Situate in a prominent position, the theatre occupies an important coign of vantage at the corner of Crow Tree-road and South-street. The façade of the handsome structure is of Ruabon bricks, with heavy freestone dressings, and is of noble proportions, the architectural features generally being on bold and artistic lines. The main entrance in front is in Crow Tree-road, and is of pleasing design, and leads to a large and lofty vestibule with marble staircases on either side, directly facing the entrance. There is also a broad staircase leading to a slightly lower level, in which is situate the "Parterre." Over this staircase is a fine airing balcony, with a handsomely carved booking or box office in front. The staircases on either side of the vestibule lead to the foyers, of which there are two, one on each side of the circle. These roomy foyers are furnished with comfortable fit-up lounges and chairs, and have large cloak-rooms, saloon, and managerial offices opening from them. The "Parterre," which usurps the whole of the ground area, is the best part of the house, and is devoted solely to orchestra stalls and stalls. This is quite a unique feature, and a distinct departure for the North of England. and one, from a Northerner's point of view, perhaps open to doubt; however, the "proof of the pudding is in the eating thereof," and time can alone solve the utility of such a change. It is fitted throughout with "tip-up" chairs, handsomely upholstered in red plush, the floor being carpeted to match. From every point here there is an uninterrupted view of the stage.

The dress circle is, as already stated, approached through the foyers, and has a fine wide sweep, and is of magnificent proportions, having a seating capacity for about 800 persons. The floor, as well as that of the tier above, rests on steel girders on the cantilever principle; it is composed on the Hennebique system of reinforced concrete, and is, if we are correctly informed, the first raised floor or gallery to be so laid in any theatre in England. The first seven rows are devoted to the "dress circle" patrons, whilst the remaining rows are termed "balcony stalls." There is a considerable slope or rake, each bench being about 18 inches higher than those in front. There is also ample space between, the dress-circle benches being each 3 feet wide, and the balcony benches 2 feet 6 inches apart, thus affording abundance of space between the rows. The line of sight here, as elsewhere, has evidently received careful attention at the hands of the designer, with the best of results. There are two private boxes on each side, for the use of the more exclusive patrons, on a level with the circle, and are constructed of waterproof partitions and fibrous plaster decorations. They have fluted Corinthian columns in front, supporting pediment in canopy, with niche and rich shell above. The roof of the auditorium is an enriched domed ceiling, with semi-circular panels at either side, with large dome and brilliant sun-burner in the centre. The decorations here are cream and gold, with bunches of studded electric lights at each corner of panels. The proscenium opening is 33 feet wide, and about the same height. Over the proscenium is a large cool, with "cartouche" depicting the figure of His Majesty the King. On each side there are Cupids supporting laurels, the whole forming a striking and most artistic design. A large fluted frieze runs up each side of the proscenium opening, the decorations here being of cream, light green, and gold. The whole scheme of colour is highly pleasing and on delicate lines throughout.

The gallery, which is approached from Crow Tree-road and South-street, is on a large scale, with a seating capacity of close upon 1,000. The slope here is also on a sharp rise. It is divided into three divisions, and the front rows form a sort of amphitheatre, separated from the rear ranks by a massive brass rail. On each side there is a stairway and two gangway staircases. The exits are numerous, and sufficient for the now and ever increasing requirements of the licensing authorities.

The orchestra floor is sunk 1 foot below the main "Parterre" floor. It is 6 feet wide and extends the full width of the auditorium, thus affording the audience a clear and uninterrupted view of the stage. The latter is also of ample dimensions, and will suffice for any demand of modern stagecraft. It is 82 feet wide, and has a depth of 44 feet, with baggage and scenery entrances from the street level. It is constructed and fitted with "sinks and rises," "traps," and "bridges," all movable, being laid in sections, and is on the Mazarine principle. The "flies," "paint bridge," and "grid" are all of the latest design and on the most modern and improved principles. No expense seemingly has been spared in any detail or requirement. From the "prompt" side of the stage there are numerous exits, leading to the open street in cases of emergency; whilst from the "o.p." side, which is entered from South-street, there is a vestibule with hall-keeper's office. There are three floors, with large and smaller dressing-rooms, each being replete with lavatory, hot and cold water, heating radiators, electric lights, and gas illuminants, &c. On each of these floors there are provided ample general conveniences for the use of the artists and staff.

The plans are those of Messrs. Hope and Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne, well-known designers of houses of entertainment throughout the United Kingdom; while the constructing contractors are another well-known firm, Messrs. S. F. Davidson and Miller, also of Newcastle-on-Tyne, under the supervision of Mr. J. W. Bell, who, under Mr. Davidson, was responsible for the building of the Grand Theatre, Margate, Gaiety, Birmingham, and the New Palace, Blackburn. The "fibrous" decorations and paintings are the work of Mr. De Jong, of London, whose representative, Mr. J. Latimer, is to be congratulated upon the result of his labours. The plumbing and heating arrangements have been carried out by Mr. Engledew for Mr. Davidson, who also provides the brass handrails, &c., used. The furnishings, which are on a luxurious scale, are by Messrs. Goodall, of Manchester. The electric lighting and engineering work is by the Northern Electric Co., of North Shields. The fireproof curtain is supplied by Messrs. J. Tweddle and Co., Ltd., of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The managing directors, Messrs. Ernest Stevens and R. C. Buchanan, for the proprietor, have appointed Mr. H. Carlo as their resident manager, and no doubt he will soon win the appreciation of his Wearside patrons by his urbanity of manner and unfailing courtesy.

The theatre will, as already stated, start upon its career on Monday, the 24th inst., under the most favourable of auspices, when the managing directors will submit for public approval the pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, written and produced under the personal supervision of Mr. Stanley Rogers, whose experience in such productions augurs well for the initial success of the first annual extravaganza at this newest of houses. Mr. George Le Clerq has been secured for the part of the principal comedian, with Miss Lilian Lea as principal boy and Miss Decima Brooke to fill the title-rôle.

MR. LEWIS WALLER, in the course of a speech delivered some months ago, expressed himself strongly in favour of free trade in matters of amusement. He would place as few restrictions upon it as possible, he said. If the music halls liked to play five-act tragedies as well as one-act plays such a course would have his entire approval.

CHATS WITH DRAMATIC AUTHORS.

MR. CHARLES BROOKFIELD.

Mr. Charles H. E. Brookfield was born on May 19, 1857. He went to Westminster School and to Trinity College, Cambridge (where he divided the Winchester Reading Prize with Herbert Ryle, who is now Bishop of Winchester. He made his first appearance on the stage at the Alexandra Palace on Wednesday afternoon, July 9, 1879, as Gimlet, in *Still Waters Run Deep*, with Mr. Charles Kelly. He played in pantomime at the Crystal Palace, and did a good deal of touring. He was with the Bancrofts throughout their management of the Haymarket Theatre. Since then he has played with Mr. Hare and the Kendals at the St. James's Theatre, with Mr. Tree at the Comedy and Haymarket, with Mr. Hawtrey at the Comedy, at the Court with Mr. Chudleigh, at His Majesty's with Mr. Tree. Mr. Brookfield's last appearance was as Baron Grog in *The Grand Duchess*, at the Savoy, under the management of the late Mr. D'Oyly Carte. His health obliged him to give up acting in 1898. In 1882 he married Frances Mary, daughter of the late Mr. William Grogan, by whom he has issue living, Peter Archibald Kemble.

Mr. Brookfield has written a good deal for various papers and magazines. In his Cambridge days he wrote constantly for the old *Examiner*, when Prof. Minto was editor; and for the old *Saturday Review*, when it was under the editorship of Messrs. Walter Pollock and George Saintsbury. He has also written for the *Pall Mall*, *St. James's*, *Globe*, *World*, and *Tatler*. He wrote a book in

[*Photo by Beresford.*

MR. CHARLES H. E. BROOKFIELD.

1888, called "The Twilight of Love," and in 1902 a volume of "Random Reminiscences" (Edward Arnold). Last year his wife and he published successfully a book called "Mrs. Brookfield and Her Circle" (Sir Isaac Pitman).

Mr. Brookfield has distinguished himself as a dramatic author, the following being a full list of plays written by himself, alone or in collaboration:—

Nearly Seven, monologue; *Godpapa*, three-act farce; *The Burglar and the Judge*, one act play; *A Woman's Reason*, three-act comedy, in collaboration with F. C. Philips; *To-day*, three-act adaptation from Divorçons; *The Poet and the Puppets*, one-act burlesque; *Under the Clock*, one-act burlesque, in collaboration with Seymour Hicks; *The Dovecote*, three-act adaptation from *Jalouse*; *The Cuckoo*, three-act adaptation from *Décoré*; *The Grand Duchess*, three-act adaptation; *The Lucky Star*, three-act adaptation; *The Model Trilby*, two-act burlesque, in collaboration with W. Yardley; *Captain Kenyon's Widow*, three-act comedy; *A Man with a Past;* monologue, played by C. Hawtrey; *They're All Alike!* monologue, played by Lottie Venne; *An Old Admirer*, one act; *Dear Old Charley*, three-act adaptation from *Célimare le bien aimée*; *One Law for Man*, three-act adaptation from *La Loi de l'homme*; *Comrades in Khaki*, music hall sketch; *Mafeking Night*, music hall sketch; *The New Régime*, one act; *A Lady Burglar*, one act; *Pagliacci*, two acts, founded on the opera; *What Pamela Wanted*, three-act adaptation from *Chou*; *The Belle of Mayfair*, two acts, in collaboration with Cosmo Hamilton; and *See-See*, two acts, in collaboration with Mme. Grésac.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Dec. 17, the Drama, in Four Acts, by J. A. Campbell, entitled "THE LITTLE BREAD-WINNER,"

This drama of homely life is skilfully framed, and thoroughly deserves every success. Mr. Eugéne Santley is responsible for a powerful delineation of Lord William Dorrington, his representation of this kindly Quaker Peer being in excellent taste. The Joseph Prior of Mr. Alfred Maurice is a carefully thought-out performance, full of unctuous servility, skilfully presented; Mr. Matthew Boulton shapes well as Richard Lawrence; and Mr. Stanley Leedham is decidedly original and versatile as Charles Prior. Miss Mary Mallalieu makes a favourable impression as Margaret Daventry; Miss Jenny Bostock is a homely Bridget O'Flanaghan; Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam plays with energy and determination as Kate Cherry; Miss Kitty Melville is well placed as Ruth Cherry; Miss Lissa Young displays much ability as Bobby Trott; whilst little Emmie Thomas in the title-rôle gives convincing proof of her histrionic talent, her performance being one of the highest merit, and not exaggerated in the least. The play is mounted and staged in irreproachable style, the scenery being specially noteworthy.

LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Dec. 17, the Drama, by Tom Taylor, entitled "THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN."

Mr. H. H. Barrington and company are here this week with *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, in which fine play he takes the difficult part of James Dalton, the Tiger, which he plays excellently. Robert Brierly is entrusted to Mr. W. Heilbronn, who makes an admirable hero, full of life and vigour. Miss May Hastings as May Edwards is a powerful heroine, being deeply pathetic and altogether charming. As the detective, Hawkshaw, Mr. R. Ferriss is exceptionally good, and receives loud applause. Miss Kate Froude, as Emily St. Evermonde, gives a capital character-sketch. Sam Willoughby is played with considerable abilty by Miss Irene Tracey; Mrs. Willoughby is excellently rendered by Miss Florence Lovell; as Green Jones Mr. John Leoni causes much merriment; and Mr. Thorpe Tracey as Melter Moss does good work. Mr. Ernest Carlton as Mr. Gibson deserves praise.

"THE SILVER STICK."

A New Musical Cornish Play, in Two Acts. Written by Alfred England. Music by Carl St. Amory. Produced for the first time on any stage at the Opera House, Northampton, on Monday, Dec. 17, 1906.

Joel Polperro ..... MR. COMPTON JAMES
Pollie Polperro ..... MISS ALICE CHAPMAN
Willie Zennor ..... MR. ERNEST LORIMER
Joyce Zennor ..... MRS. F. L. CROCKETT
Roy Tregenna .. MR. ALBERT H. DERRICK, R.C.M.
Professor Reginald Isidore Percival ..... MR. HARVEY REEVES
Aunt 'Liza Ann ..... MRS. COMPTON JAMES
Betty Bobbin ..... MISS GERTIE SMITH
Amos Love ..... MR. A. H. ODAMS
Peter Piggins ..... MR. HAROLD HICKSON
Uncle Poldice ..... MR. J. T. BENSON
Grandfather Bolitho ..... MR. HARRY HOLLAND
Sergeant Trevannion ..... MR. W. H. BARBER
The Beadle of Towey ..... MR. W. LAMBTON

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Silver Stick is the heirloom of the ancient Cornish family of the Zennors, and hangs in the hall of their ancient manor house on the Cornish coast, now carried on as an inn under the sign of "The Silver Stick," by Joyce Zennor, who, with her brother Willie, are wards to a grasping, miserly lawyer, one Joel Polperro, Mayor of Towey. He it is who holds the deeds of their inheritance, which he has converted to his own use, hence the poverty of the Zennors. The play opens at "The Silver Stick" on the night of May 7 of the present year, where a merry group have assembled to prepare for the ancient festival of "The Furry," which is held to this day in the far west of Cornwall. After the opening chorus and dance Professor Isidore Percival, a music hall artist, known to his companions as Rip, arrives upon the scene with the intention of stopping at the inn for the night, having an engagement to appear at a booth which is one of the shows of to-morrow's fair. He is much interested in his surroundings, and is about to remove the Silver Stick from its resting place, when he is warned that dire results might ensue, and that the place is haunted. Aunt 'Liza Ann, the cook at "The Silver Stick," has the reputation of being a witch, and she acts up to that repute both in costume and in her melodramatic manner. She narrates the legend of the Silver Stick and the ghost that haunts the hall, this being the night of its annual visitation. Rip is amused with this, and claims 'Liza Ann as a "pro," which leads to an amusing duet between them, "I guess you are a bit of a fraud." The revellers proceed on their way, and Joyce Zennor, with thoughts of love, sings one of the gems of the piece, "Waves bear him gently along," and then we have a charming and sweetly pretty love duet, extremely well rendered, between Joyce and her sweetheart, Roy Tregenna, a Cornish gentleman and a naval officer, by his uniform. They are interrupted by the arrival of another spooning couple, Willie Zennor and Pollie Polperro, who are on an up-to-date runaway match on a motor-car. Scarcely have they explained the situation in song and dance, when they are interrupted by the arrival in fierce haste of Joel Polperro in search of the runaways. As his daughter will not return with him, he determines to stay at the inn for the night, sleeping on a chair in the haunted hall. The Professor, who is under obligations to Willie for past favours, determines to assist him and his sister if he can, so by the aid of his wardrobe he appears as the ghost at the hour of midnight, and secures the keys of the safe from the affrighted Polperro. This brings the first act to a close.

The second act opens outside the house of the Mayor at Towey. The rejoicings are in full swing. The Mayor is much disturbed at the loss of his keys, and issues a warrant for the apprehension of Willie Zennor for an assault on the previous night, but Willie dons the garb of Mephistopheles and evades arrest. The Mayor arrives in his robe of office to lead the Furry Dancers in their merry house-to-house visitation, but Willie, by reason of his title of the Prince of Darkness, claims the post of honour, thus obtaining the entrée to Polperro's house, where Rip, by the aid of the keys, ransacks the safe, and secures the deeds which restore to the Zennors their property and position in the county, and as the price perty and position in the county, and obtains in return the consent for the marriage of his daughter Pollie with the man of her choice. On this happy ending the curtain falls to a melodious chorus.

Well played, the merry piece achieved an instant and pronounced success, and has been drawing crowded houses every night. The principals all received special calls, and in response to the continued calls for the author, he appeared and thanked the audience for their kind approval and encouragement. Mr. Compton James, in the arduous part of Joel Polperro, acquitted himself well, giving a powerful delineation of the grasping lawyer. Miss Alice Chapman as Pollie was excellent in every way. Mr. Ernest Lorimer played Willie Zennor admirably, his experience standing him in good stead. Mrs. F. J. Crockett was an ideal Joyce, graceful, sweet, and winning in her artlessness. She was artistic in her singing of the pretty love duet, her treatment of the dainty little love passages being instinct with tenderness. The applause for this duet was equally gained and shared by Mr. Albert H. Derrick (who appeared by kind permission of Mr. R. Courtneidge) in the part of the Cornish gentleman, Roy Tregenna. His acting was good, and his singing of "Fair Maid of the West" was a distinct success. Professor Reginald Isidore Percival, commonly known as Rip, a music hall artist, is a part that seemed written for Mr. Harvey Reeves, and he scored a big success, his topical song, "It's so easy," gaining numerous encores. Mrs. Compton James was also well suited as Aunt 'Liza Ann, cook at "The Silver Stick," a part played with good dramatic force and intensity. Miss Gertie Smith as Betty Bobbin was a pert and pretty barmaid, acting with a charming gaiety and humour, which were ably seconded by Mr. A. H. Odhams, who as Amos Love, ostler at "The Silver Stick," was full of comic force and bubbling over with humour. Mr. Harold was the egotistical parish clerk, Peter Piggins, to the life. Mr. J. T. Benson was distinctly good as Uncle Poldice. Mr. Harry Holland scored a big success as Grandfather Bolitho, "the oldest inhabitant." Mr. W. H. Barber's Sergeant Trevannion of the police was also a good character sketch, and Mr. M. Lambton as the Beadle of Towey was excellent. Incidental to the Furry dance in the second act, a delightful solo was danced with great charm and effect by Miss Maud Wilkins. The stage manager, Mr. T. S. James, is to be congratulated on the completeness of the production. The orchestra was ably conducted. Mr. William Bree well and courteously carried out the duties of business management. The wigs and costumes were by B. J. Simmons, Covent Garden, London. The special back cloth for the second act was painted by Ernest Howard, Scenic Studio, Northampton. The dances were specially arranged by B. M. Crompton, of London. The entire production is under the direction of the author.

MR. TREE once [illegible] answer that after he played [illegible] in *The Private Secretary* he was [illegible] urged and [illegible] by pecuniary considerations to go away [illegible] playing the part. He refused to do this, as he did [illegible] to become a fly in [illegible]; and he would have played Macari in *Called Back*, Macari being the very antithesis to [illegible] *Private Secretary*.

PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"THE BABES IN THE WOOD" AT EDINBURGH.

Messrs. Howard and Wyndham have added another success to their long list of triumphs in the pantomime, *The Babes in the Wood*, produced at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, on the evening of the 13th inst. The book, by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, strikes an opening note of gaiety and brightness which never grows faint, and the pantomime goes with a laugh from beginning to end. The concluding scene, The Homage of the Nations to King Eric, introduces a procession of representatives of different countries. The groups are arranged with great care, and the whole effect of the tableaux is to convey an impression of brightness and beauty characteristic of the entire pantomime, one of the best of the kind within the memory of Edinburgh playgoers.

Mr. Mark Sheridan plays Baron de Boots with much racy originality and genial humour. He is wonderfully buoyant, fertile in business, and with a constant flow of sprightly witticisms, which never fails to delight the audience. He scored a great success with the song, "Hello, hello, hello! it's a different girl again," the refrain of which was soon taken up by the gallery, and vigorously repeated. The Brothers Egbert, as the villains, have parts in which they simply revel. Their acrobatic knockabout business is never overstrained, but is gone through with a neatness and ease which excite constant wonderment, and evoke hearty applause. The principal boy, Miss Gwladys Elvey, is an actress of prepossessing appearance, with a charming figure and face. Her performance of Robin Hood is a dashing one, and her singing is finished and expressive. Miss Daisy Dormer, the Maid Marion, has a dainty, attractive personalty. She dances with exquisite grace, and sings with delightful fervour and freshness. Her felicitous rendering of "I've built a bamboo bungalow for you" was encored again and again. Miss Gladys Cooper is a very beautiful fairy queen, and her voice is cultured. She sang with intense feeling the new song, "Snowflakes," and was warmly recalled. The babes are in the hands of two engaging children, Wee Wallace and Baby Betty Green. The boy is a manly little chap, who plays his part with great zest, and dances a big-boot dance with extreme vivacity and dexterity. The girl, a pretty child, sings very sweetly, dances gracefully, and plays her part in a style which gives much promise for her future success. Miss Mildred Claire as Allan-a-Dale, and Miss Edna Loftus as Molly, are a pair of captivating sweethearts; and Mr. Harry Conlin shows undoubted powers as a comedian by his performance of Charity. That admirable actor of animal nature, Mr. Harry Lupino, gives further proof of his ability by his clever acting; and Master Nipper Lupino Lane as Pickles is a smart page, and shows what an extremely proficient dancer he is. Mr. Tom Walker's sonorous voice is of service in the choral work as King Eric; and pleasant performances of two fairy attendants are given by Miss Doris Cooper and Miss Vera Elvey. Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers imparted additional liveliness to the scenes in which they appeared; and the auxiliaries all did their work well. The scenery, by Mr. T. Holmes, Mr. Stanley Schuter, and Mr. E. H. Ryan, are excellent illustrations of the scene-painter's art. Mr. Holmes's canvases are clever studies, and there are force and humour in the work of Mr. Schuter. Mr. Ryan's examples are, as already stated, admirable in light, shade, and colour. The music in Scene 7, The Fairy Orchard, is charmingly composed by Mr. Geo. Burnley, the efficient musical conductor. The properties again reveal the facile hand of Mr. Geo. Sutherland; and Mr. Macalpine deserves praise for the mechanical effects. The fall of the curtain was the signal for prolonged applause, and calls for Mr. F. W. Wyndham, who appeared and bowed his acknowledgments, and then led on Mr. John J. Lloyd, who is largely responsible for the production. The audience renewed their applause, and were not satisfied until Mr. Mark Sheridan and the Brothers Egbert spoke a few words of thanks for the reception of the panto mime.

"MOTHER GOOSE" at GLASGOW.

Mr. Rich. Waldon produced the twenty-seventh annual pantomime at the Royal Princess's on Thursday, the 13th inst., and had the pleasure, very early in the evening, of realising that he had again "struck ile." A pathetic interest attaches to the fact that, for the first time in twenty-seven years, a different name is seen as librettist. Mr. Fred Locke, author of all the previous pantomimes at the Princess's, has been lying seriously ill since last January, and, in consequence of this, Mr. Waldon was reluctantly compelled to look elsewhere for a librettist. In the circumstances, no better choice could have been made than that of Mr. J. James Hewson, and he has written a book that is full of good things, and provides all the principals with numerous opportunities for showing their ability at its best. The ten scenes into which the pantomime is divided are all by the resident artist at this theatre, Mr. J. C. Bontor, and right well has he carried out this portion of the work. The opening scene, The Village of Meadowsweet, is a pretty set and Foxglove Glade, the concluding scene of Part I., is another charming picture, in which extensive use is made of electrical effects with happy results, this part of the business being again to the credit of Mr. D. Barbour, electrician at the Princess's. Part II. opens with a clever scene, representing the interior of Mother Goose's Poultry Shop, which affords lots of opportunity for funny trick effects. Scene VIII., On Board the Pirate Ship, is another clever bit of stage setting, and in this is given some very clever sailor dances by Dollie Bell's English Violets. In this scene is also introduced a smart burlesque of circus and variety business by Miss Ella Retford and Messrs. Foreman and Fannan. The concluding scene, The Court of Cupid, introduces some wonderful electrical devices, designed by Mr. Bontor, and carried out by Mr. Barbour. In addition, Mr. Bontor contributes some front cloths of much merit, including The Picture Gallery at Bombasto Castle, Lover's Lane, The Baron's Brown Study, and The Tail of the Bank. One scene is entitled Menzies' 'Bus and Panorama, and in this some excellent fooling is introduced by Foreman and Fannan and others. The 'bus is fixed, but the wheels revolve, the panorama goes flying past, and there is a moving track beside the 'bus, which tries the stability of the various characters, and the laughter was loud and long all through this scene.

For the hero of *Mother Goose*, Robin, a charming principal boy has been engaged in the person of Miss Ethel Campbell, who caught the fancy of the audience from the start. She has an attractive manner, sings well, and dances neatly, and has the gift of delivering her lines with point and precision, bringing out the humour of the author with neat emphasis, and making the hits—local, political, or otherwise—tell at once. Her various songs were received with enthusiasm, and hearty encores were insisted on for "When there isn't a girl about," "My sugar plum," "Stowaway," "Sailing in my balloon," and "Cupid," all of which are likely to be popular items during the run. As principal boy, Miss Ella Retford is just the ideal of Princess's audiences, being a dancer of special merit, and able to sing a coon song with an archness and vivacity that is irresistible. She acts brightly as the heroine, Marguerite, and made a huge success in every one of her songs. These included the tuneful "Zuyder Zee," with its sabot dance, which was encored several times; "Goodnight, Mr. Brown, I'm out," a special favourite; and the attractively-dressed item, "My little Eskimo," in which she had the aid of a chorus. In comedians Mr. Waldon has again made an excellent selection, and Messrs. Foreman and Fannan, as an Inspector and a Policeman, were responsible for some of the heartiest laughs the audience enjoyed. Their own special patter and business is fresh and original, and in the way of combining with the other comedians in funny business they were simply invaluable. Mr. Austin Lenton, who plays Mother Goose, is another clever artist, and ably contributed his quota to the fun. He is well made-up, and dresses humorously, without overdoing the exaggeration associated with pantomime dames. His songs included Rachel Lowe's "All go to church on Sunday," and with Mr. James Foreman he sang a clever duet, "Two little maids." Mr. Wal Croft, from his long association with *The Trip to the Highlands* company, is particularly well-known here as a Scotch comedian, and as MacGander, the goose merchant, he is provided with a part that affords him unlimited opportunity for the display of his quaint methods and mannerisms. He gives with much humour a lively ditty, entitled "If it hadna been a Sunday nicht," and a burlesque version of "Annie Laurie." Mr. Harry McClelland, the Baron Bombasto of the cast, has been seen before in Princess's pantomime, and gives a very good performance. Most of his speeches are interspersed with lengthy quotations from Shakespeare, and these he gives with due bombastic effect. He acts well with the others in the funny interludes. Messrs. James Ross and Harry Taylor as the Baron's retainers, so blithe and gay, are a smart couple of knockabouts, and assist well in all the lively business of the evening. The Sisters Hall (Ethel and Lily), as Strephon and Dorothy, are an attractive couple, and were accorded an enthusiastic reception. In the pretty song, "Moon, dear," they were specially successful, and their "Boy Blue" was another enjoyable item. The opposing forces of good and evil are represented by Miss Sadie Wade as Fairy Greatheart, in which part she speaks her lines with excellent effect, and by Miss Grace Elvio as the Stately Spirit of Discord.

The dressing and staging of the present pantomime mark a distinct advance even on last year's production, and much credit is due to Miss Binnie for the handsome dresses designed and made under her care. The entire production was superintended by Mr. Rich. Waldon, who said he had practically lived in the theatre for a week previously, and in the duties of stage-manager he has an able assistant in Mr. S. K. Alexander. The mechanical changes and running track are by Mr. John Higson; the trick properties by Mr. L. Glennie; Mr. David Barbour has eclipsed his former efforts in the elaborate electrical devices; while the scenery is all from the brush of Mr. J. C. Bontor, who had the honour of several calls on the opening night, and shared with Mr. Waldon in the enthusiastic recall at the conclusion. In response to loud demands, Mr. Waldon thanked the audience for their hearty reception of his latest effort, and hoped for their patronage for many weeks to come. Mr. Hugh Murdoch ably carried out his arduous duties as acting-manager, and had the invaluable assistance of Mr. Harry McKelvie, manager of the Palace.

"THE BABES" AT LIVERPOOL.

The management of the popular Star Theatre has the honour this year of being the first in the local field with pantomime. On Monday evening a large audience expressed their cordial appreciation of *The Babes in the Wood*, an entirely new production emanating from the pen of Mr. Joseph L. Barry. There is every promise that the work will prove a big success on tour, for Mr. Fred Granville, the producer, has spared neither expense nor trouble in creating a most acceptable show. Dresses and scenery are entirely new, and extremely pretty, the artists (about fifty in number) capable and full of that energy necessary to keep things in swing, while the dialogue has a flavour of originality that is pleasing to the ear and the latest songs are introduced. Praise is also due to Mr. Arthur W. Parry for his catchy music

Miss Bertha Cousins, who was the principal boy Robin Hood, sang with taste, and was particularly good as a dancer, for which she earned rounds of applause; a dainty Maid Marian was submitted by Miss Hettie Lind, her rendering of "The Zuyder Zee" meeting with acceptance; Miss Cissie Bodina looked like a fairy queen, and, possessed of a charming voice, sang with touching effect "Sweet dreams of my homeland"; credit is deserved by Miss Queenie West for her Merry Mavis; and Miss May Cornish did the utmost with Little John. A deal of valuable support came from the gentlemen of the company. As the schemer Aconita Mr. H. Val Morgan afforded an excellent picture of one whose deeds are evil; Mr. Norman Hall, inclined in a similar direction, was well to the fore in the character of the wicked uncle; the two villains, engaged to put away the babes, could scarcely have had abler and funnier exponents than the Kimberley Boys, who were the mainstay of the pantomime; Mr. Joe English helped with the laughter as the eccentric schoolmistress; Master Harry Boden and Miss Edie Bell were the Babes, and brought down the house with their remarkable dancing, having to respond to several encores; and Mr. Dan Mining made his Friar Tuck particularly humorous. In the last scene several specialities were introduced, the big feature being classical tableaux by the Three Graces; the Clancy Girls, four in number, gave a pleasing and clever turn as acrobats and dancers; and the Three Bodinas made a hit with their musical mélange. Mr. Harris Fineberg, the proprietor of the theatre, who evinced deep interest in the new production, is to be congratulated upon this year's show.

"GOODY TWO-SHOES" AT PAISLEY.

Mr. J. H. Savile presented his tenth annual pantomime to a crowded house at his Paisley Theatre on Saturday evening. The story chosen for illustration is *Goody Two-Shoes*, invented and written by Mr. Fred Locke, a sad feature being the fact that it was the last work of this well-known pantomime writer before his illness took such a serious turn. The mounting has received lavish treatment, and in point of splendour and beauty this year's production will long be remembered. The production has been divided into two parts, five scenes being allotted to each. The first scene discloses The Village, a beautiful piece of work by Mr. J. M. O'Farrell, the resident scenic artist. The second scene, Interior of Dame's Cot, also by Mr. O'Farrell, is a very pretty set. Here Roland (Miss Marie Adair) gives an exquisite rendering of "By the side of the Zuyder Zee," and an opportunity occurs to Phil and Tom (the Passmore Brothers) for some clever knockabout business. In a wonderfully realistic local scene, The Linn, Braes o' Gleniffer, by Mr. O'Farrell, Dame Freckles (Mr. Jack Foley) scores with a parody of his own on "In the shade of the old apple tree" and Mephisto sings "Will o' the Wisp" in dramatic style. In the Baron's Library the Baron (Mr. H. A. Gribben) contributes a capital song with whistling chorus; a clever sketch is submitted by Goody and Simon, which was remarkably well performed and warmly appreciated. In the next scene, The Gardens en Fête, a setting that shows some lovely floral effects from the brush of Mr. Wm. McCulloch, a pretty ballet takes place. The opening scene of the second part, All the Fun of the Fair, by Mr. O'Farrell, gives opportunity for many specialities, chief being the graceful dancing of the Tricky Trio, the acrobatic and hand-balancing performance of Smirk and Smile (Messrs. Claremont and Victor), and an amusing show, with grotesque and original make-up, by the Brothers Passmore. The eighth scene, My Father's Brother's Shop (Mr. O'Farrell) is a truly lively one, and contains some capital fooling. No more dashing pantomime boy than Miss Marie Adair could have been selected for the part of Roland. Good-looking, beautifully dressed, a capital actress, singing with plenty of verve, at once sympathetic and vivacious, this young lady was a tower of strength, if she may be described as anything so stern and unmoving. With her is Miss Maggie Bowman, who fills the rôle of Goody Two-Shoes. Hers was in every way a fascinating and romantic embodiment. As a vocalist, too, Miss Bowman easily gained a place in the esteem of the audience, who rewarded this dainty and clever lady with frequent applause. Miss Carrie Foy, the Peter Piper, fills the rôle with admirable ability. A handsome presence, good singing, and rare vivacity are all brought to her aid. Associated with her is Miss Adela Crispin, whose Dolly Dimple was winsome and acceptable. Smart and attractive, and with many dainty ways, she at once sets the stamp of success upon her performance, her singing of "The Man in Manitoba" making a decided hit. Mr. Peter Bermingham is responsible for a vast amount of laughter, caused by his whimsical sayings and doings in the rôle of Sandy Sapps. Varied are the different characters assumed by this resourceful comedian, contriving in each instance to be genuinely humorous and diverting. At his side constantly is Mr. Jack Foley, who as Dame Freckles re-established himself, after a few years' absence, firmly in the good graces of the audience. His Dame bubbles over with high spirits and quaint remarks. As Baron Grabb Mr. Harry A. Gribben worked with unflagging energy and asserted himself throughout with pronounced success. Mr. Tom J. Morton scored in his assumption of Simple Simon, and some of the business introduced by this amusing and experienced artist is excellent of its kind. The Passmore Brothers as Phil and Tom are a pair who would be a credit to any pantomime, and on this occasion they achieved decided distinction. Messrs. Claremont and Victor as Smirk and Smile have little to do, but their acrobatic and hand-balancing performances were applauded. Miss Florence Lister as Mephisto employs a good contralto voice effectively in her songs, and likewise acts well. As Fairy Goodheart Miss Lena Wylie is charming, her finished and artistic singing being vociferously applauded. The Tricky Trio of speciality dancers (Dollie Lancaster, Queenie Hollingsworth, and Maisie Rawlins) performed splendidly.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

On Friday evening, Dec. 14, the pupils of Mr. L. F. Chapuy gave a dramatic performance in the theatre of the School. The programme commenced with a scene from Sheridan Knowles's *Hunchback*, the characters of Julia and Helen being brightly enacted by Miss Gertrude A. Shill and Miss Winifred Doré Johnson. In the abridged version of *The Little Treasure*, by Augustus Harris, Miss Gertrude A. Shill displayed no little talent for comedy in the part of Gertrude; while Miss Julie C. Huntsman appeared to great advantage as the stern mother-in-law, Mrs. Meddleton. Miss Eunice Moore made a sympathetic Lady Florence Howard; and Mr. J. A. Ellerton an effective Sir Charles Howard. The humorous part of Captain Walter Maydenblush was cleverly played by Mr. James L. Dale; and the small part of the servant, Jane, by Miss Pleasant Hurst. The performance concluded with John Daly's original comic drama, *Mother Carey's Chickens and Young Husbands*, in which the character of the match-making mother, Mrs. Carey, was skilfully undertaken by Miss Julie C. Huntsman, Miss Emily M. Surridge being equally successful as Anna Carey, the bride. The other daughters of Mrs. Carey, Mrs. Fagg, and Mrs. Digby Spooner, were cleverly played by Miss Eunice Moore and Miss Gertrude A. Shill; while the two single daughters, Miss Sophia and Miss Jane, were performed in a lively manner by Miss Badcock and Miss Huntly. Mr. Jackson played Digby Spooner, the young husband with betting proclivities, with ability; and Mr. J. A. Ellerton caused much merriment by his quaint acting in the character of Uncle Gadbury. Mr. Maurice A. Rossiter gave a capital study of the rather caddish shop-keeping husband, Matthew Fagg; and Mr. Earle Gabriel was effective as Alfred Vacil, the bridegroom. The comic element was supplied by Mr. Andrew Pace in the part of Wee, otherwise Montgomery, the hired waiter; and Miss G. Amy Sylvert as Mrs. Dunder a most realistic charwoman, Miss Winifred Doré Johnson appearing as Mary, the housemaid. The dramatic pupils did their able professor, Mr. L. F. Chapuy, great credit. Between the acts Miss Jessie Willis gave selections on the piano.

A dramatic performance of W. S. Gilbert's *Pygmalion and Galatea* was given in the theatre of the school by the pupils of Miss Kate Rorke on Thursday evening, Dec. 20, and Miss Rorke had every reason to be gratified by the successful result. Gilbert's mythological comedy is no easy task for students, and therefore the correct delivery of the somewhat long speeches and the intelligent dramatic action with which they were accompanied merit great praise. Mr. George Cooke made a manly Pygmalion, delivering his lines with admirably clear enunciation. The young actor might, however, have shown a little more surprise and awe in the scene where Galatea first shows signs of life. It must have been no easy task to secure a young lady who could look as well as act the part of Galatea, but in Miss Ethel McDowal quite a clever and statuesque exponent of the character was found. Miss McDowal showed no little talent as an actress, and evidently appreciated the quiet satire underlying Gilbert's clever dialogue. The young lady had quite a hearty round of applause after her chief speech. Miss Annie Walden proved an excellent Cynisca, with great aptitude for the dramatic features of her part; and Miss Olga Kent made a charming Myrmi; while Mr. Ben Soulten, jun., showed ability as a comedian, although at first disposed slightly to exaggerate the art patron Chrysos. As Daphne, Miss A. Castiglione was effective; and Mr. J. M. Napper as the young soldier Leucippus deserved praise. The smaller parts of the two slaves, Mimos and Agesimos, were efficiently undertaken by Miss Irene Grahame and Miss Madge Thorne. The dresses were characteristic and effective, and the scene of the studio capitally managed, though we must take exception to the large goose painted on the centre wall, which, however appropriate at this present season, was not very Grecian. The second piece performed was Alfred C. Calmour's poetical play *Cupid's Messenger*, in which Mr. S. Marryat Hughes appeared as Sir Phillip Sydney, Miss Winifred Barnett as Mary Herbert, and Miss Kathleen Ewen as Fanny Walsingham. A small orchestra under the direction of Mr. H. Philipe Thomas gave short selections during the evening.

A new hall is in course of erection at Abertillery. It is to have a holding capacity of over 2,000. It is not yet decided whether it will be a public hall or a music hall, but, without doubt, it will be licensed for entertainments.

We learn that Lever Brothers, Ltd., of Sunlight Soap fame, have issued writs for libel against the *Daily Mail*, *Daily Mirror*, and *Evening News*. Any statements or representations on the stage defamatory of them or their business will therefore render the responsible persons liable to be proceeded against.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

NEW ENGLISH AND FOREIGN PLAYS.

In order to assist managers and others in the selection of pieces for production and adaptation, we are publishing from time to time synopses of likely English and Continental plays, so that dramatic speculators may judge for themselves of the suitability of the plots for their purpose. Authors wishing for this publicity should forward synopses to "Playwrights," care of *The Era*, from whom further particulars can be obtained.

THE STREET SINGER.

A Musical Drama, in Four Acts, by Hal Reid.
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Morgan van Voort is an octogenarian, multimillionaire, and a despicable old roué. He has an illegitimate son, Lawrence Winfield, whom he has made his business-manager, and a younger legitimate son and heir, Billy, who is engaged, secretly, to "La belle Violetta," otherwise Violet Vodray, a famous singer, daughter of old John Vodray, Morgan's honest confidential bookkeeper. Madge Westervelt is an unprincipled adventuress, in league with Lawrence Winfield to swindle Billy out of his inheritance. This precious couple have obtained large sums by means of forged cheques and the like, and have succeeded in casting grave suspicion upon John Vodray. Morgan wishes to marry Violet; but Mona Mayne, one of Morgan's many victims, has warned Violet of the fate in store for her; so she refuses Morgan's advances, and announces her engagement to Billy. Enraged at her refusal, Morgan threatens to prosecute John Vodray, unless Violet consents to marry him. To save her father, Violet marries Morgan, but leaves him at the altar. Returned to her apartments, Violet makes no secret of her love for her former fiancé, Billy, now her step-son. Disowned by his father, Billy lives with Violet and her father, in constant dread of old Morgan's revenge. Violet desires to divorce Morgan and marry Billy. Their hiding-place is soon discovered by Madge and Lawrence, who plot to get rid of Billy, by fair means or foul, and effect Lawrence's recognition by Morgan as his son and heir. Billy is to quarrel with Lawrence, who is to kill him in a duel. Morgan finds Billy talking to his stepmother; he makes the most of this discovery; reminds Violet that his promise to refrain from prosecuting her father was only a verbal one; threatens immediate proceedings unless Violet returns to conjugal life with him, and urges Lawrence to assault Billy. Blows are exchanged, and a duel arranged, and steps are taken for the immediate arrest of John Vodray. He, however, contrives to escape with Violet and Billy. Morgan urges Lawrence to kill Billy in the duel, promising him public acknowledgment as his son and large sums of money, but Billy injures his hand and is unable to fight. By arrangement with the seconds, a substitute is permitted; and Violet, in mask and male attire, unknown to Billy, however, fights with Lawrence, wounding and disarming him. Old Morgan's vast wealth enables him to reduce John Vodray, Violet and Billy to the depths of poverty; and still flying from his persecution, they are obliged to sing in the streets, with a barrel-organ, disguised as Mexicans. Morgan succeeds in tracing them to their poor lodgings in a miserable part of New York City. Lawrence has captured Billy's place in Morgan's will, as sole heir, and holds a document stating his parentage. Their hiding-place being discovered, there is a very sensational escape by the fire-ladders outside the block of buildings. Morgan is furious with the failure to capture them, and has a violent quarrel with Lawrence, threatening him with disinheritance. Billy arrives on the scene of the quarrel, and is taunted by Morgan about his love for his stepmother. Lawrence, who was about to stab Morgan, steals behind Billy, whose hand is raised over Morgan threateningly, stabs Morgan, and, dropping his knife at Billy's feet, accuses him of murdering his father. The police arrive, and Morgan expires, after telling Lawrence that, after all, he has not had time to alter his will in his favour, and accusing Billy of murdering him. Violet, now a very rich widow, uses her wealth to obtain the acquittal of Billy, who is in prison awaiting trial as his father's murderer. Installed in Morgan's Fifth-avenue mansion, she contrives a trap for Madge and Lawrence to confess their various misdeeds, Billy and the necessary witnesses being concealed within earshot. The trick succeeds. Lawrence and Madge, the latter half-intoxicated, quarrel, and their mutual abuse and incrimination establish, beyond all doubt, Billy's complete innocence. Lawrence is arrested on the charge of having murdered old Morgan, and Violet and Billy are left free to discuss their future relationship to each other. There is abundant Irish and other comic relief. Musical numbers and specialities can be arranged for Violet and a troupe of girl-singers who appear in connection with the plot.

"The Green Room Book" for 1907 will appear early in the New Year. Over 500 additional biographies of leading actors, actresses, dramatists, critics, &c., both of the Old World and the New, will be included, and the biographies which appeared in the first edition have been carefully edited and corrected from authentic sources. A number of biographies of leading American actors, actresses, dramatists, &c., have been compiled, and the English stage will also be well represented. A complete index is being compiled, and in respect of permanent addresses the book will be very complete. The appendices will comprise a synopsis of London playbills of the year, new productions in New York, Paris, and Berlin, a record of theatrical events of the year, law cases of special importance to the profession, articles on dramatic critics and criticisms by Mr. J. T. Grein and the editor, obituary for 1906, a list of theatrical clubs, charities, and kindred institutions; a list of all the theatres, music-halls, concert-rooms, and "fit-up" halls in the United Kingdom and Ireland, with populations of the towns; a special article on theatrical finance, with tables showing market movements in theatre and music-hall shares, and box plans of all the leading theatres. The book, which will be illustrated by full-page portraits of well-known personages, will be issued at 5s. net, by T. Sealey Clark, 1, Racquet-court, Fleet-street.

Miss B. Wynne Matthison comes of histrionic stock. Her mother, under the name of Miss Kate Wynne, was known as a talented Welsh singer, and her father's brother, Arthur Matthison, dramatist and actor, played with Sir Henry Irving and with Booth. Miss Matthison, who, by the way, is a native of Shakespeare's county, having been born in Birmingham, has studied the works of the master dramatist since she was a child. In one year alone she gave 326 performances of parts from Shakespeare and *Everyman*. Miss Matthison, it will be remembered, played Portia with the late Sir Henry Irving on tour, as well as other leading parts.

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"SNOWFLAKES."
"THERE'S A MAN IN MANITOBA."
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"HOME, AGAIN, MY CHERRY BLOSSOM."
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
"MY SILENT SWEETHEART."

F. W. WYNDHAM'S PANTO, EDINBURGH.
"CHEYENNE."
"IT S A DIFFERENT GIRL AGAIN."
"SNOWFLAKES."
"COME TO THE TREE-TOPS."

RICHARD WALDON'S PANTO, GLASGOW.
"GOOD NIGHT, MR. BROWN, I'M OUT."
"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE?"
"BOY BLUE."
"THERE'S A MAN IN MANITOBA.
"STARLIGHT.

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MR. TREE AT NEW CROSS.

An immediate call upon Mr. Beerbohm Tree's sympathy since his return from his triumphal visit to Cardiff was made at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross, on Monday last, when the Dickens Fellowship Dramatic Society, of which Mr. Tree is president, gave a performance of *Dombey and Son* in aid of the Lord Mayor's Crippled Children's Hamper Fund. The house was crowded by an enthusiastic audience, Mrs. Dickens and daughters occupying a private box, and when, after the third act, the curtain rose and revealed Mr. Tree, the Lord Mayor (Sir William Treloar), the Mayor of Deptford, and Mr. C. W. Bowerman, the local M.P., standing on the stage, the cheering lasted for quite a minute.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, began Mr. Tree, beaming on the house, "I imagine that you thought this was another act of the play, but it is not. I desire to introduce to you the Lord Mayor of London. He is held in high respect throughout London, and that respect on my part is attended with affection. I have known the Lord Mayor for a very long period, and many years ago we fought side by side in the cause of the Sunday League. The Lord Mayor is in a sense the father of the citizens of London, and among his many children none are more dear to him than his cripple children, in whom he has for many years taken a warm interest. Last yea- something like 7,000 hampers were sent to these poor little children, and thus made their Christmas happy. After all, what is the great misery—I may say, the great tragedy—of life? Why, too little to eat. And what is the great joy—I may say, the comedy—of life? Why, to eat too much, at all events, for children—and many of us remain children all the time. It has been a great pleasure to us to witness the performance and see the really delightful representation of the play by the members of the Dickens Fellowship, with which I feel it an honour to be connected. I do not profess to be a great Dickens critic, but I love Dickens very much, and I believe that dear man Mr. J. L. Toole must have had something of Dickens's honest, sweet, warm nature. I think the honour was conferred on me in consequence of my having produced a Dickens play. You know what we produced"—Mr. Tree paused, evidently forgetting the name of the adaptation, until, prompted by the audience, he added, "*Oliver Twist*. We are," he continued, "shortly to see another Dickens play by Mr. Comyns Carr—*Edwin Drood*. I will not detain the Lord Mayor further, but hand him a cheque on behalf of the Dickens Fellowship. The cheque amounts to £50, thanks to your presence here to-day. Then there is a cheque from Mr. Louis Calvert for the sum of £10. Mr. Calvert and I have long been brother actors. I never allowed him to get the better of me, so I insist on adding my own cheque for £10 as a birthday gift. This happens to be my birthday, and the better the deed the better the day. The Mayor of Deptford will give another five guineas." Mr. Tree's speech was constantly interrupted by loud applause, which was heartily renewed at the close.

The Lord Mayor then stepped forward and said he had been very much interested in the play, but was still more interested to receive the cheques. Mr. Tree had told them that for many years he had sent out hampers to crippled children of the metropolis, and this year he thought he would send out more than 7,000. The fund arose in this way. Some thirteen years ago he had the idea of entertaining at the Guildhall some poor children, and he induced the Corporation to let him have the hall for the purpose. A few friends subscribed money to give the children a dinner, and 200 were provided with a meal. After paying expenses there was a little money over, and he asked the secretary of the Ragged School Union to let him have the names and addresses of crippled children for Christmas, and from that beginning had arisen the sending of hampers every year. They began with 200, and last year the number amounted to 2,500. To the certain knowledge of Lady Treloar and himself there were more than 7,000 poor crippled children in the metropolis of London other than those in institutions. He wanted to interest every Londoner in the success of the scheme which he had started, and he wanted those happy children who had nothing the matter with them and lived in nice homes to endeavour to collect a few shillings to help their less fortunate brothers and sisters. He was very pleased to be present and listen to the applause showered upon Mr. Tree as soon as he came on to the stage. Mr. Tree was a very old friend of his, and they had fought shoulder to shoulder in the cause of the National Sunday League. He was very much obliged to the ladies and gentlemen who performed in the play and much obliged also to the Dickens Fellowship, and he thanked the audience very heartily for their kind response to the appeal. His lordship concluded by calling for three cheers for Mr. Tree, which were enthusiastically given.

Mr. Calvert, the lessee of the theatre, briefly proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of Deptford, the Dickens Fellowship, and himself to the Lord Mayor and Mr. Tree, which was carried by acclamation, the curtain having again and again to be raised in acknowledgment of the applause.

The House of Dombey, which was recently produced at the Cripplegate Institute, is an effective adaptation in five acts of Dickens's novel by Florence Teignmouth Shore and Walter Dexter. It was ably represented, Mr. John M. Cohen as the adamant Mr. Dombey, Mrs. J. T. Grein as the young wife, and Mr. Frank Staff as the mincing Mr. Toots particularly distinguishing themselves.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Dec. 17,
the Historical Operetta, in Five Acts, entitled
"JUDAS MACCABÆUS."

The historical opcretta *Judas Maccabæus*, as performed by the Jewish Operatic and Dramatic Company on Monday evening at the Pavilion, is somewhat of a sombre nature for this season of the year, while it does not deal very largely with the warlike attacks that Maccabæus made upon Antiochus Epiphanes, but has evidently been written round the trials and persecutions the Jews endured during this ruler's reign. The story as presented was on the whole well acted and vividly picturesque, and secured a favourable reception from a good audience, although the torture scene was singularly lacking in stage-management. Mme. J. Kayzer as Medea was watched with close attention, while the intensity of her performance in the second act was marked by artistic ability of an unusual degree, which created a profound impression. As the deliverer of the Jews, Judas Maccabæus, Mr. M. Gusofsky was manly and vigorous, using his magnificent voice to great advantage, while Mr. J. Fineberg gave a finished study and was efficient as the scheming Antiochus Epiphanes. The impersonation of Chane by Mme. Berman was endowed with pathos and power; and Mr. Goldsmith as the Great Priest delivered his lines with intelligence and discretion. An acceptable representative of Nicanor was found in Mr. N. Isaacowitch; and Abinoel received careful treatment from Mr. Berman; while Miss Lubritzky enacted Aliezer with distinction. Mr. N. Hamburger was successful as Josohn; and Messrs. Markowitz, Seroki, Greenman, and Katchmeroff were competent in minor parts. During the week *Deborah*, *King Herodes*, *The Musician*, and *The Two Cripples* have been played.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS."

A Play, in Four Acts, by W. L. Courtney,
Produced at the Royalty Theatre, on
Sunday, Dec. 16.

Major Ralph Hawstorne..MR. NORMAN MCKINNEL
Dr. Tom Raleigh .....MR. MATHESON LANG
Hon. Guy Daneborough..MR. ARTHUR PLAYFAIR
Rev. Charles Hargreaves ..MR. GEORGE BEALBY
Lord Vivian Rodney ....MR. DANIEL MCCARTHY
Mr. Robert Tidman .....MR. FRANK COCHRANE
Mr. Ray Luneville .....MR. A. VANE TEMPEST
Grace Mayhew .....MISS LILIAN BRAITHWAITE
Lady Rolleston .....MISS GRANVILLE
Mrs. Mayhew .....MISS AGNES THOMAS
Baroness Daneborough..MISS FLORENCE HAYDON
Mrs. Hargreaves .....MISS EILY MALYON
Miss Angela Crompton ..MISS MABEL BEARDSLEY
Tommy .....MISS DOROTHY SCHOFIELD
Jarvis .....MR. PATRICK DIGAN

Presented by the dramatic society known as the Pioneers, *On the Side of the Angels* attracted a large and distinguished audience to the Royalty Theatre on Sunday night, amongst those present being Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. George Alexander, and Mr. Arthur Bourchier. It is a rather singular coincidence that, just at the time when one of the medical journals contains an article asserting that the use of cocaine seems to be growing, and that it directly stimulates to evil passions and evil deeds, a play which enforces the warning as to the effects of the habitual use of the drug should be produced at a London theatre. The first scene represents the interior of a country cottage in a Yorkshire village, to which Major Ralph Hawstorne has come, with the object of recovering his shattered health. He is under the care of his old nurse, Mrs. Mayhew, and her daughter, Grace. The relations existing between the man and the girl are made clear when they are left alone. It is also then that we first hear of a ring which Hawstorne has temporarily lost. While serving as a young soldier in India he was given by a native priest a ring containing three stones, and bearing the inscription, "What will be, must be. To desire, to possess, to know—this is the sum of human wisdom and of human folly." One of the stones has disappeared, and, as the play proceeds, the others are lost, a vein of superstition thus running through the whole story. Grace is perfectly happy with the man who has won her heart, though she is somewhat alarmed by the tale of the ring. But her peace of mind receives a much greater shock when a certain Lady Rolleston appears on the scene, and claims acquaintance with the Major. They have been close friends in India, and now she is staying with her brother at his shooting-box only a few miles away. She invites Hawstorne to spend a few days with them; he consents, and poor Grace, recognising a formidable rival in her ladyship, buries her face in her hands and cries bitterly as the curtain descends on the first act.

In the second act, the scene of which is at Mr. Guy Daneborough's shooting-box, we find Hawstorne in a moody, fretful temper. Everything looks its blackest, and it is at this moment he learns that his bankers have suspended payment, and he is a ruined man. Lady Rolleston has never disguised the fact that she still loves him, and she offers to marry him and come to his assistance financially. Notwithstanding the fact that he is morally bound to marry Grace, he accepts her ladyship's offer. Then, to quiet his unsteady nerves, he injects into his arm a dose of cocaine. As he is also drinking heavily, the result is that Hawstorne's brain is seriously affected, and he behaves like a maniac, to the consternation of Mr. Guy Daneborough and his guests. His medical attendant is sent for, and arrives only just in time, for the unhappy man falls to the ground in a fit. In the last act Hawstorne is again at the cottage, slowly recovering from his attack. He receives a visit from Lady Rolleston, who is about to restore to him the cigarette-case containing the deadly cocaine, which has been forbidden by the doctor, when Grace intervenes, and points out in forcible language the real nature of her ladyship's so-called love. Thus the woman who is "on the side of the angels" finally conquers.

The character of Major Ralph Hawstorne presented many difficulties. Mr. Norman McKinnel deserves every credit for the degree of success he achieved. A hard-drinking grandfather and a dissolute father have transmitted an hereditary tendency to evil habits, and Hawstorne's willpower is eventually destroyed by cocaine. Mr. McKinnel depicted this complex character with remarkable ability and power, graphically realising the horrible effects of the drug habit, the man's terrible outbreak at Lady Rolleston's house, as the combined result of the deadly drug and over-indulgence in drink, being extremely well done. Mr. Matheson Lang was excellent as Dr. Tom Raleigh, a young medico of the modern school, who explains in a concise, professional style the shocking fate of the man or woman who becomes a slave to cocaine. Mr. Arthur Playfair successfully embodied the part of the Hon. Guy Daneborough, a rough sporting character, who appears to have learnt his manners from the stable. Mr. A. Vane Tempest was well placed as Mr. Ray Luneville, an unknown poet, who poses as a brilliant conversationalist, but is regarded as a harmless lunatic by Lady Rolleston's extremely matter-of-fact mother. Miss Lilian Braithwaite played the part of Grace Mayhew with her usual charm of manner, and the loyal girl's devotion to the man who has won her heart was prettily expressed. Lady Rolleston is not a good woman; even her love for Ralph Hawstorne is wholly sensual and selfish, but Miss Granville, by her treatment of the character, contrived to win a certain amount of sympathy for the woman. Her acting in the strong scene with Hawstorne in the second act was specially deserving of recognition. Miss Agnes Thomas was very natural as Mrs. Mayhew, Hawstorne's old nurse, whose pet remedy is a piece of flannel placed over the heart. Miss Florence Haydon gave a delightful sketch of the Baroness Daneborough, a deaf but shrewd old lady. Mr. Daniel McCarthy was good as Lord Vivian Rodney, and Mr. Frank Cochrane lent useful assistance as Mr. Robert Tidman. Commendable work was also done by Miss Eily Malyon as Mrs. Hargreaves and Miss Mabel Beardsley as Miss Angela Crompton. Mr. George Bealby can be commended for his neat sketch of the Rev. Charles Hargreaves, little Miss Dorothy Schofield scored as Tommy, a crippled boy whom Hawstorne befriends, and Mr. Patrick Digan as the servant, Jarvis, adequately completed the cast.

The new play, which was produced under the direction of Mr. A. E. George, met with a favourable reception, and after the final fall of the curtain the author responded to a call.

MR. H. SHERRIFF HOWARD, general manager of the Queen's Theatre, Longton, took his tenth annual benefit on Monday, and was well supported both before and behind the footlights. Towards the close of the entertainment, Mr. Howard expressed his thanks, and said he would forward a cheque for £10 to the Cottage Hospital from the proceeds of his benefit. At the same time, Mr. Harry Fischer, of the *Cinderella* pantomime company, handed to Mr. Howard a handsome diamond pin which he said was a present from the directors to the general manager in recognition of the way in which he had conducted the theatre.

THE management of the Theatre Royal, Halifax, have entrusted their Christmas pantomime to Messrs. Partridge and Longden, who are to stage *Aladdin*, opening to-night (Saturday).

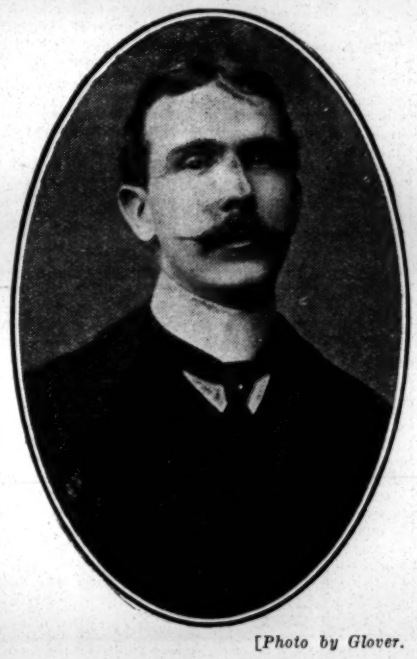
HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, CARLISLE.

There is something appropriate in the fact that Mr. Thos. Courtice, who in 1900-1-2 was resident-manager for Mr. Milton Bode and the late Mr. R. Stewart McKim at this theatre, should again find himself controlling its fortunes. On this occasion, however, he holds the reins of management largely on his own account, having acquired from the trustees of the late Mr. McKim a half interest in the lease with Mrs. McKim, in whose intereste and his own he now takes up the sole responsibility of management.

The present theatre, which occupies the same site as the building presided over by Mr. Courtice in the past, was erected in consequence of its predecessor having been destroyed by fire, and is in every respect a vastly superior building, not only holding a great deal more money, but being so appointed as to afford players and public alike the utmost comfort. The dressing-room arrangements are perhaps the most perfect in England. The stage itself is capable of any production, and is excellently lit with the latest electric appliances.

With these advantages, coupled with the fact that Carlisle is so conveniently placed for companies working their way to and from Scotland, Mr. Courtice has surely some reason for his confidence in the future of Her Majesty's Theatre, a feeling which is strengthened by the fact of his renewing the acquaintance of the numberless friends he made during his previous three seasons at Carlisle.

This actual experience of his own particular public cannot fail to be of advantage to him,



[*Photo by Glover.*

MR. THOS. COURTICE.

though, on the other hand, he feels that the four years that have intervened will enable him to take up his old position with larger and newer ideas, he having, as business manager for Mr. Charles Frohman and Mr. Robert Courtneidge, gained a wide experience of the workings of the largest theatres in the kingdom, as well as handling some of the greatest attractions of recent years. The fact of his having been associated with both the late Sir Henry Irving and Miss Ellen Terry will always be a source of pride to him, in addition to which the phenomenally successful first appearance in the provinces of Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks in *The Catch of the Season* resulted in some records which will ever be a source of satisfaction to look back on. Other star artists whom Mr. Courtice has been associated with include Miss Olga Nethersole, with whom he was twelve months in America, as well as at the Gaiety Theatre, London; Miss Madge McIntosh and Mr. Graham Browne during their seasons at the Comedy, the Court, and Terry's Theatre; with Mr. George Giddens at the Royalty Theatre; and tours with Miss Marie Dainton and Mr. Denis O'Sullivan and the late Alfred Maltby. Mr. Courtice's first experience began with the late Miss Sarah Thorne at the Theatre Royal, Margate, where, for the last three years of her life he acted as business manager for her; and seeing that since those days he has had almost every experience that management affords, from "fit-ups" to West-End management, he confidently hopes and expects to increase the reputation of the cosy Carlisle Theatre both with the public and the touring managers.

MISS McGRATH'S DRAMATIC AND VOCAL RECITAL.

At Brinsmead Hall last Saturday evening, Dec. 15, Miss Lylie McGrath, one of the professors of elocution at the Royal Academy of Music, gave a recital, assisted by Miss Wadia and Mr. Ambrose Coviello, and several of her diction and elocution pupils. The hall was well filled when the programme commenced with a pianoforte solo of Brahms Rhapsodie in G minor, played by Mr. Ambrose Coviello. Miss Mary Lauder sang "Autumn," by F. Abt, with expressive feeling, and Miss Eugenie Rittenburg was much applauded in Rameau's song, "Accourez, riante jeunesse." The recitation of four poems, "Spring," "Lamplighter," "Little Bo Peep," and "The Path," by Post Wheeler, were cleverly given by Miss Marjorie Martyr, one of Miss McGrath's pupils; and Miss Gale sang "Summer Night," by Goring Thomas, with good intonation, but a slight tendency to drag the time. Miss Ida C. Pierre recited Rudyard Kipling's "Grave of the Hundred Lead" with marked ability and dramatic effect. Miss Pierre comes from the West Indies, and, as Miss McGrath announced from the platform, was the first lady of her complexion who had recited before a London audience. The diction class gave "Three Cavalier Ballads" and "As I ride," by Robert Browning, and Miss Gwendolen Lally was warmly greeted for her recitation of Grieg's "Bergliot," and another most promising pupil of Miss McGrath's, Miss Muriel Allen, gave good effect to her recitation of "La belle dame sans merci," by Keats, and Robert Browning's "The Laboratory," the latter being encored. In the second part of the programme Mr. Ambrose Coviello played Chopin's piano solo, Scherzo in C minor skilfully, and Miss Lylie McGrath and Miss Gladys Baird gave a (selected) duologue that was well received by the audience, Miss Isabelle Wadia gave a successful rendering of Saint-Saëns' song, "Softly wakes my heart," from *Samson and Delilah*, and Miss Gladys Baird recited "Meet we no Angels?" words by Thomas Ashe and music by Stanley Hawley, and "Roadside Fire," with words by R. L. Stevenson and music by Miss McGrath. Among other clever pupils of Miss McGrath were Mr. Cyril Twyford and Miss Hilda C. Lyon. The accompanist was Mr. Henry Sanders.

PLAYGOERS' CLUB FESTIVITIES.

The joys of Yuletide were anticipated at the Hotel Cecil on Sunday, when the Playgoers' Club Ladies' Christmas dinner was given. It is admittedly the most successful function connected with the Club, and this year's celebration quite equalled those of former years, the fine banqueting-room being completely filled with a gay assemblage. The chair was ornamented by Mrs. Patrick Campbell, and amongst those present were Miss Phyllis Broughton, Miss Isabel Jay, Miss Mabel Love, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Huntly, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Glenister, Mr. Bannister Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Sounes, Mr. James Sharpe (hon. sec.), Mr. Osman Edwards, Mr. C. E. B. Kibblewhite, Mr. and Mrs. W. Sparks, Mr. Frederick S. Hess (hon. treasurer), &c.

In the absence of Mr. Hall Caine, who was too unwell to be present, the toast of the evening, "The Ladies (our Guests)," was proposed by the vice-president, Mr. H. Passmore-Edwards, who said it had cost him nights of sleepless agony in wondering how he could do justice to his subject, his audience, and the traditions of the Club. It was a very happy omen that Mrs. Patrick Campbell should preside at a dinner of the Playgoers' Club, for their initials were the same, and he thought they might infer a pleasant bond of sympathy from that coincidence. Mr. Passmore-Edwards referred in the highest terms of praise to Mrs. Campbell's various impersonations. It was with the greatest possible pleasure that they welcomed her amongst them that night. They always loved to honour those who were an honour to our stage, and, in according their warmest greetings to Mrs. Campbell, they knew that they were right. Handing Mrs. Campbell a handsome mirror, the speaker asked her acceptance from the Club of a little gift as a souvenir of one of the most charming evenings they had ever spent within those walls.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell, who had a most enthusiastic reception, said in response that it had been a pleasure, a very great pleasure to her, to take the chair that night, but she would have to tell them that when Mr. Hess asked her to do so, he gave her his most solemn word that she would not be asked to speak, and Mr. Edwards had given his most solemn word to the same effect. Ten minutes ago, however, she was assured that everyone would pay half-a-crown more for their tickets if she would consent to speak. She felt, therefore, that she must say a few words, however foolish. She was glad, after all, that everyone had broken their most solemn words, for it enabled her to thank them heartily for the lovely mirror which had been given her by the Club. When she looked in the mirror of late, she had a slight feeling of regret, but whenever she looked into the mirror she then held in her hand, she would do so without any regret, but remember only that pleasant evening and their charming treatment of her. She thanked them very, very warmly.

It was afterwards announced that Mrs. Campbell would write her signature on the menu at a charge of half-a-crown, and by that means realised for the Children's Pantomime Fund £10—double the amount, it was stated, that has ever been received for autographs of the Club's guests. Miss Phyllis Broughton and Miss Mabel Love were also subjected to a siege of autograph hunters, whose attacks they smilingly survived. Great applause greeted the announcement during the evening that Mr. Arthur Collins had invited two thousand poor children to the dress rehearsal of Drury Lane pantomime, and that Mr. Bannister Howard had extended a similar invitation to fifteen hundred at the Crystal Palace in January.

An admirable concert was begun by Mr. Tom Clare, who gave a clever parody at the piano of "Love, could I only tell thee!" Miss Clarice Mayne was wildly encored for her lifelike imitations of popular favourites; Miss Madge Vincent was similarly honoured, Mr. Arthur Bleackley aroused enthusiasm for his vivid reproductions of eminent actors, Mr. Charles Capper whistled the popular "Estudiantina" mellifluously, Mr. Leslie Stiles sang "I dream" with fine expression, Miss Aileen Hodgson gave a cultivated rendering of French ballads, and the programme was completed by Miss Rosamund Bury, Miss Ida Freeman, Mr. Arthur Melrose, Mr. Frederick H. Blamey, and Mr. Harrison Latimer.

KING'S THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.

Things theatrical bear a most interesting aspect in Sunderland, two first-class houses being in course of erection within a stone's throw of each other, and within a stone's throw also of the existing Avenue and Palace Theatres.

The Empire (Mr. Thornton's) had its foundation-stone laid a few weeks ago by Miss Vesta Tilley, and is to be a three-tier house, and will be used for the two-turns-a-night system. Most remarkable, however, has been the progress in erecting the new King's Theatre, situate in Crow Tree-road, the building of which, to outside appearances, seems finished almost.

The King's can claim to be unique amongst theatres, being the first, and thus far the only, theatre to be constructed of ferro-concrete (Hennebique's patent).

The whole of the foundations, piers, grand circle, and gallery are made of this material, which consists of concrete made from gravel, whin, sand, and special Portland cement, reinforced with round steel bars and hoops.

These ferro-concrete structures are able to withstand enormous strains, and, owing to the protection provided by the concrete to the steelwork, the latter remains rustproof for ever, obviating the frequent inspection and repainting of exposed steelwork which are necessary in metallic structures generally. The same cause also renders the building absolutely fireproof. The recent conflagrations at Baltimore and San Francisco have proved most fully that concrete is the best protection which may be given to steelwork against intense heat, and in the construction of a theatre this is a matter of considerable importance, and in the case of the King's it has been given full attention and regard, the utmost possible safety compatible with the necessary comfort having been provided.

Appliances of the most modern and improved type are being fitted in connection with the stage, which can at a moment's notice be completely isolated from the rest of the building. The design has been executed on the cantilever principle, so as to avoid the inconvenience to the audience of columns obstructing the view of the stage.

Accommodation is being made for about 3,000 persons, special attention having been given to the number of exits from every part of the house.

The furnishing and decoration of the theatre will be most modern and sumptuous, and the whole erection will be lit by electricity.

Mr. Wm. Hope, of Newcastle, and Mr. S. F. Davidson, also of Newcastle, are the architect and contractor respectively for the building. The ferro-concrete work is being carried out under the direct supervision of M. Hennebique's district manager, Mr. Guerrittee, of Newcastle.

MILTON WELLING'S FUND.

Subscriptions received :—

Alfred Hayes	£1	1	0
H. E. Chattell	1	1	0
R. C. Wyse	1	1	0
Thos. Dawkins	0	10	6
A. A. and Co.	0	5	0
C. G. P. L.	0	5	0

"THE DANDY DUKE;
or, THE MAN WHO WASN'T."

A New and Original Musical Burlesque,
in Two Acts, written and composed by Vere Smith,
with Lyrics by D. Eardley Wilmot,
Stephen Eaton, and Vere Smith,
Produced at the Theatre Royal, Brighton,
on Monday, Dec. 17, 1906.

The Duke of Rothenbosch .....MR. VERE SMITH
Philip Phootle .....MR. HAROLD T. RICHARDSON
The Hon. Claude Pulham ....MR. CLAUDE DALE
Alexander .....MR. LOW WARREN
William Hodge .....MR. THOMAS I. GATES
James McEachran .....MR. FRANK T. TOULMIN
Anthony Godolphin .....MR. W. J. STEERS
John .....MR. G. LAKE
Prompter .....MR. J. HOPSON
Lyon Barn-Stormer .....MR. A. CONSTANTINE
Colonel Dumbel-Bower ....MR. MERVYN TREVOR
Carmina .....MISS DOROTHY LIDDELL
Mrs. Bang .....MISS DOROTHY LANDON
Annie Hodge .....MISS DOLORES JACKSON
Suzanne .....MISS GRETCHEN SAWYER
Dorothy .....MISS BOWLER
Winifred .....MISS CORBETT
Betty .....MISS E. OWEN
Editha .....MISS E. ROSS
Hilda .....MISS M. ROSS
Marjorie .....MISS SENNETT
Gwendolin .....MISS T. WALLER
Valerie .....MISS WILSON
Eileen .....MISS EILEEN MOLYNEUX
Daisy .....MISS THOMAS
Martha .....MISS L. COLBATCH CLARKE
Rosaline .....MISS MARGARET COOPER

The fashionable audience gave a cordial reception to *The Dandy Duke* at the Brighton Theatre Royal on Monday evening, when it opened a week's run in aid of the Sussex County Hospital, and was performed by local amateurs, who had some professional support. The story is of a very slender character, its leading features being the escapades of the Dandy Duke, who disguises himself as James MacEachran, the long-lost father of Carmina, in order that he may gain the young lady's respect, and ultimately her hand and heart. If the plot is somewhat weak, the author has achieved a distinct success in the music he has wedded to the lyrics of the burlesque. The vocal solos and concerted pieces are refined, graceful, and delightfully tuneful, and his dainty, charming orchestration reaches a high standard of excellence. The piece was admirably staged; the scenery, by Messrs. W. Drury and T. Bull, comprised two superb sets descriptive of The Village of Rothenbosch and The Hall at Colonel Dumbel-Bowers'. The dresses were rich and handsome, and the full chorus and orchestra numbered upwards of a hundred performers. The opening representation of the burlesque went with surprising smoothness and an exhilarating swing, and the duties of conductor were carried out with masterly skill by Mr. F. D. Bulkley-Byng, of the Alhambra, London. Miss Margaret Cooper, who is a great favourite with Brighton concert-room audiences, enhanced her reputation by her graceful and charming impersonation of Rosaline, the Dandy Duke's sister. She invested the songs allotted to her with sweet, sympathetic tone and artistic finish, and was unanimously encored for her renderings of "Hey Ho!" and "Crimson Rose," but achieved her greatest success in "Fairyland," a veritable vocal gem, supported by beautiful orchestration and fine choral singing. She was also conspicuously effective in the stirring song, "The Soldier Girl." Mr. Vere Smith as the Duke of Rothenbosch was well suited, and acted with alertness and spirit. His songs were ably rendered, his treatment of "I'm from Australia" being especially effective. Mr. Harold T. Richardson proved very entertaining as the dude, Philip Phootle, his quaint style reminding one forcibly of Mr. G. P. Huntley. Mr. Claude Dale, who possesses a light and well-trained tenor voice, gave an excellent enactment of the Hon. Claude Pulham. The duet "If I ever thought of marrying you," in which he was joined by Miss Margaret Cooper, was awarded the honour of a double encore. Mr. Low Warren was droll as Alexander (the Duke's servant), and Miss Gretchen Sawyer made a dainty and bright Suzanne (Rosaline's maid). Their love-making scenes were diverting, and their duet, "The Bond Street Beauty Shop," was warmly appreciated. Mr. Mervyn Trevor as Colonel Dumbel-Bower submitted a capital character-study, and in his eccentricities and by-play recalled Mr. George Graves's General des Ifs. Miss Dorothy Liddell's Carmina merits warm commendation. Her singing and dancing were alike excellent, and she was heartily encored in her songs, "He gave the lady away" and "The Musical Comedy Girl." Miss Dorothy Landon's Mrs. Bang and Miss Dolores Jackson's Annie Hodge were capital impersonations, bright and merry. Mr. W. J. Steers was humorous as the butler, Anthony Godolphin; and Mr. Thomas I. Gates showed praiseworthy acting as Farmer William Hodge. Mr. Frank T. Toulmin made the most of his opportunities as James McEachran; and Miss L. Colbatch Clarke was sprightly as the cook, Martha. Miss Eileen Molyneux won enthusiastic applause for her gracefully executed solo dances; and other special dances were effectively given by the Misses Bull, Colville, Hodgson, and Jenkins. Much of the spectacular success of the piece was due to the eight Bored Ladies, who were exquisitely gowned and posed gracefully. The choruses were ably rendered. On the termination of the performance Messrs. Vere Smith and Mervyn Trevor and Miss Margaret Cooper were called to the front. The duties of acting-manager to the company are courteously carried out by Mr. Charles Howard, who is well known in local as well as London theatrical circles.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Dec. 17,
the Drama, in Four Acts, by Fredk. S. Jennings
and W. P. Sheen, entitled
"WHY WOMAN SINS."

With the Borough Theatre closed for pantomime rehearsals, the Theatre Royal holds sway this week at Stratford in catering for local playgoers. Popular audiences, who are not too insistent on the score of probability, but like their dramatic fare served "hot and strong," will find *Why Woman Sins* much to their liking, for there are thrilling incidents galore, with plenty of comic interludes. A well-balanced cast has been engaged by Mr. Samuel James, and the piece is excellently mounted. Mr. John D. Sanders makes a manly and buoyant Lieut. Harry Maxwell; and Mr. Jackson Hayes contributes an incisive and very convincing portraiture of the callous and blackguardly Captain Herbert Carlton. Mr. Alec Forbes is responsible for a most effective sketch of Jim Rainbird; and Mr. George Ellis plays capitally as the easy-going Cecil Spencer. Mr. A. P. Kaye is always amusing as Sam Spavins; and the lighter side of the piece is further contributed to by Mr. C. Grant as Bobby Beans, and Mr. Fred May as Orlando Whiffles. Miss Gertrude Netterville plays very powerfully as the scheming Ida Vallette, an exacting part, which is handled with admirable restraint; and Miss Hilda Baynton makes a charming and sympathetic Nell Desmond. Miss May Seton is vivacious and pleasing as Lily de Vere; Miss Ella May plays brightly as Nancy Nibble; and Miss Bertha Baker presents a plaintive figure as the waif, Jack Smith. The remaining parts are undertaken with intelligence and care.

LITTLE MAX DARLEWSKI, the marvellous boy pianist, composer, and conductor, will appear at a special matinée at the Palace, Southampton, on Wednesday afternoon next, at 3 p.m.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree was enthusiastically acclaimed at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross, on Monday, when he handed the Lord Mayor of London the proceeds of the performance of *Dombey and Son*, given by the Dickens' Fellowship, of which society Mr. Tree is president. The house was crowded, and large numbers assembled outside to greet the distinguished visitors. The occasion was Mr. Tree's birthday, and he marked it happily by adding to the receipts to be devoted to the Lord Mayor's Crippled Children's Fund a cheque for £10, wittily paraphrasing an old saying by adding, "The better the deed, the better the day."

An ingenious method of securing the signatures of supporters of the Irving Memorial was adopted at the Garrick Theatre on Tuesday. After the meeting all present were invited on the stage to append their names to a sheet, but it was clear that it would be a long proceeding, and many might not stay to carry out the request of the committee. More effective measures were therefore taken, and as the large assemblage passed out by way of the stage they found the stage-door keeper's office occupied by Mr. Cyril Maude, who carefully supervised the appending of the names, while Sir Charles Wyndham stood in the corridor courteously but unmistakably directing attention to the operation.

The death of Mr. Hamilton Aïdé, which occurred on the 14th inst., after only two days' illness, has brought to a sudden termination a career of wide diversity in the literary world. The deceased gentleman, who had reached the age of seventy-six, wrote poems, songs, and novels, and made several notable contributions to dramatic literature. He had the distinction of writing for Sir Henry Irving, in 1874, a play taken from the French, called *Philip*, which, however, attained only a brief run. Mr. Aïdé made a hit with a piece entirely of his own, entitled *A Nine Days' Wonder*, produced at the old Court Theatre in 1875, with Mr. Hare and Mrs. Kendal in the cast. A long run awaited his adaptation of *Dr. Bill*, produced at the Avenue in 1890, with the success of which Mr. George Alexander was so prominently associated. Other plays by Mr. Aïdé were *Die Fledermaus*, an adaptation made in 1876; *All or Nothing*, produced in 1880; *Cousins*, 1882; *A Great Catch*, 1883; the libretto of *Not At Home*, staged in 1886; and *Incognito*, given at the Haymarket in 1888.

Mr. Lewis Waller entertained about 400 crippled children to a special performance of *Robin Hood*, given at the Lyric Theatre on Monday afternoon on behalf of the Lord Mayor's Fund for Cripple Children. The dress circle and upper circle were filled with happy boys and girls, whose hearty and repeated applause testified to their full enjoyment of the play. At the close of the second act the Lord Mayor, addressing the children, said that their pleasure that afternoon was owing to the kindness of Mr. Lewis Waller and Miss Evelyn Millard, who, when they first heard of his scheme for building a home for crippled children at the seaside, determined to do something to give the children enjoyment, and so gave that matinée for their benefit. Cheers were asked for and cordially given for Mr. Waller and Miss Millard and the others of the company who had so generously assisted in the good work.

Miss Topsy Sinden, the death of whose father we recorded in our last issue, has suffered another bereavement in the loss of her aunt, sister to the deceased gentleman, who passed away on the 12th inst. Mr. Sinden died in his sleep of heart failure on Nov. 17, after an acute attack of influenza. Mr. Bert Sinden is still at the sanatorium, where he went in the summer, but is happily improving in health. Miss Sinden, it may be added, has finished her engagement at the Aldwych, and has taken another appointment with Mr. George Edwardes to play So Hei, in *See-See*, opening at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, on Monday.

We have to record with great regret the death of Miss Mabel Lane, who succumbed to an attack of pneumonia in her native Australia last month. The deceased actress was for several years with Mr. Penley, in *Charley's Aunt* company, and for the last three years had played with Mr. J. C. Williamson's companies in Australia. Miss Lane was highly esteemed by all who knew her, and her untimely death will be mourned by many friends in London as well as her native country.

The reopening of the Garrick Theatre after the Christmas vacation at the Boxing Day matinée will mark the 125th performance of *The Morals of Marcus*. An extra matinée of the successful play will be given on the following day. In the New Year a further series of matinées of *Macbeth* will be given at the Garrick after Mr. Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh return from their holiday on the Continent.

"Amasis," which is to give place to Mr. Fred Terry and Miss Julia Neilson at the New Theatre on the 31st inst., will on that date be transferred to the Criterion Theatre for a continuance of its successful run. On the opening night each member of the audience will be presented with a specially bound copy of the full vocal score, by which it is hoped to compensate many who were disappointed at the 100th performance, when similar souvenirs were given away.

Mr. Chas. Manners sang selections before a crowded congregation at St. James's Church, Burnley, on Sunday night. Mr. W. M. Chapman Huston, the general manager of the Moody-Manners Company, read the lessons, and, in place of the sermon, a selection from the "Messiah" was sung by Mr. John Child. The collections, which were on behalf of the Burnley District Nursing Association, amounted to £14 5s. 6d. Mr. Lecoys James, of the same company, was in attendance at the Ebenezer Chapel, where his rendering of "Why do the nations" ("Messiah"), was so much appreciated that the congregation could not refrain from breaking into loud applause.

Mr. Louis Calvert is making elaborate preparations for the tenth annual pantomime at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross. *Cinderella* will be produced on the afternoon of Boxing Day, with Miss Lucie Caine in the title-rôle, Miss Beatrice Edwardes as Prince Perfect, and Mr. Fred Carey, the Tally-ho Trio, the Brothers Pollard, the Sisters Sprightly, Miss Lilian Cecil, the Eight Sunrays, and Mr. George Grogie in the cast. A series of special children's matinées will be given during the run.

The "Peter Pan Keepsake," edited by Daniel S. O'Connor, and issued by Chatto and Windus, is an admirable production, both in illustration and letterpress. It gives numberless sketches, excellently printed on glazed paper, of scenes from *Peter Pan*, and a comprehensive version of the story, retold from Mr. Barrie's fantastic play, which seems to have become quite a Christmas institution. A reproduction in reduced form of Mr. Charles Buchel's well-known coloured poster, representing Peter and Wendy's flight over the house-tops, appears on the cover, and the book is further embellished by nine full-length portraits of Miss Cecilia Loftus, the Peter of last year, and of Miss Hilda Trevelyan, the Wendy of each London production. The play is alluded to in terms of warm praise in a "foreword" by Mr. W. T. Stead, and a tabulated page giving the casts of the three London performances, as well as those of New York and Manchester, enables an interesting comparison to be made.

Boxing Night will, as is customary, witness the production of Mr. Arthur Collins's children's pantomime, *Sindbad*, written by J. Hickory Wood and Arthur Collins, with music by J. M. Glover. The cast of principals consists of Messrs. Walter Passmore, Harry Randall, Harry Fragson, Fred Emney, Drew and Alders, Arthur Conquest, and Alec Davidson, Misses Queenie Leighton, Marie George, Florence Warde, Ethel Oliver, Rosamund Bury, and Mlle. Rodriguez. The action of the pantomime, which is illustrated by twelve scenes, will finish with a striking representation of the Durbar, with a Harlequinade as a finale.

Mr. Richard Green, the well-known baritone, was recently singing in aid of the Waterloo Hospital for Children at a concert at which H.R.H. the Duchess of Albany was present. After his singing of the Prologue to *Pagliacci* he had the honour of being presented to H.R.H. at her special request.

The British Empire Shakespeare Society gave a dramatic reading of *Henry VIII.* at Kensington Town Hall on Monday afternoon. The hall was quite full, and the audience very enthusiastic. Mr. Walter Hampden was an excellent Buckingham, and Miss Edith Wynne Matthison and Mr. Acton Bond repeated the renderings of Katharine and Wolsey which they gave so impressively at the St. James's Theatre on the occasion of the last meeting of the society. Mr. Kenyon Musgrave made a robust King, Mr. J. Fritz Russell—who was also the Sir Henry Guildford—struck the right note in the part of Griffiths, and the other characters were capably filled. Messrs. Lewis Willoughby, Russell Norrie, Clarence Derwent, William Burchill, Stanley Drewitt, Douglas Vigors, A. Bristowe, and Charles Hann, and Misses Mary Barton, Claire Greet, and Florence Geere. Miss Enid Rose read the stage directions, and Miss Patricia Plowman sang "Orpheus with his lute" with great charm. The reading was under the direction of Mr. Acton Bond.

A trio of toasts has been prepared for the Savoyard celebration dinner of the O.P. Club, which will take place at the Hotel Cecil on Sunday, Dec. 30, when Mr. W. S. Gilbert will be the guest of the evening. "The Savoy Opera" will be proposed by the president, Mr. Sidney Dark, and responded to by Mr. Gilbert; Mr. T. McDonald Rendle will toast "The Savoyards," to which Miss Rosina Brandram and Mr. George Grossmith will reply; and Mr. Rutland Barrington will give "The Savoy Lovers," which will be acknowledged by the hon. treasurer, Mr. Carl Hentschel.

A meeting of the executive of the Shakespeare Memorial Fund for the further consideration of a site for the memorial took place at the Mansion House on the 14th inst., under the presidency of Lord Reay. Several proposed sites were considered, and ultimately the meeting was adjourned for an early conference with the members of the Advisory Committee of experts. Upon the decision then come to will depend the form which the memorial will take. The Lord Mayor was elected a member of the committee. A letter was received from the municipality of Venice enclosing a subscription of 1,000 lire to the Fund.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held on Tuesday last, when there were present Mr. C. Aubrey Smith (chairman), Mr. A. E. Drinkwater (deputy chairman), Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Messrs. Cecil Barth, Acton Bond, F. Cremlin, A. E. George, Brandon Thomas, and Charles Cruikshanks (secretary).

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the council adjourned their sitting in order to attend the Irving Memorial meeting at the Garrick Theatre. Later on, the council reassembled for the despatch of business, Mary Weigall, Rose Lemoine, Matheson Lang, (Miss) Gordon Walker, and Sadie Jerome were nominated for election. One former member was reinstated, and three former members were nominated for reinstatement. The hon. solicitors reported progress in an action pending, and also that they had advised several members on points submitted.

The secretary reported that the seventh bi-monthly meeting of the members would be held in the saloon at 10, King-street on Thursday, the 10th prox.; he also reported that on the same day a meeting of members of the profession would be held at the St. James's Theatre to receive the report of the "Actors' Day" organising committee, and confirm the appointments of the members of the advisory board.

The secretary received instructions to sign the contracts for the insurance of members whose subscriptions are paid against loss of luggage and loss of salary owing to loss of luggage, in addition to the life and accident insurance now in vogue, and the necessary cheques for payment of the premiums for the year 1907 were authorised. Dr. W. M. Hotten George, 28, Weymouth-street, W., was elected as an hon. medical officer to the A.A. Two cases of alleged insanitation at two provincial theatres were under consideration, and the explanations given by the managers of each theatre were deemed satisfactory. A case of alleged bogus management was under consideration, and the secretary received instructions to file the information for future reference. The council decided that next Tuesday being Christmas Day, the next meeting of its members should be held on Tuesday, the 1st prox., at the usual hour. The council also decided that the premises should be closed on Boxing Day.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee held a meeting on Tuesday last. There were present Messrs. Acton Bond (chairman), A. E. Drinkwater, C. Aubrey Smith, and Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary). Several matters of finance were discussed, and the secretary received instructions as to the payment of current accounts, and also in connection with the preparation of the balance-sheet and record of assets and liabilities for the year ending Dec. 31, 1906.

Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle, reopens on Boxing Day, under the joint lesseeship of Mrs. R. S. McKim and Mr. Thos. Courtice, this gentleman having taken up his residence in the town. Mr. Courtice is very popular with the playgoing public of Carlisle, having acted as resident-manager there for Mr. Milton Bode a few years ago.

Great interest will be aroused in the company, headed by Miss F. Glossop Harris and Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., about to start on tour. An extensive répertoire is to be undertaken, *Carmen* being the first play to be produced. Mr. Percy H. Vernon has charge of the productions, and Mr. Max Jerome is acting-manager.

Miss Connie Ediss will in a few weeks take temporary leave of the Gaiety Theatre, which her genial presence has so long brightened. The popular comedienne has arranged to go on a tour in South Africa, where she will appear in a number of song-scenas, supported by a chorus of young ladies.

An orchestral concert will be given at Queen's Hall on the afternoon of New Year's Day by the Queen's Hall Orchestra. The programme will comprise examples from Handel, Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Berlioz, Mendelssohn, Wagner, Brahms, and Tchaikovsky, the selection in almost every instance being representative of the composer's happiest inspirations. The vocalist will be Miss Maria Philippi.

Few places of amusement in the world will boast at Christmas such a variety of high-class entertainments as will be witnessed at the Crystal Palace. On Christmas Eve Mr. Bannister Howard will open the theatre with the pantomime of *Aladdin*, written by Mr. Fred Bowyer. Mr. Howard has worked the Palace theatre into a very successful undertaking, and in the splendid Christmas feast he is now arranging he has shown no falling-off in his determination to give his patrons the finest entertainment that money and good judgment can procure. It is a pantomime of the old-fashioned kind, full of rollicking fun, and designed to please both young and old.

The first act of the pantomime opens with a scene representing the Magic Crystal. After chorus and dance by "earthmen" and the usual consultation by the various fairies, we come to a delightful scene representing the Market-place of Pekin, where we meet the chief characters of the play. The story of Aladdin's adventures is then worked out in an amusing manner, and we visit the Imperial Bath, the Entrance of the Cave, and the Inside of the Cave—all masterpieces of scenery. The second act opens in Widow Twankey's Laundry, and the fun becomes fast and furious. The Palm Grove, the Interior of the Pavilion, the Exterior of the Palace, the Desert of Despair, the Boudoir of Badroulbadour in the Flying Palace are all represented, and, finally, the Throne Room of the Emperor's Palace, where Aladdin is triumphantly proclaimed ruler, is revealed.

A first-class company has been engaged, and no expense will be spared in supplying the best scenery, dresses, and music. Miss Lillie Lassah will be the Aladdin and Miss Lillie Gullick the Princess; Widow Twankey will be entrusted to Mr. A. E. Passmore and Abanazar to Mr. Arthur Poole. Amongst the clever combination are, also, Miss Josephine Sullivan, Miss Gladys Ray, Miss Nellie Barnwell, Mr. J. D. Cawdery, Mr. E. Oxloe, Mr. Frank Weir, and the Onda Brothers, whose comic horizontal-bar act and *Motor Maniac* sketch should alone be worth seeing. Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of acrobats and speciality dancers and the London Quartette of Glee Singers have also been engaged. In the harlequinade, Mr. Cawdery is the clown, and the comic shadowgraph and demon trap acts are sure to be popular. Mr. Joseph Sainton is the musical director and Mr. Charles Lake the producer.

Messrs Milton Bode and Edward Compton, of the Royal Opera House and Theatre Royal, Leicester, have closed both theatres this week. They will reopen on Boxing Day, when Mr. Chas. Macdona's chief company, in *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)*, will start their tour at the Royal Opera House, and at the Theatre Royal will be produced Mr. Milton Bode's pantomime of *Aladdin*, his first in Leicester.

Miss Maude Stewart Drewry, who is returning to England by the Armadale Castle from South Africa, has successfully sustained a varied répertoire as leading lady in Mr. Leonard Rayne's company. Among the parts taken by her were those of Countess, in *Brigadier Gerard;* Kate in *The Manxman*, Dick, in *Two Little Vagabonds;* Esther, in *Caste;* Lady Ethel, in *Raffles;* Henriette, in *Two Orphans;* Bess, in *Lights o' London;* and Calphurnia, in *Julius Cæsar.*

Mr. Chas. E. Machin has again engaged Mr. J. F. Elliston to bring out his pantomime this year at the Avenue Theatre, Sunderland. *Dick Whittington* is the subject of the annual, which is written by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and it will be produced on Boxing Day under the personal direction of Mr. Elliston and his manager, Mr. Lewis Leslie. Miss Maidie Scott will be principal boy, with Miss Veronica Brady as principal girl. Others in the cast include Mr. Tom Foy, Miss Violet Morgan, Miss Lil Hartley, Miss Flo Chevalier, Miss Clorinda Thurtell, and Miss Gertrude Lytton, the Marvellous Foys, J. C. Scatter, Tod Lowen, Mr. Bert Harrow, and the Aquamarinoff troupe of Russian singers and dancers.

Negotiations have been entered into by Mrs. Bertha Pogson, the well-known German adapter, for the German rights of Mr. Charles Hannan's successful fantastic play, *The Electric Man*, which she considers peculiarly likely to appeal to Continental audiences. Herr Albert Bozenhard, the celebrated star actor of the Thalia Theatre in Hamburg, who has also witnessed the play, is of the same opinion, and although nothing has been definitely settled with regard to the cast, it is practically certain that when the play is produced in Germany Herr Bozenhard will sustain the rôle of the Electric Man.

Mr. W. W. Kelly, lessee of the New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, was returned at the top of the poll at a by-election in the local municipal council on Tuesday. Mr. Kelly, who secured 1,151 votes, takes his seat in the Conservative interest.

The Paisley Theatre has just undergone a thorough overhauling in its seating accommodation. Taking advantage of the theatre being closed last week for rehearsals of his pantomime, Mr. J. H. Savile had the dress circle and stalls replaced with more modern and up-to-date tip-up chairs. The other parts of the house were also re-seated and upholstered, and made much more comfortable for playgoers. The work, which was entrusted to the great theatre furnishers, Messrs. A. R. Dean and Sons, Birmingham, has given the greatest satisfaction. The installation of the electric light for orchestral and stage purposes was another improvement carried out at the same time.

One of the most ambitious and not least successful efforts of the Edinburgh branch of the British Empire Shakespeare Society took place on Wednesday evening of last week, when a performance of *Twelfth Night* was given in the Queen-street Hall. The Society has been fortunate enough to secure the services, as stage-manager, of Mr. Graeme Goring, a gentleman favourably known a few seasons ago at several of the London theatres; and under his able guidance a gratifying measure of excellence was achieved.

Mr. Allan Wilkie paid a very successful return visit to the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, last week, and has been rebooked by Mr. Huddleston for a date in the season. He is having some fine new palace sets painted by the well-known artist Mr. A. Bernasconi. A very fine tour, which will carry Mr. Wilkie right to the beginning of July, is booked.

At the conclusion of the Christmas term of the Royal College of Music on Saturday the following awards were made by the director and board of professors: Council Exhibitions—Singing: Dora Arnell, £5; Ethel Duthoit, £5. Organ: Adelaide Parker, £8. Violin: Florence Jennings, £12; Esther Capel-Cure, £5. Violoncello: Evelyn Seth-Smith, £10. Composition: Geoffrey Palmer, £5.

A competition for the Norfolk and Norwich Scholarship took place, and, subject to confirmation by the Council, was awarded to Margaret L. Prior (violin), the proxime being Beatrice B. Smith (singing), and Hilda Secrett (piano). Miss Muriel Foster having given £10 as a prize to be competed for by female singers, the amount was awarded jointly to Miss Maria Yelland and Miss Gladys Honey. The annual amount bequeathed by the late Edwin S. Dove (£13) for pupils who have distinguished themselves was awarded to James Friskin (A.R.C.M.), composition scholar.

Royal patronage was bestowed upon at least three theatres on Saturday. His Majesty the King visited the Garrick Theatre and saw *The Morals of Marcus*, T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales witnessed the performance of *The Amateur Socialist* at the Criterion, and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught honoured *Peter's Mother* at the Apollo.

The Theatre Royal, Plymouth, which has been closed during the past week, will reopen with *Bluebeard*, for which a fine company of artists has been engaged. On Wednesday Mr. Percy Williams, manager of the Grand Theatre, and son of Mr. C. F. Williams, lessee and manager of the Royal, took a well-earned annual benefit, when a lengthy programme of amateur and professional talent was presented.

Mr. Arthur H. Yolland, who represented Mr. F. R. Benson's company so long as manager in advance, and has recently been acting in the same capacity with Mr. Cyril Keightley's *Miles Carew* company, terminates his engagement at Glasgow. Next week he joins Messrs Lely and Mollison's company at Aberdeen for the tour of *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush* and the forthcoming production of *Macbeth* at Manchester.

Miss Louisa Peach, who terminated last Saturday a five weeks' engagement with Messrs. Arden and Abel's *Three of a Kind* sketch, was wired for the same evening to take up her original part, Countess Natalie, in *The Woman Who Gambles*, at the Grand Theatre, Derby. Miss Peach travelled to Derby on Sunday, and opened on Monday. She will remain with Mr. Morton Powell until Jan. 12, and then returns to London, opening at Collins's on the 14th with her comedy sketch, *Taming a Husband.*

At Holy Trinity Church, Bow, on Sunday, the wedding took place of Mr. Fred Brown, jun., the eldest son of Mr. Fred Brown, the popular acting-manager of the Pavilion Theatre, and Miss Annie Royall. The church was crowded by a representative gathering both from the Pavilion Theatre and the Queen's Palace of Varieties, Poplar, at which place of entertainment the bridegroom holds a responsible position. Owing to illness in the bride's family the reception was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brown, sen., at 63, Tredegar-square, E., and was attended by a large number of professional friends. The presents were numerous and costly, amongst them being a handsome silver biscuit-box presented by the staff of the Queen's Palace. Mr. Chas. Briggs, of the Crown Theatre, Peckham, ably officiated as "best man."

The Lady Dentist, the three-act farce by Alban Atwood (part author of *Oh, Susannah!* etc.) and Leopold Montague, which was successfully produced last year at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross, is having lyrics and music specially written for it by a well-known composer, and it will be sent on tour as an up-to-date musical farce.

Mr. Herbert Shelley and Little Max Darewski (Mme. Patti's *protégé*, aged ten) appeared at a fashionable matinée in Southampton on the 19th inst., and obtained a gratifying success. Mr. Shelley scored in his Protean Gaelic play, *Dan the Outlaw*, and the youthful prodigy made a hit with his marvellous pianoforte playing and conducting the overture to "William Tell" with an orchestra of over forty performers—truly a wonderful effort.

Mr. Alec F. Thompson concludes to-night a long and successful engagement with Messrs. Lely and Mollison as Posty in *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush*, of which he was the original impersonator in Great Britain. Mr. Thompson was engaged by Mr. Lewis Waller to play in *Robin Hood*, but, owing to Messrs. Lely and Mollison being unable at the time to find another Posty, Mr. Waller was kind enough to forego any claim and to permit him to remain in the *Brier Bush* cast. Mr. Waller has still further extended his courtesy, and Mr. Thompson will shortly join The William Mollison Repertoire Company as principal comedian, playing Touchstone, Launcelot, Gobbo, etc. Throughout the last tour of *The Brier Bush* Mr. Thompson has satisfactorily combined the duties of stage management with those of his impersonation.

During the temporary absence on Monday of Mr. George Alexander, the part of Hilary Jesson in *His House in Order*, at the St. James's, was taken by Mr. Dawson Milward, who usually impersonates Major Maurewarde. Mr. Dawson Milward gave an artistic interpretation of the principal *rôle*, and at the end of the third act, when the great scene between Nina (Miss Irene Vanbrugh) and Hilary Jesson occurs, he was enthusiastically called before the curtain.

Mr. Clarence Sounes will produce his second annual pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, at the Prince's Theatre, Pop'ar, on Boxing Day, when performances will be given both afternoon and evening. The pantomime will be beautifully mounted and dressed, and will boast a chorus of 100 voices. The fine cast will include Misses Lily Iris, Ruby Verdi, Margaret Radcliffe, Rosie Bartlett, Maude May Murray, Rosa Sullivan, and Messrs. Edwin Adeler, Frank Gee, Arthur Ricketts, and G. Villiers Arnold, Little Dando, the London Comedy Quartette, the Three Delaries, the Sisters Edwardes, and the Prince's Troupe of Dancers. A genuine children's harlequinade will conclude. Mr. Sounes is issuing a novel form of advertisement in the shape of a street map of Poplar, with the Prince's Theatre in the centre—all roads leading thereto.

The admirable series of photographs of the new Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, which are given as a supplement to last week's issue of the *Sketch*, were taken by Percy Guttenberg, of Manchester. The striking features of Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh are reproduced with life-like fidelity, and the pictures may well be termed speaking likenesses.

Miss Dorothy Sidney left London on Friday last under contract to J. C. Williamson for twelve months' engagement in Australia. If the host of telegrams and letters of good wishes from her friends could bring luck, the clever little artist should be assured of a happy and profitable tour.

Mr. Edward Chester, who completed on Easter Monday an engagement extending over four years in *Florodora* and *The Belle of New York*, and subsequently toured with *The 'Varsity Belle*, playing Theocritus Ward Sparkleton and stage managing, is now spending a vacation in his native town, South Shields. He is combining pleasure with business this week by supporting Miss Maud May (by permission of Mr. Henry E. Leigh), in *Trilby* and *Moths* at the Theatre Royal, South Shields, prior to rejoining *The 'Varsity Belle.*

The Academy of Dramatic Art has another successful term to record. Selections from *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Coriolanus, His House in Order, Richard III.*, and *Julius Cæsar* have been rehearsed by the pupils of Mr. Fisher White and Mr. Lyall Swete. Special honorary classes in "The Final School" have been taken by Mr. George Alexander at the St. James's Theatre, in Act I. of *The Ambassador;* by Mr. Cyril Maude, in Acts II. and III. of *The Manœuvres of Jane;* and by Sir Squire Bancroft, in Act I. of *Money.* The next entrance examination will be held at the academy's premises, 62, Gower-street, on Jan. 8. Early in the New Year a public performance will be given by selected students at the St. James's Theatre.

Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry, back from their successful tour, will resume the run of *Dorothy o' the Hall* at the New Theatre on Monday, Dec. 31. Removed from the theatre at the height of its success, the piece has since met with such emphatic approval in the provinces that a long and prosperous run is assured.

The Duke of Connaught and Princess Patricia of Connaught witnessed the performance of *The Yeomen of the Guard* at the Savoy Theatre on Thursday evening.

"Miss Hook of Holland," the Dutch comedy-opera by Paul Rubens, is in active rehearsal, and will be produced by Mr. Frank Curzon in a few weeks' time at one of his West End theatres. The cast is composed of Messrs. Herbert Clayton, B. S. Foster, G. P. Huntley, George Barrett, Harry Grattan, and Morris Harvey, and Misses Ethel Cadman, Gracie Leigh, Phœbe Mercer, Gwennie Brogden, Gladys Ivery, and Eva Kelly.

The Shakespeare Theatre has, during a short vacation, undergone entire redecoration and re-upholstering, and will reopen on Christmas Eve with Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett's eleventh annual pantomime, *Aladdin*, particulars of which have already appeared in our columns. The Bolinbroke Hospital benefit has been postponed in consequence of the renovations, but will take place in due course.

Messrs. Lionel Glenister and J. Wood Ingram are so gratified with the success of their autumn tour of *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*, with Miss Decima Moore in the title-rôle, that they have decided to tour the play in the spring, starting in February.

Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart has every reason to congratulate himself on the success of his first tour of *Sherlock Holmes*, which concluded last week at Harrogate. His second tour opens to-day at the Theatre Royal, Blackburn, and runs right through until the end of April. Some excellent bookings have been made, including nearly all the principal suburban and provincial theatres.

An influential theatrical syndicate has been formed in Buenos Aires with the object of bringing to South America first-class English attractions. Mr. Edouard José, who has been for several years connected with the Wheeler-Edwardes's Gaiety Company, and will be remembered in England both as actor and manager, will visit England in January next in his capacity of managing-director of the syndicate to make arrangements for the visit of several companies to South America. The combination, which will be known as "The South American Theatrical Syndicate," has already obtained the lease of two of the best and most popular theatres in Buenos Aires, and Mr. José intends touring the companies through the whole of the country, viz., from Monte Video to Valparaiso.

"Alice in Wonderland" was revived for the fourth time on Thursday afternoon, and received a hearty welcome from a large audience at the Prince of Wales's. Miss Marie Studholme is the new Alice, and gives a performance redolent of grace and charm. Mr. Seymour Hicks was too indisposed to appear as the Mad Hatter, which part fell accordingly to Mr. Stanley Brett, who gives an amusing reproduction of his brother's antics and drollery. Mr. J. C. Buckstone and Mr. Tom Graves are comical as the Gryphon and the Mock Turtle in the first part, and Tweedledum and Tweedledee in the second. Miss Alice Barth supplies a diverting Duchess and Red Queen, Mr. Will Bishop dances very cleverly as the Lobster and the Golliwog, and Miss Margaret Fraser is an engaging Second Lobster. The youthful Miss Rita Leggerio does remarkably well in the character of the White Rabbit, Miss Carmen Sylva, as the Lily, is much applauded for her song; and Miss Phyllis Bedells, as the Cornflower, dances in finished style.

"Little Red Riding Hood" at Terry's will be produced on the afternoon of Boxing Day. The company includes Miss Lily Harold as Robin Hood, Miss Gladys Archbutt as Red Riding Hood, Mr. Fred Storey as Lawyer Slyfox, and Mr. Guy Williams as the Wolf. The book is by Mr. Newman Maurice; and six of the incidental songs will be supplied by Mr. Nation.

Mr. Leslie Carter has been engaged by Mr. Walter Maxwell to play his old part of "The Lion" in *The Lion and the Mouse*, Sir Jennings Pyke in *Little Mary*, and other rôles in Mr. Maxwell's répertoire season at Cork, commencing on Boxing Day. Mr. Carter is also re-engaged for the spring tour of *The Lion and the Mouse.*

Mr. Jerrold Heather, who terminated last week a long tour as Commander Noel Tregarthen in *The Two Little Sailor Boys*, has been engaged by Mr. Geo. Carlton-Wallace to star as Philip Carnaby in his romantic love play, *The Love that Women Desire.*

Mr. Norman V. Norman finished his autumn tour last Saturday at the Crystal Palace Theatre, with the production of Dennis Cleugh and Duncan Jones's new romantic play, *Robin Hood.* Taken all through, Mr. Norman's last tour was one of the most successful he has had. The next tour will start early in the New Year, and Mr. Norman hopes to produce at an early date a very powerful play adapted from a novel that has lately been very successful.

Miss Elspeth Dudgeon, the clever young actress of Mr. Walter Maxwell's company, who was taking a holiday at Edinburgh last week, generously gave her services, by permission of her manager, at two performances of Pinero's *The Weaker Sex* in the Queen's Hall, in aid of the Anti-Vivisection Society. Miss Dudgeon, who appeared in the part of Lady Vivash, compelled the enthusiastic cheers of the audience, and a handsome bouquet was handed to her before she left the stage.

At St. Mark's Church, Lewisham, on Monday, the marriage was solemnised between Mr. Cecil Klein, only son of Mr. Caspar Klein, of Maida Vale, and Miss Celestine Bertram, sister of Mr. Arthur, Frank, and Eugene Bertram. The bride was married in her travelling dress of burgundy-coloured cloth, trimmed with chiffon velvet of the same colour, and white hat, and wore a set of silver fox furs, the gift of the best man, Mr. Arthur Bertram. Later in the day the happy couple left for Paignton. The presents were numerous, including a fitted tea basket from all the members of *The Breed of the Treshams* company (of which the bride and bridegroom are fellow-workers), and many gifts of an appropriate character from individual members of the combination. Mr. and Mrs. Klein rejoin *The Breed of the Treshams* company at the Opera House, Torquay, on Boxing Day.

The harlequinade with which *The Belle of Mayfair* is to be embellished will be produced at the Vaudeville this afternoon. In addition to the principals of the comedy, there will be a secondary set of juvenile performers, with Miss Winnie Hall as Clown, Master Grata as Pantaloon, Miss Jessie Parke as Columbine, and Miss Nora Lennox as Harlequin.

A copyright performance was given on Thursday at the Bijou Theatre, Bayswater, of the libretto of a comic opera, entitled *Dainty Dresden*, written by Norah Begbie and Percival Knight.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

THE proposal to erect a statue of the late Sir Henry Irving in London reminds one of the fine work by Mr. E. Onslow Ford, now in the library of the London Guildhall, representing Irving as Hamlet. Mr. Bram Stoker, in his "Personal Reminiscences," gives an interesting account of how it was prepared. "One morning," writes Mr. Stoker, "I got a note from Irving sent down by cab from his rooms. In it he said, 'There is a certain Mr. Onslow Ford coming to the theatre this morning. Please see him for me and give him some fatherly or brotherly advice.' I left word with the hall-keeper to send for me whenever the gentleman came. I did not know who he was or what he wanted; but I did know what 'fatherly or brotherly advice' meant. At that period of his life the demands made on Irving's time were fearful. One of my functions at the theatre, as I had come to know after a year of exceedingly arduous work, was to act as a barrier.

"WHEN Mr. Onslow Ford told me that he wished to make a statuette of Henry Irving as Hamlet I felt that the time for 'advice' had come, and began to pave the way for a *non possumus* strong in intention though gentle in expression. The young sculptor, however, had thought the matter all over for himself. He knew the demands on Irving's time, and how vastly difficult it would be to get sittings so many and so long as would be required for the work he had projected. I listened of course, and thought better of him and his chance in that he knew his difficulties at the beginning.

"PRESENTLY he put his hand in his pocket and took out something rolled in paper—a parcel about as big as a pork pie. When he had unrolled it he held up a rough clay model of a seated figure. 'This,' said he, 'is something of the idea. I have been several times in the front row of the stalls watching as closely as I could. One cannot well model clay in the stalls of a theatre. But I did this after the first time, and I have had it with me on each other occasion. I compared it on such opportunities as I had—you do keep the Lyceum dark all but the stage; and I think I can see my way. I don't want to waste Irving's time or my own opportunities if I am so fortunate as to get sittings.' That was the sort of artist that needed none of my 'advice'—fatherly, brotherly, or otherwise. Irving gave many sittings for the statue."

SIR HENRY on one occasion sat for his bust to Count Gleichen, who was also doing a bust of Lord Beaconsfield. One day when he came the sculptor, looking at his watch, said, "I'm afraid our sitting to-day must be a short one—indeed, it may be interrupted at any moment. You won't mind, I hope?" "Not at all!" said Irving. "What is it?" "The Premier has sent me word that he must come at an earlier hour than he fixed as he has a Cabinet meeting." He had already unswathed the clay so as not to waste in preparation the time of the statesman when he should come. Irving was looking at it when something struck him. Turning to Count Gleichen he said, "That seems something like myself—you know we actors have to study our own faces a good deal, so that we come to know them."

JUST then Disraeli came in. When they had all shaken hands, the sculptor said to the newcomer, "Mr. Irving says that he sees in your bust a resemblance to himself!" Disraeli looked at Irving a moment with a pleased expression. Then he walked over to where Irving's bust was still uncovered. He examined it critically for a few moments; and then, turning to Count Gleichen, said, "What a striking and distinguished physiognomy!"

"MANY, still with us," writes Mr. E. Edmunds, "will remember 'Jimmy' Stoyle, the baritone buffo of the Gaiety and other London theatres, who, in his younger days, was attached to the stock company of the Theatre Royal, Birmingham. While there, he, on a certain Saturday, to his great joy, found that he was out of the bill for that night, the piece being *Pizarro*. But his happiness was of short duration, for the management, unwilling to pay him his salary for nothing, recast the small part of the High Priest of the Temple of the Sun, and assigned it to poor Stoyle. Smarting under a sense of injustice, he determined on revenge; and in the big Temple scene, wherein the High Priest has to advance to the altar and sing to the sun:—

"Oh! Power supreme! In mercy smile
With favour on thy servant's toil!"

Jimmy, to the horror of the management and the delight of the gallery, advanced to the centre of the centre of the footlights, and, bowing low, sang to the audience:—

"Oh! Power supreme! In mercy smile
With favour on thy (*bowing very low, with his right-hand fingers extended on his breast*) servant STOYLE!"

He was rewarded with a tremendous round of applause; and his notice.

THE same correspondent thinks that the three most careless caligraphists of his theatre experience were Charles Dillon, John Coleman, and William Sidney. John, it is said, once wrote an order for the theatre: "Admit two, dress circle, J. C." But the order having been dropped in the street, was picked up by an old lady, who took it to a chemist's and had it made up for her cold. Fred Sidney tells how that he received a letter from his father; but, not being able to read it, sent it back, with "Dear Governor, whatever *is* your letter about?" To which came the reply, "Dear Fred, hanged if *I* know!"

MR. TREE'S mounting of the banquet on board ship in *Antony and Cleopatra* on Thursday is certain to differ widely from that of a repast in a dramatised version of Lytton's *Last Days of Pompeii*, at the Queen's Theatre in the last generation. John Ryder, the veteran stage-manager and tragedian, had engaged a clever tight-rope walker for the banquet scene; but, from motives of economy, a cheaper and less reliable substitute took his place. The consequence was that when this gentleman was performing above the tables, he missed his footing, and fell among the plates, dishes, and guests, and the act drop had to be lowered in the middle of the scene to clear away the *débris*. This being done, the scene was again "discovered," with the guests carousing as though no untoward event had marred their festivity. But, alas, for the vanity of stage-managerial hopes! One of the budding histrions at the table had had only one speech apportioned to him, and speak that speech he was determined to. So, immediately the drop arose, he said, alluding to the unfortunate tight-rope (non) equilibrist, "A very clever fellow, indeed! Do you not think so?" That settled it, and laughter loud and long lasted until the drop again descended. For the Arena scene, in which Mr. George Rignold, as Glaucus, had to fight with lions, two powerfully-built mastiff dogs had been provided, with lion masks, manes, and caudal appendages complete. Rignold had been at great pains to bring up these canines in the way they should go on the night of performance by various gifts of lump sugar. The Arena scene was discovered, the combats were gone through, the spectators shouted, the lions roared until the prompter's voice was hoarse with shouting into his speaking trumpet, and the dread moment arrived. Glaucus was face to face with death—and the lions; when, unfortunately, the animals, anxious for their saccharine encouragement, raised each one his right paw, forced off each canine mask, and, leaving it hanging by the collar, wagged his false tail, and said in dog-gese language, "Sugar, please, George!"

THE SECOND REVIVAL OF "PETER PAN."

The Fairy Play, by J. M. Barrie, reproduced on Tuesday, Dec. 18, at the Duke of York's Theatre.

Peter Pan	MISS PAULINE CHASE
Mr. Darling	MR. MARSH ALLEN
Mrs. Darling	MISS SYBIL CARLISLE
Wendy Moira Angela Darling	HILDA TREVELYAN
John Napoleon Darling	GEORGE HERSEE
Michael Nicholas Darling	ERNEST HOLLOM
Nana	MR. E. SILLWARD
Tinker Bell	MISS JANE WREN
Tootles	MISS JOAN BURNETT
Nibbs	MISS NELLIE BOWMAN
Slightly	MR. A. W. BASKCOMB
Curley	MISS WINIFRED GROGHEGAN
First Twin	MISS MAIE ASH
Second Twin	MISS PHYLLIS EMBURY
Jas. Hook	MR. GERALD DU MAURIER
Smee	MR. GEORGE SHELTON
Gentleman Starkey	MR. CHARLES TREVOR
Cookson	MR. CHARLES MEDWIN
Mullins	MR. CHRIS. WALKER
Cecco	MR. FREDERICK ANNERLEY
Jukes	MR. JAMES ENGLISH
Noodler	MR. JOHN KELT
Great Big Little Panther	MR. DOUGLAS VIGORS
Tiger Lily	MISS MARY MAYFREN
Mermaid	MISS GLADYS HERRIES
Baby Mermaid	MISS WINIFRED DEELVANTI
Liza	MISS DOROTHY LE MARCHANT

Mr. J. M. Barrie tells us in his delightful story, "The Little White Bird," on which the stage adventures of Peter Pan and his friends and enemies are founded, that all kiddies have a desire to imitate bird life. If they would only press their hands to their temples they would have recollections of being birds before they were human, and they are naturally "very itchy at the shoulders." This is only Mr. Barrie's fun, of course; but there will be thousands of children during Christmas and the New Year—all the happier, all the brighter, for their visit to the Duke of York's—who will positively long to fly through the nursery window with Peter Pan, Wendy, and the younger Darlings to the Never-Never Land, to have glorious pillow fights, and to engage in fierce combats with that most delightful pirate, Mr. James Hook—he never stoops so low as Jim—and his companions. We metaphorically shook hands with James on Tuesday—the first night of the second London revival by Mr. Charles Frohman, of the Barrie nursery classic—in spite of the warning chant—

"Yo ho, yo ho, when I say paw,
By fear they're undertook,
Naught's left upon your bones when you
Have shaken hands with Hook."

Hook has a choice derangement of "epitaphs," and, instead of such a phrase as "Shiver my timbers!" he prefaces his chiding with "Split my infinitives!" Mr. Gerald du Maurier is again at hand fortunately to extract every ounce of fun from the quaint lines of this fierce tyrant of the black flag brigade. On land and on sea he is once more pursued by the predatory amphibian anxious for another morsel of "uncooked pirate," and his ratings and pratings, his whinings and pinings, are invariably in the best spirit of travesty. Mr. du Maurier had the warmest of welcomes on being recognised on Tuesday, and for Miss Pauline Chase—the latest of the Duke of York's Peter Pans—there were many cheers of encouragement, not only on her first appearance at the nursery window, but at the conclusion of every division of the story. The part is not new to her. She understudied Miss Cecilia Loftus, and played it several times in the provinces during the early part of the year. It is perhaps a less reflective rendering that Miss Chase gives us, and the joyousness of the rôle is more insisted on than in the Loftus interpretation. We miss the tender note in the incident of the hurt of Wendy from the arrow; but there is no lack of pathos later when Peter despairs of saving "the little mother." Miss Chase does not hint ever at the supernatural, but is an intensely human boy, full of frank jollity, and very graceful withal.

Miss Hilda Trevelyan is again unapproachable as Wendy—simple, childlike, lovable. An impersonation that enchants one. The author is, indeed, fortunate in lighting upon such an ideal interpreter. Mr. George Shelton is another member of the original cast, whom it does one good to hear in the part of Smee—the Job's comforter of the redoubtable Hook; Mr. Marsh Allen is easy and natural as Mr. Darling; and Miss Sybil Carlisle, of course, makes an irreproachable Mrs. Darling. Mr. E. Sillward—an animal impersonator of the first rank—is now the Nana, in succession to Mr. Arthur Lupino, and presents a very natural study of the clever and faithful dog. Master George Hersee's John Napoleon is as frank and boyish as ever; Miss Joan Burnett's Tootles and Miss Nellie Bowman's Nibbs are portraits of very great merit; Mr. A. W. Baskcomb as Slightly returns to the part with evident enjoyment, an enjoyment that he communicates to the audience; Miss Maie Ash, who succeeds to Miss Chase's original part of the first twin, is an acquisition to the cast. Miss Mary Mayfren is a picturesque Tiger Lily; Miss Gladys Herries, who looks charming as the Mermaid, sings artistically; and Liza (the author) is demurely played by Miss Dorothy Le Marchant. Other parts are more than adequately filled by Messrs. Charles Trevor, Charles Medwin, Chris Walker, James Annerley, James English, John Kelt, and Douglas Vigors. The incident of Peter's escape from the lonely rock in the lagoon is now more in harmony with everyone's love of birds. The large white bird—a fairy gull—vacates her nest, which Peter promptly utilises as a little bark to take him to safety and Wendy. Before his departure he puts the eggs carefully into one of the pirate's hats, whereon the parent bird sits quite contentedly, and sails away as the curtain falls. It is with regret that we leave Peter and Wendy in their home high on the tree tops, which "are soft as velvet." The still air "is filled with the singing of birds and the ringing of fairy bells; but the sweetest sound of all is the fluting of Peter Pan's pipe as he sits outside the little house and calls to the spring to make haste, because with the spring comes Wendy."

MISS CONSTANCE COLLIER, who is to play Cleopatra in Mr. Tree's revival at His Majesty's Theatre on Thursday next, made a magnificent appearance at the Empire on one occasion, representing the Egyptian Queen. She began stage-work in the chorus of musical comedy, but her ability was soon recognised when she took part in *One Summer's Day* at the Comedy in 1898, and played Lady Alexandra Pink in *The Cuckoo* at the Avenue in 1899. She also sustained, at a matinée, the leading female part in the late Wilson Barrett's *Daughters of Babylon*. Her excellent work in Mr. Tree's company, which she joined in 1901, has established her reputation as an actress of sterling ability.

THE Belfast branch of the British Empire Shakespeare Society gave a reading of *The Comedy of Errors* in the Ulster Medical Institute, College-square North, Belfast, recently. The various parts were admirably sustained by Miss Boas, Miss Florence MacNaughten, Miss Margery Pike, Messrs. P. Donnelly, Dr. W. Clarke Robinson, Mr. David Hanna, Mr. J. C. Lowenthal, Mr. R. Leighton, Mr. S. Bulloch, Mr. H. C. Kennedy, and Mr. C. D. Tinsley.

THE IRVING MEMORIAL.

Leaders of the profession, as well as the rank and file, assembled in large numbers at the Garrick Theatre on Tuesday afternoon, when the plans designed by the Irving Memorial Committee to perpetuate the name of the great actor were laid before a truly representative gathering, worthy of the object for which it was organised. On the stage sat eminent actors and actresses in formidable array, while the members of their calling who crowded the auditorium applauded their utterances to the echo. It was a splendid demonstration of the enduring place which the great actor occupies in the hearts of his comrades and reflected creditably on the way in which the meeting was promoted.

Mr. John Hare occupied the chair, and among his supporters were Mr. Laurence Irving, Miss Ellen Terry, Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Winifred Emery, Miss Marion Terry, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. Gerald Du Maurier, Mr. F. R. Benson, Mr. Harry Nicholls, Mr. Brandon Thomas, Mr. Arthur Chudleigh, Mr. Acton Bond, Mr. Aubrey Smith, Mr. Fred Kerr, Mr. S. Valentine, Mr. Hayden Coffin, and Mr. Chas. Cruikshanks (secretary).

Enthusiastic applause, which marked the whole of the proceedings, greeted Mr. Hare when he rose to open the meeting. He selected from among many telegrams one from Mme. Sara Bernhardt, which read: "Impossible come, but am with you. Accept all you and other friends and comrades decide with all my heart." M. Coquelin wired: "Join my name with the others for all that is best for the memory of Henry Irving." From Mr. Charles Frohman came the message: "My great regret that I cannot be with you to-day, and my thanks for asking me to come. I heartily sympathise with your scheme for the erection of a statue to the memory of Henry Irving, and am most eager to be permitted at this moment to subscribe £50. I am sure that the actors and actresses over the sea will be glad to express through me to you their desire to be given the privilege of participating in this great scheme, and one which they will enthusiastically support if permitted."

MR. HARE, in moving the first resolution, made a stirring speech, impressively delivered. He said, "Ladies and Gentlemen,—I feel it a very great privilege and a very great honour to have been invited to preside over so large and distinguished an assemblage of my brother and sister actors and actresses as are gathered together this afternoon. But at the same time I feel a very great responsibility is thrust upon me. I dread to say those things I ought LOT to say, to leave unsaid those things I ought to say; indeed, I fear my powers are hardly equal to the task I am undertaking, that of worthily placing before you the object of this meeting, which is to consider the best ways and means of our profession initiating from themselves a tribute to the memory of their late beloved chief, friend, and comrade, Henry Irving. I am sure it is unnecessary for me to remind you of the debt of gratitude we owe to the great manager and actor who is gone. We owe to him not only a splendid example of courage and high endeavour, but that of a long life devoted to obtaining recognition and honour for the art which he loved and to which the energies of his life were devoted. By his genius as an actor, by his consistently dignified and lofty policy as a manager, by his persistent advocacy and pleading that his profession should rank on an equality with the sister arts and professions, he won for it recognition for the first time by the State, and by the great academic bodies of the United Kingdom. Some time since there was a good deal of nonsense written and spoken about the "mantle" of Henry Irving, and speculation as to on whose shoulders it should fall. Without any disrespect to distinguished actors of the past, the present, or of the future, I may say that the "mantle" of Henry Irving was a garment woven by himself, and fitted only for his own proportions. It was composed of a mixture of power, of genius, subtlety, large-hearted charity, gentleness, and simplicity, which we can hardly hope ever again to see united in one. These were the materials of which his mantle was composed, and enveloped in its folds his body rests in the Abbey, side by side with England's greatest dead. Well might Shakespeare himself have intended the words for his epitaph when he wrote:

"His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world this was a man."

But there was one other distinctive quality in Irving to which I have made no allusion, and yet was, perhaps, his greatest—it was *dignity*, dignity in his work, dignity in all the actions of his life, and, above all, dignity in his tragic and pathetic death. Therefore, it specially behoves us who would honour his memory, to see that that dignity should be preserved intact, and that any steps we may take to perpetuate his memory, and show to the world the respect and love we feel for him, should be conducted with tact, good taste, and, above all, *without a possibility of failure*—should, in fact, be a dignified tribute to initiated by a great profession to him they honoured as its head. Now, there are many of the most important members of our body, who, sharing to the utmost the respect and affection we all feel towards the memory of Henry Irving, are opposed to the memorial scheme at first suggested, namely, that of inviting a vast public subscription with a view to raising enough money to endow a theatre to bear his name. In their opposition I fully agree, nor, indeed, should I have been in the chair this afternoon if that had been the object or purpose of this meeting. It is true nothing could be finer than such a project—in theory—no memorial so fitting to the memory of one whose greatest desire in life was to see the establishment of a National Endowed Theatre; but it is utterly impracticable. To accomplish such an object a sum of half a million sterling would be necessary, and that is impossible. Therefore we have to be content with a less ambitious scheme, but not on that account less worthy. The suggestion before you is this, and for your approval of it, and unanimous vote, I plead with all the earnestness I can command. It is that the memorial should be raised and subscribed for by the theatrical profession, and by the theatrical profession alone. That having the reasonable hope of a suitable and dignified site in the centre of London, a statue of Henry Irving should be raised as 'an affectionate tribute from the managers, actors and actresses, and dramatic authors of the United Kingdom and America. The sum of £3000 would more than cover the cost, and surely it would be a discredit to our calling, and a reflection on the affection we profess for his memory, should not such a sum be readily raised. Such a statue, subscribed for by all ranks of the profession, would mark our gratitude for the immense services he has rendered to the stage, mark our affection and respect for him as a man, and be an honourable landmark throughout the ages of our own loyalty and the dignity of our calling. Such, ladies and gentlemen, is broadly the scheme I place before you; it is a simple scheme, one comparatively easy of accomplishment; it is for you, the representatives of the theatrical profession, to say 'yes' or 'no." But unless I am greatly mistaken in my estimate of their feelings the 'ayes' will carry the day, and the proposition before you meet with your unanimous approval and support, for there can be no doubt that such a memorial would be an honour to the living as well as to the dead. And should he who has left us have knowledge of what is passing on earth, happy indeed would he be to know that though the glamour of his living presence has passed from us, his memory is, and ever will be, held in affectionate remembrance by those of his comrades who in life he loved and served so well."

It had been arranged that Mr. A. W. Pinero should second the resolution, but it was announced that under doctor's orders he was precluded from attending. In a letter which was read to the meeting Mr. Pinero expressed himself in favour of erecting a full-length portrait statue of Sir Henry in a busy part of theatreland as an actors' memorial simply.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE stepped into the breach, and seconded the resolution. He said: The absence of Mr. Pinero gives me the opportunity of seconding the proposition of Mr. Hare, which I do with all my heart. I must be very brief, for all that I had to say has been said by Mr. Hare. I did not know before this morning whether we should be in agreement, but I can say "Aye" to every statement made by Mr. Hare. We have met here to-day to do the highest honour we can to the memory of our late chief. There are those here who stood very near to Sir Henry Irving, and I think that it is their feeling that it would be a mistake to make an appeal to the general public. Surely we are strong enough in ourselves to pay this great tribute to him—one which will not detract in any way from the great and lasting honour which is paid to him who lies in Westminster Abbey. I knew Sir Henry Irving sufficiently well to say that I am sure he would have appreciated nothing in the world so highly as to be remembered by his brother and sister artists as he has been remembered to-day.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER, in supporting the resolution, said: I am sure no words of mine are needed to influence you to carry out the suggestion which has been made by Mr. Hare. We, I am sure, are entirely of one view that the actors and actresses of this country and of America are anxious to raise a monument to the memory of the late Sir Henry Irving. It may be that some actors and actresses have one idea of what that memorial should be, and other actors and actresses have other ideas. But let nothing slip through our fingers to-day in discussion. Let us carry this resolution that the memorial shall be a living thing at once, without delay, and so save any further discussion as to whether there is to be a memorial or not. All the members of Sir Henry Irving's company who are here to-day will support Mr. Hare. I earnestly beg that every actor and actress in this theatre will cry "Aye!" very loudly, and that they will not leave without coming to the table and writing their names and pledging themselves to subscribe to this memorial.

Before putting the resolution, the chairman invited alternative schemes from those present, whereupon MISS ELLEN TERRY, whose rising was greeted with loud and continued cheers, said: Ladies and gentlemen, my sisters and brothers, I must beg you in the first place not to look upon me as an obstructionist. I am not an obstructionist. On the contrary, I think it is lovely of you to want to make this memorial an expression of the loving remembrance in which all actors must hold the name of Sir Henry Irving. I oppose such a scheme? No! But if a rich donor, or the public, came and said, "I will help you," you would not surely refuse that favour? You would not surely refuse to allow this memorial to be made a bigger and a finer thing than it is in our power to make it, with all the goodwill in the world? It seems to me that this is not a case in which we can fold our hands meekly and say:

"Never anything can be amiss,
When simpleness and duty tender it."

No, it seems to me rather:

"Like a great sea-mark, standing every flaw,
And saving those that eye thee!"

The thing to consider in raising a memorial to such a man is the best means to secure the greatest end. With this motive and this alone I ask the meeting to approve a scheme which includes the co-operation of the public, and consider its amalgamation with the scheme which has already been submitted. The details will be explained by my seconder.

MR. F. R. BENSON seconded Miss Terry's proposition. He was sure, from the way in which Miss Terry's remarks were received, that they were all agreed that no one had a greater right to propose a scheme than Miss Terry. That right was hers in virtue of her position as an artist and a colleague of their late beloved chief, a sharer in some of the greatest of his triumphs. He could not too strongly lay stress on the fact that Miss Terry's scheme was in no way in opposition to the one put before them. Miss Terry wished to consult them as to her scheme, and desired to know whether or not it was possible to amalgamate it with that of the committee, with whose efforts she was in entire accord and to whose proposal she was anxious to subscribe. There was one word, and only one word, in the eloquent address from the chairman with which, in all humility, he differed, and that was when he a little under-estimated the enormous hold which their late chief had on the public mind. He agreed, and everyone there agreed, with Miss Terry that a statue erected by actors to one of the greatest of actors was an altogether admirable project, but did the adoption of such an undertaking altogether preclude an effort, in which actors should take a leading part, in erecting a national memorial to a national genius? When they had heard Miss Terry's scheme in detail, and learned the result of Miss Terry's efforts during two weeks, they would agree that the chairman had under-rated the willingness of the public to take part in a national memorial to their late chief. He would ask them to remember that Irving's greatness consisted as well in those qualities put before them by Mr. Hare as to that boast of Irving that he was the servant of the public. Irving was great enough to know that the secret of his power was the excellence of his service. "Let him who would be chief among you be your minister." Miss Terry and her supporters had evidence that there were many of the public connected with Irving's work who would feel a little hurt if they were not allowed to share in this effort to perpetuate his memory and to honour the mighty dead. There were many, of course, with whom Miss Terry would wish to co-operate, but she had not done so because she wished to avoid the least semblance of antagonism to the noble scheme of an actors' memorial. Miss Terry wished to ask them that day to consider whether it was possible to amalgamate the two schemes, and empower the committee to consider the question. She came before them with definite promises of £3000 and a list thoroughly representative of the greatest living public men in the land, among them the recent Prime Minister, the Bishops of London and Ripon, and many members of the present Cabinet. Miss Terry's scheme, towards the successful realisation of which considerable progress had already been made, so that Miss Terry and her friends had no fear of falling short of the high standard set before them by Mr. Hare, consisted of an effort to erect what, for want of a better term, might be called a museum—something on the lines of the Stratford Memorial Gallery. That museum would contain a gallery, which might serve also as a kind of Pantheon—pictures and statues of eminent artists whose work was connected with the stage, a library of dramatic literature, MSS. of illustrious authors, and mementoes of great actors. In this way they would serve to keep before them the high standard Henry Irving reached; it would help to make it easier for the young to attain to that high standard, and it would also serve to confer that recognition of the stage for which Sir Henry Irving always longed.

At the request of the meeting Mr. Lewis Waller read a list of the names of many distinguished persons who had promised support to Miss Terry's proposal, after which Mr. Benson begged leave to withdraw the amendment, as Miss Terry's purpose had been served by putting her scheme before the meeting. She would support the committee's project in a whole-hearted manner, but would continue with her own scheme, and hoped that it would be regarded as an auxiliary.

MR. CECIL RALEIGH said it gave him the greatest satisfaction to urge the adoption of the memorial as suggested by the committee. He could only re-echo what Mr. Alexander had said. Let them be unanimous in doing one thing, and let them do it well. The committee had before them various proposals, formal and informal. Some might be called "wild-cat" schemes, and some might have emanated from more strenuous and more docile quadrupeds. There was no site too good for a statue of Sir Henry Irving, and anything they did would receive favourable consideration from every public body. He felt that the memorial should come from the profession, and if the public would like to do something else, let them do so, but let them (the actors) do their little job by themselves. He asked them to vote for the statue with one unanimous voice, and do something worthy of so great an actor.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM, who had a most cordial reception, said,—If there should be any dissentient voice I would like just to call to your mind the fact that any honour that Henry Irving achieved in life, any honour that has come to him in death, accrues to the profession he so much adorned. For us to hold out our hats to the public for our own glorification would be a serious mistake. We have to deal with a great memory which, like most memories, is surrounded with dignity, and our endeavour should be to keep that memory clear and sustain that dignity.

The announcement that Mr. Laurence Irving would speak aroused a hearty cheer. MR. IRVING said: My brother, as you know, is unfortunately in America, or it would have devolved upon him to speak for me. Since you wish to hear one of us say something, I must try and say a few words on his behalf, and I think I can very fairly assume to do so. I know very well that, apart from its intrinsic merits, my brother would have been in accordance with any scheme that had been brought forward and so eloquently urged as Mr. Hare's project. Mr. Hare was one of my father's most trusted friends. He spent the greater part of his last summer with Mr. Hare, who is an actor that we all look up to and a man whom we all respect. I know that were my brother here he would feel the same pride that I now feel in seeing this gathering of all who are most famous on the stage—Mr. Hare, Miss Terry, and all his great brother and sister artists—and I know that he would feel, as I do, that this was a very noble tribute to the memory of our father. No tribute to his memory would be so vivid, so inspiring, and so enduring as a statue. It seems to me that what we want to see are his features—those features that have given us all encouragement, helped us to persevere, stirred in us all emotions deep and noble, and sometimes administered salutary chiding. I think that what we wish to see is a statue set up in a public place for all men to gaze on amidst the noise and tumult of the streets, so that we may remember, as his example showed us, that there is in our profession an ideal above high salaries, above paragraphs, and above all small aims. My father suffered every hardship and every disappointment of an actor's life, as Sir Charles Wyndham no doubt could affirm. Few suffered more cruelly or more harshly; but I think I may say he attained to a position such as no other actor has reached. I think that one can see all that if one will look in his face. Therefore may I say, not as his son, but as an actor, let us see Irving's face and figure. It does not matter whether it is in bronze or marble; let us see him as he was, he who epitomised in himself all that is noblest in the art that we all, in however humble a way, are striving to serve.

The chairman then put the resolution, the terms of which were as follows: "That a statue should be erected by members of the dramatic profession as an affectionate tribute in memory of our late chief and friend, Sir Henry Irving, and that the statue should be subscribed for by the managers, actors, and actresses, and dramatic authors of the United Kingdom and America who are anxious to join in this scheme."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Gerald Du Maurier proposed and Mr. Lewis Waller seconded that Messrs. Cyril Maude, Cecil Raleigh, Acton Bond, and Lewis Casson be re-elected on the committee, and that Messrs. John Hare, H. Beerbohm Tree, George Alexander, Forbes Robertson, Martin Harvey, and Alfred Kendrick, with Mr. Charles Cruikshanks as secretary, be elected in addition. The proposition was agreed to *nem. con.*

Mr. Alexander,—I propose that one name, which I am sure will be received with acclamation, be added, and that is the name of Miss Ellen Terry. It must be apparent to you that Miss Terry's intentions to-day were solely directed in the channel of adding, if possible, greater lustre to our dear dead friend, and I am sure her efforts ought to be—and will be—supported with still greater enthusiasm by the public when they learn what the actors are going to do.

The proposal was seconded by Mr. Cecil Raleigh, and enthusiastically adopted.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Hare for presiding and to Mr. Arthur Bourchier for the loan of the theatre, proposed by Mr. Cyril Maude and seconded by Mr. George Alexander, was passed by acclamation.

Before leaving the theatre every person present was invited to sign his or her name in support of the movement, and the suggestion was carried out apparently without exception.

THE IRVING MEMORIAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—It was not without a sense of keen regret and deep disappointment that I learnt that the decision arrived at as the result of yesterday's meeting at the Garrick Theatre *re* the Irving Memorial was to the effect that a statue should be erected, at a cost of £3000, to perpetuate Sir Henry's memory. May I be allowed to express the opinion that the late Sir Henry Irving would have much preferred his memory to be perpetuated in some more practical way—by some scheme which might benefit those who were so dear to him, his brother actors; a scheme which might assist an actor when out of work, and when in work encourage him to be provident. The idea I have in my mind as I pen these lines is this: that the sum mentioned of £3000, together with the Actors' Day Fund, would have formed an excellent basis upon which to have started a Provident Fund, with an entrance-fee of 2s. 6d. and a weekly subscription of, say, 6d. A membership of 4000 would mean £500 more from the entrance-fees, and £100 per week in the way of weekly subscriptions. Two shillings and sixpence at joining and 6d. a week is not a great tax upon the resources of the actor; and yet imagine the amount of good that could be done with this money. In the event of a member of the Fund dying, so much would be paid—for argument's sake, £20 or £25—to his widow or next-of-kin; in case of illness or accident, so much per week or so much down, as might be arranged hereafter. In the case of the unemployed, I believe it would be quite possible to make some arrangement. These would not be acts of charity, but every member would be entitled to same. Such a scheme is being carried out by our brothers and sisters in the other branch of the profession; why should we not do the same?—Yours faithfully, ARTHUR RAWTREE.

10, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.
Dec. 19.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA. 1850—1900.

(COPYRIGHT.)

In these columns it is proposed to give a strictly alphabetical arrangement of the titles of plays produced during the last fifty years. It will be the most complete list ever published, and should prove invaluable to authors desiring to discover whether a certain title has ever been used, and when. To members of the dramatic profession it will be useful in determining the dates of plays in which they have achieved successes. Our readers are politely requested to advise us of any omission or inaccuracy which they may notice.

This list as soon as complete will be published in cheap book form.

STOWAWAY, THE, Theatre Royal, Dewsbury, Sept. 29, 1884.
STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART, Pavilion, Aug. 3, 1896.
STRAIGHT TIP, Drury Lane, Sept. 20, 1873.
STRANGE ADVENTURES OF A FRENCH PIANISTE, Steinway Hall, July 2, 1891.
STRANGE ADVENTURES OF MISS BROWN, Vaudeville, June 26, 1895.
STRANGE BUT TRUE, Grecian, July 2, 1866.
STRANGE GUEST, Globe, April 16, 1892.
STRANGE HISTORY, Lyceum, March 28, 1853.
STRANGE HOST, St. George's Hall, Dec. 26, 1882.
STRANGE RELATION, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, May 22, 1876.
STRANGER IN NEW YORK, Gaiety, Feb. 11, 1897.
STRANGER STRANGER THAN EVER, THE, Nov. 4, 1868.
STRANGERS YET, Grecian, May 20, 1872.
STRANGER, THE, Olympic, Jan. 28, 1891.
STRANGER TO HIMSELF, Queen's, Birmingham, June 17, 1889.
STRANGLERS OF PARIS, Surrey, Oct. 17, 1887.
STRATAGEM, Princess's, June 9, 1892.
STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM, Glasgow, Feb. 26, 1891.
STRAW HAT, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, Dec. 13, 1873.
STRAYED AWAY, East London, Aug. 15, 1870.
STRAYED FROM THE FOLD, Pavilion, June 8, 1878.
STREAKS OF GOLD, Theatre Royal, Sunderland, March 14, 1878.
STREAK O' SUNSHINE, Sadler's Wells, May 7, 1888.
STREETS OF LONDON, Princess's, Aug. 1, 1864.
STREETS, THE; OR, A TALE OF WICKED LONDON, Sadler's Wells, Sept. 6, 1884.
STREETS TO THE HULKS, Grecian, May 17, 1869.
STRICKEN DOWN, Theatre Royal, Glasgow, June 13, 1870.
STRIKE AT ARLINGFORD, Opéra Comique, Feb. 21, 1893.
STRIKE, THE, Theatre Royal, Northampton, June 23, 1873.
STRIKE, THE; OR, HEADS, HANDS, AND HEARTS, Albion, May 3, 1875.
STRIKING SIMILARITY, Prince of Wales's, Liverpool, May 30, 1870.
STRIKING THE HOUR, City of London, May 20, 1867.
STRING OF PEARLS, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, Nov. 26, 1892.
STROKE OF LUCK, Cardiff, Aug. 7, 1899.
STROLLERS, Llanelly, Aug. 27, 1888.
STROLLER, THE, Princess's, Oct. 22, 1887.
STRONG AS DEATH, Theatre Royal, Gloucester, June 19, 1899.
STRONGBOW, Dublin, May 2, 1892.
STRUCK IN THE DARK, Ramsgate, Oct. 5, 1875.
STRUCK OIL, Adelphi, April 17, 1876.
STRUGGLE FOR LIFE, Sadler's Wells, Sept. 22, 1884.
STRUGGLING FOR WEALTH, Surrey, Dec. 21, 1880.
STUDENTS' FROLIC, St. James's Hall, May 24, 1864.
STUDY OF TWO WOMEN, Brompton Hospital, Feb. 15, 1898.
STUFFED DOG, Camden Town, Nov. 2, 1889.
SUB-EDITOR, Brixton Theatre, Nov. 5, 1896.
SUBSTANCE AND THE SHADOW, Newcastle, Jan. 30, 1894.
SUBSTITUTE, Court, Sept. 9, 1876.
SUCCESS, Theatre Royal, Great Grimsby, April 30, 1879.
SUCCESSFUL MISSION, Prince of Wales's, July 14, 1894.
SUCH A GOOD MAN, Olympic, Dec. 18, 1879.
SUCH A GUY MANNERING, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, April 27, 1868.
SUCH IS LIFE, Elephant and Castle, Feb. 28, 1885.
SUCH IS LOVE, Avenue, July 5, 1894.
SUCH IS THE LAW, St. James's, April 20, 1878.
SUCH STUFF AS DREAMS ARE MADE OF, St. George's Hall, May 15, 1899.
SUE, Garrick, June 10, 1898.
SUGAR AND CREAM, Globe, March , 1884.
SUGAR AND SPICE, Gaiety, West Hartlepool, Sept. 11, 1882.
SUGGESTION, Hammersmith, Nov. 21, 1891.
SUGGS IN DANGER, Sadler's Wells, Oct. 10, 1882.
SUITED AT LAST, Staveley, March 25, 1895.
SUIT OF TWEEDS, Strand, Jan. 14, 1867.
SULTAN OF MOCHA, Prince's, Manchester, Nov. 16, 1874.
SUMACHAUN, Britannia, Aug. 5, 1878.
SUMMER CLOUD, Strand, Sept. 20, 1880.
SUMMER CLOUDS, Toole's, Feb. 16, 1891.
SUMMERLAND'S MISTAKE, Prince of Wales's, Wolverhampton, March 10, 1873.
SUMMER STORMS, Theatre Royal, Birmingham, Dec. 18, 1876.
SUMMER'S DREAM, Avenue, July 14, 1891.
SUMMONED TO COURT, Imperial, March 4, 1880.
SUNBURY SCANDAL, Terry's, June 11, 1896.
SUNDOWNER, THE, Hammersmith, Oct. 13, 1900.
SUNDOWN TILL DAWN, Theatre Royal, Brighton, March 1, 1875.
SUNDOWN TO DAWN, Britannia, July 15, 1876.
SUNLIGHT AND SHADOW, Avenue, Nov. 1, 1890.
SUNNY FLORIDA, Court, Warrington, Nov. 2, 1896.
SUNNY SIDE, Strand, May 18, 1885.
SUNNY SOUTH, Grand, Oct. 27, 1884.
SUNSET, Comedy, Feb. 13, 1888.
SUNSHINE, Old Theatre Royal, Bristol, Jan. 5, 1880.
SUNSHINE AND SHADOW, Marylebone, March 25, 1867.
SUPER, THE, Criterion, May 24, 1894.
SURE TO WIN, Huddersfield, May 2, 1876.
SURPRISE, A, Matinée, May 22, 1897.
SURPRISES, Theatre Royal, Workington, Oct. 3, 1890.
SUSAN SMITH, Princess's, Oct. 29, 1860.
SUSPICION, Britannia, Aug. 11, 1875.
SUZANNE, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, March 1, 1884.
SWALLOW'S NEST, Marylebone, May 25, 1863.
SWASHBUCKLER, THE, Duke of York's, Nov. 17, 1900.
SWEEPSTAKES, Terry's, May 21, 1891.
SWEET BELLS JANGLED, Olympic, June 28, 1879.
SWEET BRIER, Theatre Royal, Bath, June 6, 1898.
SWEET CINDERELLA, Grand, Dec. 26, 1888.
SWEET CUPID'S NET, Strand, April 21, 1892.
SWEET DECEPTION, Brompton Hospital, Nov. 24, 1896.
SWEETHEART, GOOD-BYE, Theatre Royal, Scarborough, Oct. 10, 1881.
SWEETHEARTS, Prince of Wales's, Nov. 7, 1874.
SWEET INNISFAIL, Queen's, Manchester, Aug. 16, 1886.
SWEET LAVENDER, Terry's, March 21, 1888.
SWEET NANCY, Lyric, July 12, 1890.
SWEET NELL OF OLD DRURY, Haymarket, Aug. 30, 1900.
SWEET OLDEN DAYS, Theatre Royal, Plymouth, Oct. 15, 1894.
SWEET REVENGE, Theatre Royal, Liverpool, April 17, 1876.
SWEET SEVENTEEN, Brighton, Nov. 26, 1894.
SWEET SIMPLICITY, Southall, Feb. 23, 1891.
SWEET WILL, Shaftesbury, July 25, 1890.
SWINDLER, THE, Britannia, Aug. 25, 1873.

MR. J. H. TOMKINSON, proprietor of the Royal Gipsy Companies, was married on Thursday, Dec. 13, to Miss Lizzie Fernandez, of the Lizette Troupe of lady acrobats. The ceremony took place at St. Mary's Church, Edge Hill, Liverpool, and was attended by a large number of friends and relatives of the bride and bridegroom. The bride was the recipient of many presents. The guests were entertained at the house of the bride's parents, 36, Albany-road, Kensington, Liverpool. His artists presented Mr. Tomkinson with a handsome gold watch and the bride with a case of cutlery. The presentation was made by Mr. Fred McLean, who spoke of the amicable relations which had always existed between Mr. Tomkinson and his company. Mr. Tomkinson, in reply, expressed the keen pleasure he felt in accepting such handsome tokens of appreciation and good wishes for himself and wife.

A WORLD-WIDE reputation is enjoyed by Raphael Tuck and Sons, who have this year surpassed themselves in the excellence and extent of their novelties. A peep into their extensive catalogue reveals a wealth of variety in toys, book, date calendars, and Christmas and New Year cards. A prominent place is given to several series of coloured mechanical animals, domestic and otherwise—all the species from rabbit to rhinoceros being included. They are made in an original manner (duly patented), which enables the animal to stand on all four legs, in every possible position, the joints moving in a natural manner, and securing a thoroughly lifelike attitude. On the back of each model is an instructive description of the animal. Toy books of all descriptions are contained in the collection, and for gift-books and calendars no better choice could be wished. The Christmas and New Year cards are exceedingly tasteful, the expanding flower, the oilette parchment, and the modern art series being particularly charming. It may truly be said that from Raphael House this Christmas has issued its most exquisite productions.

WE regret to announce that Mr. Charles Webb, an actor and scenic artist with Messrs. Beale and Davis's company, has died suddenly at Swadlincote. He had a seizure from which he never recovered, passing away some hours later in the Burton-on-Trent Infirmary.

THE latest quotations of music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1⅛; Canterbury, ⅜; Drury Lane, 11-16; Empire (15s. pd), 1; ditto, (10s. pd), ⅞; Gaiety, 1; London Pavilion Ord., 4½; ditto Pref, 5; London Coliseum, ⅛; Metropolitan, ⅜; Moss Empire, 5; ditto, 5 p.c. Pref., 3⅞; Oxford, 6⅜; Palace, 19-32; Tivoli, 6⅜; Var. Cons. Theatres, 13s.

THE many friends of Mr. Isidore Witmark and his brothers will be grieved to learn of the death of their mother in New York on Friday, Dec. 14.

MISS RACHEL LOWE, who is not appearing in pantomime this Christmas, will spend the holidays at her London home, and then fulfil an engagement in Paris, where she is producing a great novelty.

MESSRS. HARRINGTON AND TATE have in hand a new musical comedietta of a most novel character, for Mr. Alec Hurley, which the coster king purposes producing at a very early date. His "Coster's Beano," by the first-named gentleman and the late George Le Brunn, is still going strong and well, and will do yeoman service for Mr. Hurley for many a long day to come yet.

THE Leslie Brothers are spending their Christmas and New Year at the Scala Theatre, Antwerp, after just finishing a most successful engagement on the Moss and Stoll tours.

MISS MILLIE LINDON, we regret to hear, is very indisposed, and will be unable to appear at the opening of the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, where she is engaged as principal boy.

MISS DOT STEPHENS' SAD CASE.

We have received a cheque for £1 12s., per the *Referee*, from Mrs. de Courcy Laffan, as a contribution to the fund being raised for the benefit of Miss Dot Stephens, who was so grievously injured in a railway accident last June. The cheque is the result of the sale of Mrs. de Courcy Laffan's "In Memoriam" poem to the late Sir Henry Irving.

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged....	831	15	0
Collected by James Bell, T.R., Darlington:—			
F. P. Hamilton	0	10	0
G. H. Wood	0	10	0
James Bell	0	10	0
T. Jenkins	0	5	0
Joseph Hall	0	5	0
G. H. Zissler	0	5	0
Swankey Pat	0	5	0
C. Sly	0	5	0
Henry W. Hutson	0	5	0
J. Prior	0	5	0
Jim Morgan	0	5	0
Coates F. Porter	0	5	0
Pals	0	5	0
Sallie 1s., Eva 1s., Effie 1s.	0	3	0
W. Cleminson	0	2	6
C. O'Dowd	0	2	6
Mrs. C. O'Dowd	0	2	6
G. Donald	0	2	6
J. O. Rawdon	0	2	6
Fred Smith	0	2	6
E. Chilton Coal King	0	2	6
John Shaw	0	2	6
Albert Dean	0	2	6
G. J. D. Scott	0	2	6
W. Davies	0	2	6
J. C. Pendlebury	0	2	6
Joco	0	2	6
Pop	0	2	6
F. Fissler	0	2	6
Geo. Wright	0	2	6
D. H. Davies	0	2	0
C. A. James	0	1	0
Harrier	0	1	0
Silver King	0	1	0
W. Bevan	0	1	0
Annie	0	1	0
Collected by *The Prince of Pilsen* company, per Baron H. Harriss:—	£	s.	d.
Baron H. Harriss	1	1	0
Mrs. Harriss	1	1	0
Florence Vernon	0	2	6
F. Beech	0	2	6
Connie Leon	0	2	6
Mollie Wynne	0	2	6
Dorothy Grasdorff	0	2	6
Maudie Wright	0	2	6
H. Higgins	0	2	6
R. S.	0	2	6
B. R.	0	2	6
E. Gifford	0	2	6
Harry Curry	0	2	6
Frank H. Crimp	0	2	6
Fred Dawson	0	1	0
Eric Longden	0	1	0
R. H. Vallis	0	1	0
W. Clifford	0	1	0
Kittie Elmore	0	1	0
Alf. Rhodes	0	1	0
Jack Chester	0	1	0
Samuel Foster	0	1	0
Flo Elmore	0	1	0
Albert Vernon	0	1	0
W. H. P.	0	1	0
W. R. Percival	0	1	0
Harry Kilburn	0	1	0
M. Tapp	0	1	0
Cissie Locke	0	1	0
Peggy Franklin	0	1	0
Marie Longden	0	1	0
Agnes Rothsay	0	1	0
Maurice Leighton	0	1	0
O. G. Llewellyn	0	1	0
Hilda Scarisbrick	0	1	0
Clifford	0	1	0
	4	14	0

If the holders of collecting cards will kindly forward them to Mr. J. Bannister Howard or to Mr. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, they will much oblige. It is intended to close the fund as soon as all cards are returned.

A CONTRADICTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Through an error on my part your last week's Variety Gossip announced that in my forthcoming reproduction of Muir and Bartlett's *A Clerical Complication* I should be assisted by Miss Clare Nicholls. This lady is fully engaged for some time to come, and I have secured the services of another equally well-known West End comedienne.—Yours faithfully,

VERNON WILLOX CADOGAN.
(Cadogan and Wingrove.)

MISS GWENNIE HASTO has scored a great success at the King's Theatre, Edinburgh, with the pretty song, "In the shadow of the Pyramid." "Moon dear" and "Will you love me in December as you do in May?" are pronounced successes at all the theatres in Glasgow.

"QUEEN OF OLD SAMARA," the successful song written and composed by J. F. Lambe, was first introduced at the Tivoli, Manchester, by Miss Lilian Doreen on Sept. 17 last, and afterwards featured in London by the same artist and by Miss Alice Lloyd. It was disposed of to publishers on May 25, 1906.

MR. HERBERT SHELLEY has been engaged by Sir Edward Moss and Mr. Oswald Stoll to present his protean Gaelic play, *Dan the Outlaw*, on their circuit in 1907. A starring tour offered by Mr. Thomas Barrasford has had to be reluctantly refused.

MESSRS. RAPO AND ELLA, equilibrists, through their success, have been engaged by Mr. Alfred Butt, for the Palace Theatre, and have placed their bookings in the hands of Fred Neiman and Co., 108, Strand.

THE members of the Canonbury Club held their first "smoker" and supper of the season on Saturday night, at ancient Canonbury Tower, under the genial presidency of Mr. Councillor Davis, chairman of the club, and Mr. Councillor Andrew-Marshall was the vice-chairman. An excellent entertainment followed the supper, many of the items being supplied by a concert party under the able direction of Mr. Ronald Bagnall, a clever, high-class comedian, who, seated at the piano, gave, in admirable style, some capital songs, including "The happy garden," "The street music pirate," and "A musical story." Mr. Robert Stokes, a fine baritone, sang "Nirvana," "The Yeoman's Wedding," and "Drinking" with good effect. Mr. Fred Edwards scored as a comic singer, his amusing contributions including "The patchwork garden" and "It must have been the lobster." Mr. Charles Gellett recited Kipling's "The Ballad of East and West," followed by Mr. Frank Desprez's thrilling poem, "Laska," and to both these selections this admirable elocutionist did full justice. Mr. Rex Kempton, an old favourite at these functions, was again well to the front with his humorous ditties, which, of course, included "He was a married man," a warning to all bachelors, given in his best style. Valuable services were rendered by Mr. Lovett King as accompanist and Mr. Will Clinch as stage manager.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth** or **Death** or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

The charge for a notice of **Marriage**, not exceeding forty words, is **Two Shillings and Sixpence**, every additional word **One Penny.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

MARRIAGES.

BROWN—ROYALL.—Dec. 16, at Holy Trinity Church, Bow, by the Rev. Henry Dundas, Fred Brown, jun., eldest son of Mr. Fred Brown, acting-Manager of the Pavilion Theatre, Mile End, to Annie Royall.

FANNING—MATTHEWS.—At Whitehaven on Dec. 12, Dan Fanning, of Dane's Marionettes, to Annie Matthews, widow of Willie Matthews, brother to the seven Sisters Matthews, and daughter of John Wilson (Wilson's World's Great Circus).

FERNANDEZ—TOMKINSON.—On Thursday, Dec. 13, at St. Mary's Church, Liverpool, Lizzie Fernandez, eldest daughter of James Fernandez (Lezzette Troupe lady acrobats), to John H. Tomkinson, proprietor Tomkinson's Royal Gipsy Companies.

KLEIN—BERTRAM.—On the 17th, at St. Mark's, Lewisham, Cecil Klein, only son of Casper Klein, of Maida Vale, to Celestine, youngest daughter of Arthur Bertram, of "Killarney," Lewisham.

DEATHS.

AIDE.—Dec. 14, after two days' illness, Hamilton Aide, dramatist, novelist, and song-writer, aged seventy-six.

BOSTOCK.—At his residence, Rothesay House, High-street, Rusholme, Manchester, Charles Bostock, father of Arthur Bostock, racehorse owner, and N. C. Bostock. Deeply mourned by his sorrowing family. American papers please copy.

CHRISTIAN.—Dec. 17, 1906, Charles Christian (Cris), at the East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, from lock-jaw. Age 35.

COURTENEY.—Dec. 20, Paul Courteney, sketch artist, passed peacefully away, at 21, Lady's-lane, Norwich, after a week's illness of pneumonia. Deeply mourned by his sorrowing wife and family. "God's will be done."

DE VOYE.—Dec. 15, at the Infirmary, Leeds, from diabetes, after three weeks' illness, James De Voye, animal trainer.

FARRELL.—Sunday, Dec. 16, Sarah Ann, wife of Charles Farrell, roundabout proprietor, Chester. Rest in peace.

PHIPP.—Dec. 17, of bronchitis and pneumonia, Sophia Matilda, the dearly-beloved mother of W. Scott Phipp and Eric Calcott (formerly known as the Brothers Folkestone), and niece of Robert Folkestone Williams, novelist and Court Chronicler, age 74. R.I.P

RAINFORD.—Nov. 9, at Sydney, Tom H. Rainford, Australian operatic vocalist, aged 75.

WEBB.—Suddenly, in the Burton-on-Trent Infirmary, Charles Webb, actor and scenic artist.

IN MEMORIAM.

ALBANO.—In loving memory of our dearly-beloved daughter, Miss Lilian Albano, who died at Detroit, U.S., America, Dec. 21, 1903.
One of the best that God could end,
A faithful sister, daughter, and friend.
Forget her! No, we never will.
As time rolls on we love her still.
Never forgotten by her father, mother, and sisters.

BURTON. — In loving memory of Bertha Burton, actress, who died on Christmas Day, 1903.

GETHING.—In loving memory of William Henry Gething, conductor, who died Dec. 18, 1904, at Carlisle. Ever remembered by his loving wife and daughters.

LUBBOCK.—In memory of my beloved husband, Sydney Reginald Lubbock (Reg), who was taken Dec. 15, 1905, aged 23. Never forgotten by his devoted wife, GEORGIE LENO
A year, sweetheart, since you were taken from me.
I pray each year may bring me nearer Heaven and thee.

O'GRADY.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Hubert O'Grady. Seven long years have passed since I lost all in life. He is always in my thoughts.—Mrs. HUBERT O'GRADY.

RIGNOLD.—In loving memory of my dearly loved father, William Rignold, who fell asleep Dec. 22, 1904. Always mourned by his Bess.

ROBSON.—In loving memory of Mat Robson, who died Dec. 22, 1899.

SNOW.—In loving memory of Mr. Ted Snow, who died on Christmas Day, 1903. Never forgotten by his widow and children.

TOY.—In loving memory of Agnes, widow of James Toy, solicitor, of Exeter, who passed away Dec. 24, 1899. Never forgotten by her daughter Beatrice. R.I.P.

FOR SYMPATHY.

Mr. and Mrs. F. H. PEDGRIFT desire to return their heartfelt thanks for the numerous letters and telegrams received from condoling friends. The sad loss has been lightened very much by such sweet sympathy.
"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

An interesting orchestral concert, and one that reflected the greatest credit on the training staff of the Tenterden-street institution, was given at Queen's Hall on the afternoon of the 14th inst., under the conductorship of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Two new works by students were produced, the first being a Symphonic Scherzo in G for orchestra by Mr. Montague F. Phillips, which proved bright, attractive, and original, melodious in style, and containing much clever writing for the orchestra, both wind and string. In answer to the warm applause with which the work was greeted Sir Alexander Mackenzie stated that the young composer was not in the hall, being unfortunately indisposed, but he would convey to him their expressions of approval. The other new work heard was "Songs of Love and War," written by Mr. Hubert Bath, and cleverly sung by Mr. David Evans. The first of the two songs was entitled "Longing," a musical setting of a poem by Matthew Arnold; and the other, and by far the more striking, a "Viking's War Song," a composition ably scored for the orchestra and full of martial spirit. The young composer was recalled to the platform amidst loud applause. Mr. Sydney Rosenbloom gave a brilliant performance on the solo instrument in Saint-Saëns' delightful Scherzo and Finale from "Concerto in G Minor" for piano and orchestra; and Miss Juliet Capron displayed great ability in her violin solo, "Concerto in D," by Paganini, the difficult cadenza being played with much technical skill. In Boëllmann's beautiful "Variations Symphoniques" for violoncello Mr. John Mundy produced a rich and expressive tone, and the orchestral parts were also admirably rendered. Included in the programme were Sir A. C. Mackenzie's genial "Scottish" Pianoforte Concerto, cleverly interpreted by Miss Dorothy Grinstead and the orchestra; and Coleridge-Taylor's "Symphonic Variations on an African Air" for orchestra. In the vocal portion of the concert Miss Grace Hazelhurst was heartily greeted for her song "Fair spring is returning," from Saint-Saëns' *Samson and Delilah*; and Miss Aileen Hodgson was fairly successful in Verdi's aria "Ah fors è lui" (*La Traviata*).

MR. THOMAS HARRIS, the energetic and go-ahead manager of the Chemical Cleaning Co., has just published a handsome card calendar with a pair of beautiful tableau curtains in relief on the front of the card. All customers should immediately write in for one of these useful reminders.

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL.—Theatre Royal, Worcester, Dec. 18, '06. Dear Mr. Harris,—My white satin dress arrived quite safely yesterday, and in good time for the evening performance, and really looks beautiful. Many thanks for the promptitude with which you executed my order, and also the excellence of the work.—Believe me to remain, very faithfully yours, BEATRICE SHIRLEY. T. Harris, Esq., Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Co., 6, Argyll street, W.—ADVT.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

Notice to Subscribers.

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Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

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(two doors off Wellington Street)
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. HARVEY.—*It is very probable that he appeared at the theatre mentioned in the course of his career—possibly on some special occasion—but we can find no record of his having done so.*

ALFRED DARGIE.—*We do not know; but you might enquire of S. French, theatrical publishers, Southampton-street, Strand.*

T. A.—*We have not been able to discover the date of the revival of* Raymond and Agnes *at the Haymarket; J. B. Buckstone had ceased to be manager in the early eighties. He retired in 1878.* The Overland Route *was first produced in February, 1860.*

H T.—(1) *In Faust.* (2) *At the Lyceum Theatre.* (3) *Mr. Lewis Waller.*

W. W. F.—The Belle of New York *was transferred from the New Century (now again the Adelphi) to the Lyric in the middle of December, 1901.*

COCKEYITE.—*You had better instruct someone here to look after your interests.*

KENTUCKY.—*Henry Russell was the author of the song, "A life on the ocean wave."*

T. T.—*Miss Letty Lind appeared at Daly's Theatre in* An Artist's Model.

GEORGE.—*He made his first appearance in London at the Polytechnic in 1880.*

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HOCKEY.

MISS CECILIA FOWLER'S LADIES' ATHLETIC TEAM v. MISS WINNIE BRADLEY'S LADIES' ELEVEN.

Played near Clifton Downs on Dec. 1, no goals being scored on either side. The following were the teams:—

MISS FOWLER'S TEAM: Miss Ethel Bowman, goal; Miss May Dudley and Miss Ivy Bowman, backs; Miss Cecilia Fowler (captain), Miss Lillie Belding, and Miss Lilla Carter, half-backs; Miss Bertha Godfrey, Miss Trixie Maynard, Miss Minnie Leonard, Miss Gracie Leonard, and Miss Amy Bernard, forwards.

MISS BRADLEY'S ELEVEN: Miss May Fisher, goal; Miss Alice Gibbs and Miss Rosie Davies, backs; Miss Minnie Stevens, Miss Edie Laurence, and Miss Irene Bradley, half-backs; Miss Maude Burgess, Miss Alice Mitchell, Miss Minnie Hamilton, Miss Florrie Hooper, and Miss Nell Laurence, forwards.

Referee, Miss Kit Montgomery. Misses Ethel Bowman and May Fisher played splendidly in goal for their respective sides.

FOOTBALL.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. A.F.C. v. HARRY HARE'S ORCHESTRAL BAND AND MUSIC HALLS.

Played on Clifton Downs, Dec. 1. The following were the teams:—

BRISTOL X.L.C.R.: H. Belding (captain), goal; J. Lewis and A. Cox, backs; S. Carter, A. E. Bailey, and H. Slade, half-backs; H. Clements, E. Belding, J. Aubrey, E. Palmer, and L. Clayton, forwards.

H. HARE'S BAND: F. B. Nicholls, goal; A. Hamlin (captain) and F. Arni, backs; J. Lacey, T. Neagle, and P. Hewlett, half-backs; H. C. Douglas, H. Edwards, F. Hansford, E. Bowman, and P. Reardon, forwards.

Referee, H. Hare. Linesmen, J. Leonard and L. Hamlin.

Result: Bristol X.L.C.R. A.F.C., 3 goals; H. Hare's Band, 2 goals. S. Carter, J. Aubrey, E. Belding, J. Lacey, and P. Reardon scored the goals for their respective sides.

BRISTOL X.L.C.R. A.F.C. v. HARRY HARE'S ORCHESTRAL BAND AND MUSIC HALLS.

Played on Clifton Downs, Dec. 8, and won by the latter team. J. Leonard scored the only goal. The following were the teams:—

BRISTOL X.L.C.R.: H. Belding (captain), goal; J. Lewis and E. Smith, backs; A. E. Bailey, S. Carter, and H. Slade, half-backs; E. Belding, J. Aubrey, H. Clements, E. Palmer, and L. Clayton, forwards.

H. HARE'S BAND: F. B. Nicholls, goal; A. Hamlin (captain) and H. Wahlenn, backs; T. Neagle, F. Harrison, and F. Stevens, half-backs; J. Leonard, H. Edwards, F. Edney, P. Hewlett, and A. Mattock, forwards.

Referee, L. Hamlin. Linesmen, H. Hare and S. Richards.

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Mr. A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes," which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette.

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his text-book on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases, what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1906.

SHAKESPEARE AND CHRISTMAS.

Threatened men, it used to be said, live long; and established institutions can stand a great amount of attack. Indeed, as ridicule is the test of truth, so criticism, if ineffective, is the best proof of merit. There are fashions in these things; and, of late, the practice of belittling SHAKESPEARE has been much in vogue. As a reaction against the blind adoration which accepts all the Bard's work as sacred and perfect, and will not hear of even reasonable detraction from the reputation of his plays, these symptoms cannot be regarded as unhealthy. SHAKESPEARE'S work is so strong that we can afford to admit imperfections. It is only when a critic claims the right to give his opinions as *obiter dicta* that we are entitled to ask for credentials. These certainly were not possessed by Dr. JOHNSON, the first severe commentator on the plays. JOHNSON obviously did not know a good play when he read one, or he would have put the MS. of *Irene* where the much-occupied author was advised to put his productions. JOHNSON could never be said to have *seen* a drama owing to his imperfect vision, and this spoilt all his playgoing. So he was out of court as an estimator of an acting play. His prefaces to the different dramas can only be described as elephantine; but they were evidently conscientious, and never what he described VOLTAIRE'S remarks on the same subject as being, viz., "the petty cavils of a petty mind." It is impossible to argue with the shade of JOHNSON, and not very easy to do so, in the space at our disposal, with Mr. BERNARD SHAW. Mr. SHAW'S line of attack is a characteristic mixture of shallowness and acuteness. He misapprehends the purport of a play, and then finds fault with it on the grounds of his own misinterpretation. For instance, in belittling *Antony and Cleopatra*—in the interest of his *Cæsar and Cleopatra*—he takes the superficial view that Antony's defeat was due to his being "broken down by debauchery." But, Cleopatra or no Cleopatra, Antony was doomed from the moment that he became the "competitor" of Octavius. PLUTARCH refers to Antony's infatuation for Cleopatra as only the "last and extremest mischief" of his waning career. The soldierly breadth of Antony's character, his magnanimity, and his capacity for human affection, placed him at absolute disadvantage with respect to the specious, calculating, cool, and cunning Octavius, who afterwards, under the title of Augustus, kept the smug face of a good citizen while he absorbed into himself the last vestiges of Roman republicanism. Antony had no more chance against Octavius than DANTON had against ROBESPIERRE.

It is the consciousness that he is overmatched that weighs upon Antony, and, at each attempt of his at reform, drives him back to the compensations of sexual passion (see Act ii., Scene iii., of *Antony and Cleopatra*). With similar obliquity of vision Mr. SHAW infers that the latter speeches of the pair are attempts on the part of the author to "persuade foolish spectators that the world was well lost" by them; whereas the speeches are what SHAKESPEARE felt the personages would have said in the circumstances. "SHAKESPEARE'S Cæsar," says Mr. SHAW, "is an admitted failure." It costs little to make such a statement, but it is worth just as little when made. If SHAKESPEARE'S Cæsar was a "failure," so was PLUTARCH'S, on which it is practically based. For the purposes of the play, and with the limits of its boundaries, the Cæsar of *Julius Cæsar* could not be bettered. At all events, we should like to see Mr. SHAW or anybody else exhibit the power of re-writing the character so as to improve the drama.

It is cheering to find that the anti-SHAKESPEAREANS cancel one another completely. TOLSTOY recently devoted a long article in a monthly review to an elaborate attack on *King Lear*. He could see no good in the play, which he turned into bitter ridicule. Mr. SHAW—perhaps because he has never written a piece around the old British King—says, "No man will ever write a better tragedy than *King Lear*. . . . SHAKESPEARE'S Lear is a masterpiece." We may well leave Mr. SHAW and the Russian essayist to settle their differences. SHAKESPEARE'S plays will outlive many generations of such critics, because the dramas deal with passions and instincts that are eternal, however they may be masked by superficial and transient appearances.

And it is the same with the institution of Christmas. As everybody knows, the religious festival replaced a primitive festivity connected with the changes of the seasons. If Yuletide were to be abolished we should miss the old institution very much. The instinct of general congratulation that the shortest day is over, and that we have the Spring to look forward to; the convenient excuse for the expression of feelings which our reticent race usually conceals; the opportunity for the gathering together of families under the influence of good cheer, and the strong restraint of charitable custom—all these things make Christmas indispensable, permanent, and very valuable. We, at any rate, welcome the chance of expressing our gratitude for the general appreciation of our efforts in support of the interests of every branch of the profession of amusement. Actors, music-hall artists, and showmen share our solicitude, and reward our attention by making *The Era* more prosperous annually. Year after year shows an increase both in our editorial matter and in our advertisements; year after year we have the same story to tell of mutual satisfaction and goodwill. And so it is that, once again, from the bottom of our hearts, we wish our readers

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Fanny Robina—Saturday, Dec. 22.
Madge Yates—Saturday, Dec. 22.
Henry Furnival—Saturday, Dec. 22.
Herbert Martell—Saturday, Dec. 22.
Billie Bint—Saturday, Dec. 22.
May Floradora—Saturday, Dec. 22.
H. J. Kisbey, Saturday, Dec. 22.
Dora Cameron—Saturday, Dec. 22.
Alfred B. Cross—Saturday, Dec. 22.
Chas. J. Little—Sunday, Dec. 23.
Ethel Hurst—Sunday, Dec. 23.
Alicia Frohman—Sunday, Dec. 23.
John B. Shinton—Monday, Dec. 24.
Chrissie Dunbar—Monday, Dec. 24.
Marion Turner—Monday, Dec. 24.
Lilian Earle—Monday, Dec. 24.
Ada Adna—Monday, Dec. 24.
Ada Rose—Monday, Dec. 24.
Frank J. Pitt—Monday, Dec. 24.
Brandon Thomas—Tuesday, Dec. 25.
Carlotta Anson—Tuesday, Dec. 25.
Ivy Millais—Tuesday, Dec. 25.
J. B. Harvey—Tuesday, Dec. 25.
Alice Caselli—Tuesday, Dec. 25.
Clarice Heney—Tuesday, Dec. 25.
Georgie Whyte—Tuesday, Dec. 25.
Charles Sugden—Wednesday, Dec. 26.
Mrs. M. Lucette Ryley—Wednesday, Dec. 26.
Amy Joel—Wednesday, Dec. 26.
Max Coutts—Wednesday, Dec. 26.
Frank Harwood—Wednesday, Dec. 26.
Adèle Levy—Wednesday, Dec. 26.
Bob Hutt—Thursday, Dec. 27.
Horace Stanley—Thursday, Dec. 27.
Edward E. Ashby—Thursday, Dec. 27.
Isabel Bateman—Friday, Dec. 28.
Albert Gilmer—Friday, Dec. 28.
Alvina Mining—Friday, Dec. 28.

NEW MUSIC.

"Cupid's Motor Car" is written by Mr. Percy Greenbank and composed by Miss Carlotta Rowe. Messrs. Metzler and Co. are the publishers, and being a fanciful idea, and lively in its character, "Cupid's Motor Car" stands a very good chance of winning popularity. All that is needed to secure public favour is for a genial vocalist to take it up and sing it at one of our principal music halls, or it will possibly find its way into one of the pantomimes, when it would not fail to be welcomed by a Christmas audience. It would not be a bad idea for a motor car of Cupid's pattern to cross the stage with a couple of lovers inside, and the author assures us "lovers in Cupid's Car never fall out."

THE Post Office London Directory for 1907 contains no new features, but every division of the volume has been corrected down to the latest date, compatible with its appearance about the middle of the present month. The excellence of the method adopted in the arrangement of the contents of this massive work is one of the distinguishing features of a publication which should, above all things, be easy of reference. Any person of the most ordinary intelligence can expeditiously find the information he requires in this volume, as the classification of the streets, both central and suburban, and the various professions and trades, is so simple and yet so comprehensive. The scope of this really wonderful publication is perhaps best illustrated by the bare statement that the street directory (pages 181 to 866) contains the principal streets in London, with a selection of the inhabitants, whether in business or not, at their respective houses, with the terminals of each street and the intersection of other streets marked. This portion of the work, it is pointed out, besides the more obvious uses, serves occasionally to recall the name of a person which has escaped the memory, but whose residence is recollected, and also to assist in the deciphering of illegible signatures, often a difficult task, as many people have discovered from experience. The present is the 108th edition of this monarch of reference publications; and the claim that is made in the brief preface to accuracy, comprehensiveness, and genera ultility is fully borne out by a careful examination of the multitudinous contents. It may be added that the accompanying map of London is quite up to date.

M. WITMARK AND SONS, the popular American publishers, have again been fortunate in "striking lucky" with their pantomime numbers. The pantomimes produced in Scotland usually give the key-note for the song successes of the year, and the gems from the Witmark catalogue again shine refulgent.

BILL SIMMONDS in "I've got to dance till the band gets through" simply delighted the audiences at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh. Miss Fannie Fields will make an especial feature of this song at the Court Theatre, Liverpool. "In Dreamland" will be given a special production at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, and will be heard in every principal pantomime.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA SAVELLI,"
Play in Four Acts and Seven Tableaux, by M. Max Maurey, produced at the Théâtre Réjane on Dec. 15.

La Savelli ..... MME. REJANE
Duchess de Castoret ..... MME. DAYNES-GRASSOT
Mme. Durand ..... MLLE. LANTELME
Mme. de Bernis ..... MLLE. SUZANNE AVRIL
Comtesse Volowska ..... MLLE. FARNA
Mme. de Grandmesnil ..... MLLE. SAINT-AIGNAN
Le Prince ..... M. TARRIDE
Marcel Besnard ..... M. PIERRE MAGNIER
Baron La Chesnaye ..... M. NOISEUX
L'Empereur ..... M. CHARLES BURGUET
Le Ministre d'Etat ..... M. DAUVILLIERS
Ardiotti ..... M. ROBERT LISER
Le Grand Ecuyer ..... M. ANDRE VARENNES
Traventi ..... M. J. S. BONNET

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, DEC. 20.—The event of the week has been the opening of the Théâtre Réjane. Visitors to Paris who have been to the Casino de Paris will be amazed when they see the transformation the place has undergone. From the Rue Blanche we get into a spacious hall, whence a flight of stairs leads to the lounge, where a Tsigane band, hidden behind a mass of plants, plays the latest waltzes, with apparent instructions not to make more noise than strictly necessary. In fact, a discreet tone reigns everywhere: in the neutral tints of the draperies, in the decorations, in the colour of the coverings, in the huge curtain, &c. The tone is even a little too discreet, imparting a rather cold look to the *ensemble;* and we cannot help noticing that the subtle, graceful ornamentation is not in proportion to the vast dimensions of the place. For all that, the Théâtre Réjane is a treat to the eye, and does credit to the taste of the gifted artist.

As regards *La Savelli*, the work produced there, founded on a novel by Augustin Thierry, we cannot see what tempted M. Max Maurey to write the play, nor what induced Mme. Réjane to accept it. Both, possibly, were attracted by the crinolines, the décolleté, the scepticism of that frivolous period the Second Empire. They no doubt thought that the conspiracy of the *carbonari* formed a fitting sombre background to the light scenes that followed; and if the piece had been acted rapidly, without interruption, a greater effect certainly would have been produced. Unfortunately the long entr'actes prevented this. During the intervals we walked along the spacious lobbies, listened to the before-mentioned band, and—forgot all about the plot. Yet the story is not uninteresting. In London, at the house of the restaurant-keeper Ardiotti, the *carbonari* meet, and decide to assassinate Napoleon III., the oppressor of liberty. Prince Carpena, a man of about sixty, is the head of the party. It is he who directs all their movements, and, with his money, assists those who, like him, have been compelled to take refuge in England. But all their attempts have failed. Orsini, the bomb-thrower, did not succeed, and the police in Paris arrest all suspected persons. The *carbonari* are losing heart, when they receive aid from an unexpected quarter. La Savelli, a courtesan—a lovely woman—offers her services. She is the daughter of an Italian professor, who, having taken part in the Marseilles riots, was sentenced to death by a tribunal presided over by the judge Besnard. La Savelli now wants to avenge her father's death. The Prince does not hesitate a minute. He marries La Savelli, and returns to Paris, pretending to accept the existing régime. He and his wife attend the Tuileries balls, where the latter charms everybody by her beauty. And she is particularly attentive to a young diplomat, Marcel Besnard, the son of the terrible judge, for she will also be avenged on him. To the Prince's delight, the Emperor, too, is drawn towards La Savelli, and it now will be easy to manage a rendezvous between the woman and the Emperor and then murder him. But "l'homme propose et la femme dispose!" La Savelli loses her heart to Marcel Besnard, and does not want to trouble herself about politics.

The author has not sufficiently taken advantage of La Savelli's change of attitude, for our interest in the story now begins to flag. The Prince threatens his wife that unless she forgets Marcel he will kill her. Not that he is jealous; but he is afraid that this foolish love affair may interfere with his plans. In order not to jeopardise her lover's life, La Savelli promises everything, and even consents to grant the Emperor a secret meeting. Nothing would have been easier for the conspirators than to rush into the room and strike their defenceless victim. Instead of this they inform Marcel that his ex-mistress has a lover; and they give him the key of the apartment where he will find his rival. Marcel surprises their tête-a-tête, and fires, without knowing it is the Emperor. He is at once arrested, and La Savelli, mad with rage, calls out: "The scoundrels! They have sent Marcel!" Called upon to explain these imprudent words, she at first hesitates for fear of compromising her husband; but when she learns that Marcel has committed suicide she reveals the whole of the *carbonari* plot. The Prince seizes her by the throat and strangles her; but as he declares that his wife told lies, and that he killed her to avenge his honour, he is not arrested as a conspirator; and, to avoid a public scandal, the authorities do not prosecute him for murder, but send him out of the country. It is the unsatisfactory ending to an unsatisfactory play. But the worst feature in it is that Mme. Réjane does not have a rôle worthy of her. A second-rate actress could have impersonated La Savelli. Mme. Réjane excels in passionate love scenes. The author had splendid opportunities, yet he idd not avail himself of them.

But if the play is defective, the mounting is really superb and worthy of a visit to the new playhouse. *La Savelli* was also very well acted. M. Tarride gave a masterly impersonation of the revengeful Prince. Cold and cruel, he rendered that rôle to perfection. Mme. Daynes-Grassot, always shriekingly funny, imparted the amusing note to the work. She was ably assisted by M. Noiseux, who, as the Emperor's love's messenger and charade writer, roused much laughter. In the dumb part of the Emperor, M. Burguet scored much success; and as Mme. Durand, who feels herself somewhat out of place at the Tuileries soirée, Mlle. Lantelme was inimitable. The scenery is magnificent; the toilettes are gorgeous; there are dozens of pretty women. It, therefore, is probable that for a long time to come people will flock to the Réjane Theatre.

The dress rehearsal of *La Savelli* was marked by an unpleasant incident. A Mlle. Astral obtained an order from the Court to take possession of the original MS. because, as she said, she had already collaborated with M. Thierry at a dramatisation of his novel, and he was bound under contract to produce it under their joint signatures. She asserts that the adaptation signed by M. Maurey is in every respect similar to her work, which has been successfully produced in Italy. M. Thierry asserts that it is in every respect "dissimilar." Who is right? It will be a question for the tribunal to decide, unless, what is more likely, the great Authors' Society takes the mater in hand, and renders one of those judgments from which common sense is generally excluded.

MR. FREDERICK MOUILLOT'S tour of the pantomime *Dick Whittington* will start at the Grand Theatre, Southampton, on Boxing Day. Mr. Guyton Heath is general-manager, and Mr. E. E. Cutler acting-manager.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"PARISER LEBEN,"
Buffo-opera, in Four Acts, by Jacques Offenbach, Produced at the Komische Oper, Dec. 13, 1906.

Baron Gondremart ..... HERR MANTLER
Christine ..... FRAULEIN HORAK
Raoul ..... HERR PFANN
Bodinet ..... HERR BROSE
Metello ..... FRAULEIN VON MARTINOWSKA
Jean ..... HERR KREUDER
Pompa ..... FRAULEIN ZADOR
Mme. Karadec ..... FRAULEIN WOLF
Mlle. Folle-Verdure ..... FRAULEIN LORENZ
Gabriele ..... FRAULEIN HOFMANN
Pauline ..... FRAULEIN HUILLER
Goutran ..... HERR FLEISCHER
Clara ..... FRAULEIN MEININGER
Leonie ..... FRAULEIN M. HORAK
Louise ..... FRAULEIN WOHLGEMUT
Urbain ..... HERR BEGEMANN
Prosper ..... HERR BOETEL
Josef ..... HERR WISSIAK
Alfons ..... HERR HERBERT

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, DEC. 20.—This delightful little work came in the light of an absolute novelty to most of its hearers, and the thanks of the public are due to Herr Gregor for producing it. The music cannot be compared to that of Hoffmann's *Erzählungen*, nor to that of some other of Offenbach's works, while the book is not by any means original; but it is just the kind of piece for the holidays, and will probably have a lengthy run. To describe the plot would certainly be a superfluous task. The story of the man from the country who shakes a loose leg in the metropolis, and that of the would-be Don Juan who falls into the trap he has laid, are familiar to us all. As to the interpretation, it came very short of the high standard Director Gregor has set himself, and to which we have grown accustomed at this theatre. It was the poorest singing heard as yet at the Komische Oper, the whole performance conveying the impression that too few rehearsals had taken place. The mounting, on the other hand, was magnificent, scene after scene disclosing fresh beauties of colour and harmony. Professor Lefler was responsible for the effective pictures.

The Komische Oper, by the way, in its entirety, goes over to London the middle of April for a season of two months' duration at the Adelphi. In the company and orchestra there are nearly 150 persons. Hoffmann's *Erzählungen*—which has enjoyed such a long spell of popularity here—will be the chief work given, and will be played by the original cast and orchestra. Herr Gregor, as a matter of course, accompanies his company.

THE Royal Opera is still eagerly bent on finding successors to Miss Farrar and Fräulein Destinn, and "guests" are continually making their bow to the public. *Die Meistersinger* was put in the bill on Monday, Fräulein Irma Koboth, of Munich, singing the rôle of Eva. Her voice is sweet and well trained, but quite inadequate to the demands of our exacting Opera House. Herr Bischof, of Hanover, sang the part of Hans Sachs very finely, being frequently applauded by open stage. The rest of the cast was good, and Herr Blech conducted splendidly.

BEING holiday-time, the characteristic German fairy play is much in evidence, almost every theatre of importance being furnished with one for Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday afternoons. These plays are not pantomimes, as understood in the English sense, although they frequently have a well-known nursery tale for their theme. They are rather poetic than comic, and may be enjoyed by children and adults alike; while, needless to say, the huge Christmas tree—which appeals to every German heart as the hall-mark of Yuletide—is accorded a conspicuous place in the apotheosis. Neither is the singing of that most beautiful Christmas carol, "Stille nacht, heilige nacht," ever omitted, the audience usually joining in the singing. Thus at the Central *Snow White and Rose Red* is running; at the Thalia *Hansel and Gretel* (not by Humperdinck) and *Red Riding Hood*, and at the New Schauspielhaus *Cinderella*, are being given. The last-mentioned, by C. A. Goerner, is admirably acted and staged, the name-part being most charmingly played by Fräulein Käthe Ehren. A particularly pretty ballet at the King's Palace takes place, and the incidental music is pleasing and appropriate.

AT the Theatre des Westens a musical Christmas play, by Herren Adolf Philipp and Cossmann, entitled *Kindertreue und Weihnachtssegen* is drawing well, and thoroughly merits its success. The two little heroes set out to find their father and bring him home for Christmas, he having been supposed to be the victim of an earthquake while following his calling of a miner. The children—brother and sister—are quite sure "vaterchen" is alive, and that they will find him, and their loving trust is of course rewarded. They go through exciting adventures, but Rupprecht—a version of Santa Claus—befriends them, as he does all good German youngsters. At length they come to the kingdom of the Monarch of the Mountains, Presarus, who is detaining the poor miner a prisoner. The brave children, aided by Rupprecht, succeed in freeing their father, and all ends—as may be anticipated—very happily. The pretty nonsense is set to equally pretty music; the cast is unusually good.

A VERY superior fairy play is *Gänseliesel*, in five tableaux, by Rosa Dodillet, which is attracting large audiences of children and "grown-ups" at the Lustspielhaus. It is full of refined fun, and a thread of genuine poetry runs through the whole. This, too, is the story of two children—boys, who go out into the world to seek their fortune. In the wood they meet a good fairy, who gives them the means of setting the Princess—transformed into a goose-girl—at liberty. After vanquishing many enemies, including wild beasts, wicked little imps, and even the forest witch herself, they find the beautiful Princess tending the geese, and bring her safely back to her Royal father. Laden with treasures, the heroes return to their cottage, where mother and sister welcome them with joy. Curious to say, it is just Christmas Eve, so that the rejoicings all fit in beautifully. The author has excelled herself this time in writing an ideal children's play; Herr Neumann has supplied bright and fanciful music, and both acting and mounting are excellent. Fräulein Dodillet was called before the curtain and very cordially applauded.

THE Luisen Theatre—always enterprising—has produced Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, with the most favourable results. The interpretation was worthy of unstinted commendation, the rôles of Beatrice and Benedick being specially well portrayed by Fräulein Allano and Herr Kiedaisch.

FRAULEIN TRIESCH—who has just returned from a successful tour in the provinces—is again playing Hedda Gabler at the Lessing. One evening last week the famous actress gave one of her highly original readings and recitations at the Bechstein Hall. The items were, as usual, excerpts from the Old Testament, which, delivered with great expression in Fräulein Triesch's beautiful voice, held the audience enthralled.

HERR HEINRICH VON POSCHINGER, the so-called Homer of Bismarck, has just completed a three-act drama, entitled *Fesseln* (fetters), which will be produced here before long.

TO-MORROW evening the Neues produces a new play by Herr Misch. *The title is Kinder.* This evening a new piece, *Ringelspiel*, is to see the light for the first time at the Deutsches; and yet another novelty is announced for Saturday at the New Schauspielhaus.

MR. HERBERT RULE, comedian, is the latest to join the ranks of the Terriers' Association. He was initiated on Sunday last, Terrier Tom Burnett being in the chair.

opinion

VARIETY GOSSIP.

THE spirit of conciliation has settled down on the variety world; strife is silenced; Christmas dawns on a cordial understanding between artist and proprietor; and the bond of peace has been signed. In true unity and concord will they therefore welcome the festival of Santa Claus, and forget entirely for the nonce another clause that has been less eloquent of good feeling. That a spirit of complete amity prevails is indeed glad tidings, and none rejoices thereat more than *The Era*, which has represented for forty years both artist and caterer. *Entente cordiale* should be the only motto of each, as the interests of one are inextricably bound up with the other. To both, in all parts of the world, we send our heartiest Yuletide greetings, and wish them a happy Christmas.

IN the delicate negotiations between Mr. Gibbons and the Federation, that genial Irishman and born diplomat, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, was agreeably prominent, and side by side with Mr. Frank Gerald, did excellent work. The speech of The O'Gorman at the Brixton Empress likewise did credit to his head and heart. He said: "Mr. Gibbons has met us in a way that only a gentleman could meet a body of men, and the solution arrived at to-day is the forerunner of brighter times for the artist and the proprietor."

THE new working agreement between Mr. Walter Gibbons and the V.A.F. will come into force on and from Monday, January 14th next. Mr. G. Adney Payne has also arranged to consider the questions raised on behalf of the companies in which he is so largely interested.

MR. WALTER GIBBONS entertained a party of artists, including Mr. Joe O'Gorman and Mr. Frank Gerald, the secretary of the V.A.F., to lunch at the Café Royal on Wednesday. The happiest spirit prevailed throughout.

MISS MARIE LLOYD, who has been recuperating amid the pines at Bournemouth, has deferred her return to the variety stage for a week in accordance with the advice of her medical man, and will return to the Tivoli and the Metropolitan on the 31st inst. with new songs. She may be assured of a hearty New Year welcome from her legion of admirers.

THE Crouch End Opera House is to become the Hippodrome, Crouch End, on Christmas Eve, when Mr. W. H. Burney, a director of Collins's and the London, will open it with one full performance nightly. Mr. Burney hopes to make the new nighmtly. Mr. Burney hopes to make the new variety house a popular family rendezvous, and patrons are to witness a refined performance of a character combining amusement and instruction.

THE Palace Theatre, Stoke Newington, will open as a two-houses-a-night music hall on Christmas Eve. Mr. Albert Gilmer, formerly manager of the Oxford, will have complete control, and no effort will be spared by him to make the house *the* popular resort of the locality. Mr. Norfolk Megone has been engaged to preside over the orchestra, every member of which will be a picked musician. Mr. Gilmer's endeavour will be to make the Palace, both as regards the quality of the programme, and the comfort of patrons, second to none in the Kingdom.

WHEN Mr. Clarence C. Corri relinquishes his position at the London Hippodrome his place will be filled by Herr Henry Erhorn. Herr Erhorn has been sub-conductor of the orchestra at that house since its opening, and is a famous 'cellist. He has had the honour of playing under Strauss and Gung'l at Munich, was *chef d'orchestre* of Woolf's Circus for a period of four years prior to coming to the London Hippodrome, and was also musical director at the Glasgow Exhibition in 1901. He has appeared as a 'cellist before most of the crowned heads of Europe, and is a noted composer.

AN unusual development of the entente cordiale is the action of Harry Fragson, who, leaving his rehearsals of pantomime at old Drury Lane on Tuesday, travelled to Paris, and was due at the Théâtre de la Gaîté in La Ville Lumière on Wednesday afternoon, for the benefit of M. Paulus. Paulus, the veteran French vocalist, who had much to do with the making of General Boulanger, made his first appearance in London at the opening of the Empire in 1884 in *Chilpéric*, when he sang, among other numbers, "Petit Bleu," a composition by M. Leopold Wenzel.

"You have amazed and delighted me. I assure you both it is the most marvellous exhibition of psychical powers I have ever witnessed." These are the words of King Edward, who cordially shook hands with Mr. and Mrs. Zancig as he said good-bye to them at the conclusion of the wonderful exhibition of their powers, at Mr. Cavendish-Bentinck's house in Richmond-terrace, Whitehall, on Tuesday night.

JUST previously Mme. Melba, with a large party had witnessed the wonderful performance of the Zancigs at the Alhambra. The book test was given in her box, and a passage selected by the famous singer was at once promptly repeated by Mrs. Zancig from the stage. The Duke of Connaught has also seen them at the Alhambra.

MR. HERMAN FINCK, the popular and gifted musical director of the Palace Theatre, has arranged a mélange of fascinating airs that have haunted the recollection of lovers of good music. These will be selected from all grades of melodists during the past fifty years. The idea is to include the hundred best musical "stories," and these will be cleverly contrasted so that solemnity and sentimentality will tread on the heels of gaiety, and vice versâ. We shall be regaled with tunes from the period of "I'll hang up my harp on the willow tree," "Ever of thee" and "Ole Bob Ridley" to the most haunting melodies of the moment.

THE Empire management will stage something new in the way of living pictures and statuary soon after the advent of the new year. Mr. Wilhelm is arranging these pictures, and if they are as good as the old series, in which Miss Hetty Hamer and Miss Constance Collier appeared some years since, they should be popular.

IT is a significant fact, and one that conclusively shows the growing popularity of English music with our American cousins, that at a recent concert and dramatic entertainment given by the members of that well-known New York Masonic Lodge, "The Star," every item on the lengthy programme was taken from the publications of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

MESSRS. MASKELYNE AND DEVANT promise a novel attraction at St. George's Hall for the Christmas holidays. They will produce a fairy play in [illegible] acts by E. Nesbit, the well-known writer *The Magic* stories. The title of the play is effects and trickery, and even without magical teresting play. Without would be a complete, in- Devant's aid the various work Maskelyne and children's story will be shown on the events of a play tells of the adventures of a wicked ma[illegible] The who cast a spell over a beautiful princess and made her ugly. Mr. Nesbit has superintended the rehearsals of the play, and Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant has produced new tricks, illusions, and magical effects to accompany it. *The Magician's Heart* will no doubt serve to amuse [illegible]en of all ages for many months to come.

THE kiddies will be especially pleased to hear that their favourite clown, Whimsical Walker, is progressing favourably, and that he hopes to be about in a week's time.

A NEW place of amusement will be opened on Monday at Heeley (a suburb of Sheffield) by Mr. Victor Sampson, the genial proprietor of Sheffield Wonderland, to be known as the Criterion Hall of Varieties. The programme will be composed of variety turns and animated pictures.

MR. P. D. ELBOURNE, the young and energetic resident-manager of the Birmingham Hippodrome, has just received most signal praise from the *Birmingham Daily Mail* for his efforts on behalf of its Poor Children's Christmas Fund. Mr. Elbourne, as the result of a matinée (at which he gained the assistance of the artists engaged at all the local halls), together with weekly contributions which he has sent, is responsible for no less than £145 5s. 3d., a truly substantial and gratifying help, and which we are glad to see is so handsomely appreciated. The matinée alone (last Saturday) realised £101 3s. 3d.

THE directors of the Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier Company have appointed Mr. J. H. Stevenson (late manager of the Pavilion, Kingstown, and now of the Entertainment Department at Whiteley's) manager of that well-known place of amusement. Mr. Stevenson commences his duties on Feb. 1.

LORD BOLTON has been royally entertaining Serpentello, Princess Pauline, and Baroni and Kemp, who have spent a most enjoyable week on the magnificent Hollingworth estate, in Lancashire, Harry Baroni, who was an Australian rough-rider, was in his element on a good hunter with the hounds, and together with Serpentello secured one of the finest bags of the year—grouse, rabbits, and wild ducks by the score falling to their surprisingly capable guns. This most agreeable experience and healthful change has come at an opportune moment, as the artists mentioned are on the eve of some hard New Year work on the halls.

MISS LIL HAWTHORNE finishes her starring engagements for 1906 at the Empire, Birmingham, and sails for New York on the White Star liner *Celtic* on January 2.

MR. CLIVE WATTS, a wonderful dancer, has been engaged for America, and sails on Wednesday, January 3rd, from Liverpool. He has appointed Mr. Ernest de Vere his sole agent to act for him during his absence.

AFTER only a week's illness of pneumonia, Paul Courtney, sketch artist, died at Norwich on Wednesday. He had, however, been ailing for some time. In comedy and farce the deceased gentleman was a great favourite at halls both in London and the provinces, and his principal successes were won when but little attention was paid to mounting.

MR. ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S sketch, *Home from the Honeymoon*, has received contracts for thirty weeks on the Moss and Stoll tour as the result of a three weeks' trial-trip engagement. Mr. Jefferson, who is the author of the plays *The Orphan Heiress* and *The World's Verdict*, is certain that his dramatic sketch, *Her Convict Lover*, will cause a sensation.

MISS VIOLET WILTON (Mrs. Frank Coyle), since leaving the profession three years ago, has been doing excellent business as a milliner, and is always pleased to see friends at Burlington House, Woodhouse-street, Leeds.

MR. LEONARD YORKE and Miss Mary Hardacre were seen in a new sketch, *A Game of Spoof*, at the Palace, Manchester, on Saturday afternoon last. The story tells how a Captain, masquerading as a chauffeur, makes love to a person whom he takes to be a housemaid, the latter being, in fact, the lady of the house, who has disguised herself in order to test his affections. The assumption on both side, the misunderstandings, and the subsequent happy issue, brought about by the unerring instinct of true love, were very well rendered, and the little piece found ample favour with a large audience.

MR. MAURICE FRITZ, who has just opened offices for variety agency business at Newington Green-road, N., has been entrusted with the entire booking for several north country halls. His London office is in the care of Henri Fritz.

MISS EFFIE MORTON, who for some time has been successfully working provincial music halls as a refined male impersonator, has made her first London appearance this week at the Palace, Hammersmith, and has scored a big success. She is now rapidly booking 1907 and 1908.

SHORTLY before the commencement of the second performance on Monday at the Northampton Palace a somewhat serious accident occurred to a scene-shifter named Frank Walters, a man of middle age. He was mounted on a ladder some thirteen feet from the floor of the stage arranging the scenery when by some means he lost his foothold and fell headlong. He struck the floor with great force, and sustained a fracture of the thigh-bone, a sprained wrist, and bruises on various parts of the body. Those about the stage immediately went to his assistance, and Dr. Stone was sent for. On arrival he rendered first aid, splints being improvised out of broom handles and bandages. The unfortunate man bore the terrible agony of his injury with great fortitude, and he was removed as quickly as possible to the Northampton General Hospital.

AN interesting event has happened at Mansfield this week. A lioness, belonging to Miss Ella, now appearing at the Grand Theatre, has given birth to four cubs. The mother is doing her best for her offspring, and all are well.

MESSRS. CHARLES BEANLAND and Will Emerson have taken a lease of the Queen's Hall, Castleford, and will open on Monday, Jan. 14, on the one-house-a-night principle, with two houses on Saturday. A complete electric installation will be fitted; the interior of the building is to be entirely redecorated and the scenery renovated and overhauled. The orchestra stalls are to fitted with tip-up chairs, and everything possible will be done for the comforth and convenience of both patrons and artists. The hall will in future be known as the Queen's Theatre of Varieties.

THE principal attractions at the provincial Empires of the Moss-Stoll company are as follows:—Deane Tribune's Pantomime, *Bo-Peep*, at Cardiff Empire; John Leopold's *House Boat* at Swansea Empire; Fred Karno's *Dandy Thieves* at Newport Empire; *The Duchess of Tooting* at Nottingham; at the Leicester Palace the Dandies; at the Manchester Hippodrome the aquatic spectacle *The Flood;* Mme. Alice Esty at Ardwick Green; George Abel and Co. in *Three of a Kind* at Bradford Empire; Jake Friedman and Co. in *Happy Holland* at Birmingham Empire; Dare Devil Schreyer will be seen at Liverpool Olympia; Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, at Liverpool Empire; *The Gorilla's Revenge* at Newcastle Empire; the sensational act, *The Globe of Life*, at [illegible]burgh Empire; *Freaks* at the Glasgow Coli[illegible]; [illegible]sburger's Lilliputians at Glasgow Zoo-Hippodrome; [illegible]no's *Early Birds* at Glasgow Empire; George [illegible] at Sheffield Empire; Mabel Bardine in sketch, *Nell of the Halls*, at Palace, Hull; and Miss Madge Lessing at Leeds Empire.

THE many friends of Chirgwin will be sorry to hear that he is confined to his bed with what he humorously calls "the catch of the season," or, in other words, the "flu." We sincerely hope that the good spirits which Mr. Chirgwin is known to possess will help him to throw off the attack.

MR. HARRY TATE, who has arrived, left New York on Dec. 8 per s.s. Campania to fulfil his engagement in pantomime at the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool. At his farewell performance at the Alhambra, New York, he was presented with a beautiful floral tribute representing a huge fish, over 6ft. long. It required four men to lift it on to the stage. The presentation was made amidst tremendous cheering, and Mr. Tate responded in a few happy phrases.

MR. GEORGE ROBEY, just returned from a twelve weeks' trip to South Africa, had at least one amusing adventure at Johannesburg. One day he dressed up as one of the Cape Mounted Police, and arrested a negro who was in possession of assegais and knob-kerries. "Give me your arms, fellow," he cried; and the man tremblingly gave him a formidable knob-kerry, which he retains as one of the spoils of peaceable intervention.

MR. JOSEPH WILSON will "present" Mr. Arthur Roberts in a new burlesque, by Herbert Shelley and Ernest Bucalossi, entitled *Robin Waller, A.O.F.; or, The Maid of the Mill-'ard By.* Mr. Bruce Smith has painted the scenery, and Mr. Willie Clarkson is responsible for the dresses, which have been specially designed for this production. The skit takes us back to the time when burlesque *was* burlesque.

THE East Ham Palace of Varieties—the latest addition to the Syndicate Halls—was successfully opened on Monday evening with the two-house-nightly system of performances. Most attractive and well equipped, it seems to be a welcome addition to the new public buildings of the ever-growing district of East Ham, which now has a population of nearly 120,000, hitherto unprovided with any public place of entertainment of importance.

MESSRS. GREENING AND CO., LTD., have published an exceedingly amusing autobiography, entitled "Harry Lauder at Home and on Tour," in which the celebrated comedian relates his early struggles from his first appearance when, as a mill-boy at Arbroath, he won the first prize at a singing competition, to the memorable night of the 19th of March, 1900, when, at Gatti's, "in the road," he took the audience, and subsequently all London, by storm. The chapter descriptive of the singer's life in a Lanarkshire coal mine is of deep interest.

MR. WALTER DE FRECE is rapidly increasing the area of his circuit. Leeds, Portsmouth, and Liverpool have all become centres of his company's enterprise, and he has found a *pied à terre* in suburban London at the Palace, Stoke Newington. Now we learn that the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, will come under his sway as soon as the run of the pantomime *Babes in the Wood* is completed. It is to be hoped that the fine dramatic traditions of the old house will be continued in the new King's Theatre, just opened.

MISS CONNIE EDISS has been persuaded to again visit South Africa, and has accepted an engagement from the Hyman Company for the Empire, Johannesburg, and the Tivoli, Cape Town. She will start on Jan. 12, partly by permission of Mr. George Edwardes, and will fulfil a nine weeks' contract—six weeks on the Rand and three weeks at the Cape. When Miss Ediss paid her first visit to the Transvaal Krugerism was rampant, and she had not graduated at the Gaiety nor become a theatrical star. The Springboks will be her *compagnons de voyage*, and Mr. Aubrey Hyman, who came over to look after things during his brother Sydney's absence in the States, will also go out by the same vessel. Miss Ediss will return in May next, and it is highly probable that she will again be seen at an important West End variety house.

THE complaint of the Rev. G. C. Wilton, vicar of St. Mary's, Soho, against the exhibition of photographs of "Galatea" in statuesque pose outside the Palace came before the Westminster City Council on Thursday in a recommendation from the Watch Committee that representations should be made to the London County Council on the subject. Mr. H. J. Greenwood, chairman of the County Council Licensing Committee, said two inspectors sent to see the pictures reported that no fault could be found with either the pictures or the entertainment. The latter was really a beautiful exhibition, and such that no pure-minded man or woman could possibly find fault with.

HENGLER'S CIRCUS, Argyll-street, will open on Monday next, with as its chief feature the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*, presented mainly by little folk, with novel theatrical and scenic effects. The music has been specially composed by Mr. Denham Harrison, but the score includes the famous "Spring" chorus, by the late Jules Rivière, from *Babil and Bijou*. Some very pretty dances and groupings have been arranged by Mr. Edouard Espinosa, who will superintend the stage production. The Arabian donkey, "Domino," and Caban's highly-trained miniature ponies, dogs, and monkeys will be among the animal turns, and other attractions will include the Hanlon Troupe, Prince Fee Lung, late Court magician to the Dowager Empress of China, and Mlle. Fayette in a haut école driving act. Two performances daily will be given.

MR. DAN LENO, JUN., a son of the famous comedian, who is desirous of "following in his father's footsteps," will make his first professional appearance on the variety boards at the Holborn Empire. He will be sure of a hearty welcome for the sake of his famous sire, who loved the people, and whose genius was honoured by the King.

THE genial face of Mr. Tom Shaw, the proprietor of the International Vaudeville Agency, of 18, Adam-street, and 21, John-street, Adelphi, once more beams upon our readers, to whom he wishes the compliments of the season. Mr. Shaw's chief lieutenant is Mr. Charles Henderson, and his friends will be glad to learn that Mr. Tom Rice is another hustler for the Adam-street agency.

DR. EWING ALBINI, whose marvellous talking and singing head has excited the curiosity of the quidnuncs and puzzled thousands, is by way of producing shortly a new illusion, with two pictures, on quite new lines. To this he has given the pretty title of "Queen of the Roses."

AT the Music Hall Benevolent Fund meeting, fixed for Friday, the 14th, the attendance was so poor that a postponement was proposed and carried. The report furnishes gloomy reading. The regret of the committee that there has been a serious decrease in the income will be shared by every friend of the charity, who will also be sorry to learn that the annual dinner was not so successful as usual, that there is a falling-off in the pence-box collections, and that the sports were unremunerative. If funds are not forthcoming, indeed, the general weekly relief and the allowances to pensioners will be in jeopardy—at a time, too, when winter is upon us and the committee has to face a serious increase of poverty. The usefulness of the fund is seriously curtailed by the large deficit of £1500 on unreturned loans, and a considerable amount is owing in respect to unpaid dinner donations, tickets, and subscriptions.

MR. GEORGE BASTOW, "Varmer Giles," was to have played the King in the forthcoming Leeds edition of *The Sleeping Beauty*, but we much regret to learn that he has been obliged to abandon the part through serious illness.

MR. JAMES DE VOYE'S illness, reported in our columns, has had, we are sorry to hear, a fatal termination. His famous educated horse Billy is rightly considered a wonder, and, under the care of his patient master, had pleased and amused thousands. Mr. De Voye died at the Leeds infirmary on Saturday of diabetes. He was buried two days later, the funeral being from the Harrison Arms, Mr. Alf Howard, the proprietor, carrying out all arrangements, and showing great kindness to Mrs. De Voye in her bereavement.

GUS ELEN will again play the part of Santa Claus, and repeat his generosity of last Yuletide, by giving a large number of toys away to the poor children of Clapham, Battersea, and surrounding districts, from the grand stand on Clapham Common on Christmas Day. The case containing the toys stands 4ft. high, and holds 3cwt. of good cheer and fun for the little ones.

THE 493rd meeting of the executive committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Wednesday, when the following members were present: Messrs. Fred Herbert, F. W. Millis, Ryder Slone, Douglas White, Harry Mountford, Fred Neiman, Harry Bancroft, John Alexander, Fred Harrison, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary).

IT was decided to hold the dinner and dance on Sunday, Feb. 10, 1907, at the Horns, Kennington. It was agreed also to close the offices from Saturday until Thursday, and to hold the next meeting on Friday, Dec. 28, at 1 o'clock.

MR. R. T. CRAWFORD, the well-known Leicester county cricketer, and brother to Mr. V. F. S. Crawford, is billed to appear at the Palace Theatre, Southampton, on Monday. Mr. Reggie Crawford, as he is familiarly called, is a most artistic tenor vocalist, and he made a very successful, though quite unexpected début at the Southampton hall on Aug. 23 last, when the Hants and Leicester teams, who were playing at Southampton, attended the second performance.

MR. CRAWFORD, with other sporting friends, occupied a box, and as the result of a bet he volunteered to go on and sing a song. No sooner said than done, and Mr. Wm. Trussell, the enterprising and astute manager, who is a son of Fred Trussell, of the London Hippodrome, was summoned. He at once agreed to the proposal, and, being an accomplished pianist, offered to accompany the new singing star on the pianoforte. Mr. Crawford accepted with glee. "Extra turn" was switched up, and the cricketer-vocalist stepped boldly on to the stage and gave a very fine rendering of "I'll sing thee songs of Araby," from poor Fred Clay's *Lallah Rookh*, scoring an instantaneous success. Owing to his cordial reception Mr. Crawford again appeared the following night, and so pleased was the management that he was offered an engagement to appear at the Macnaghten halls. Hence his appearance as a professional singer on Monday next, when all sportsmen will join in wishing him success in his new rôle.

MR. FRANK LAW, whose geniality and courtesy as presiding genius of the Canterbury box-office are proverbial, is getting on well towards a quarter-century's service at the historic hall, having been attached to the staff for twenty-three years. He is a brother of the late Fred Law.

MR. FRANK GLENISTER entertained the "Springboks" at the London Pavilion after their match at Richmond against Surrey, and, to signalise the occasion, the Seldoms gave a special football tableau, called "Tackled."

GRAHAM, drollest of human marionettes, had the heartiest possible reception both at the Empire, Edinburgh, and the Zoo, Glasgow, and opens on Monday at the Granville and Islington Empire. He has also been engaged to appear at the Guildhall at Christmas by the Lord Mayor.

MR. NELSON JACKSON, now appearing with so much success at the Palace Theatre with his stories and songs at the piano, was recently in South Africa touring a "show." In accordance with the custom of that country, "Children half-price" was one of the standing advertisements. At Pretoria the Nelson Jackson company made a stand, and one evening an old Boer presented himself at the pay-box, accompanied by three middle-aged gentlemen and two ladies of questionable age. "One for me, and five children's tickets" was the request. "Where are the children?" asked the box-office clerk. "These are my children," replied the old man, "and I want half-price for them, too." And in they had to go.

AT the skating carnival on the Alexandra Palace Rink on Thursday Mr. and Mrs. Paul Valentine were the judges of the competitions for a variety of prizes for the best costumes, representing Christmastide, Toyland, Originality, and Advertisement. Alderman F. W. Lawson presented the prizes to the successful competitors.

MR. W. B. FAIR has taken out a new provisional patent for an improved sanitary sawdust, and he has also registered the trade-mark, "Santy Dust." Possessing the excellent qualities of a first-class disinfectant, the dust can be used with the utmost advantage in theatres, music halls, hotels, hospitals, butchers', oil and colourmen's, and provision shops, and a sack containing three bushels can be obtained for 1s. 3d. In an age of hygienic progress, the use of "Santy Dust" should be universal. The patentee, Mr. Fair, may be communicated with at 3, Sudeley-street, Islington, N.

STILL hale and hearty, and looking much younger than his years seem to warrant, Mr. W. B. Fair gives many interesting reminiscences of his early career. In 1866 he was apprenticed to Mr. F. B. Egan, of the old Queen's Theatre, Spring Gardens, Manchester, where he played in the pantomime of *Boy Blue*. After further successful engagements in Christmas productions with Charles Calvert and other managers, Mr. Fair became part proprietor, in 1871, with George Leybourne, of the East London Theatre, where Kate and Susie Vaughan appeared as members of the Vaughan Family in Charles Merion's sketches. Later came a successful engagement with the "People's Caterer," Bill Holland, for three seasons at the Surrey.

"TOMMY, make room for your uncle," which took the town, was introduced by Mr. Fair into his burlesque sketch *Crusoe the Second*—in which he played Man Friday—at the Surrey Gardens. Mr. F. W. Green was the author, and Mr. Alf. Lee the composer of the sketch. The Covent Garden *Cinderella*, a fine production by Charles Rice, of Bradford, claimed Mr. Fair's services as one of the ugly sisters, in December, 1875. At the Winchester, which he acquired a little later, he gave his first salaried engagement to Charles Godfrey, who appeared at his testimonal benefit on Dec. 20, 1878, with Chirgwin, Jenny Hill, Charlotte Russell, Herbert Campbell, Arthur Lloyd, and the veteran Walter Joyce.

IN 1887 Mr. Fair became assistant-manager and chairman at the Royal, Holborn, and, later, manager of the Standard and Marylebone Music Halls; but during his later years he has been handicapped by serious illness and money losses. He is devoting his energies, therefore, to commerce, and should command success.

TO Mr. Harry Lauder a Shetland pony was presented at the Palace Theatre, Aberdeen, on Saturday evening, at the conclusion of a most successful engagement. The presentation was made on the stage by Mr. Walter Gilbert, the manager, on behalf of Messrs. Rosen and Bliss. The pony seemed, however, to object to the whole business, and for once the "neighs" had it. It was great sport. The sight of the diminutive "gee-gee" keeping a big man at bay got absolutely the better of the risible faculties of the people. The popular manager at length laughingly discontinued the unequal contest and signalled to Mr. Lauder to have a try.

MR. LAUDER, addressing the pony as "a conterairy beast," beseeched it, with its ear tightly enclosed in his hand, "to be quiet for a minute." "If you would only do that when I want you," said Lauder, "you'd be the biggest success of anything on the stage." With that the animal gave an ear-splitting neigh such as only a wild Shetland pony can give. Turning round, Mr. Lauder abandoned the struggle with a smile. He endeavoured to lead the quadruped off the stage, but the wee creature absolutely refused to move, and had simply to be bodily carried off by Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Lauder to the huge delight of the spectators.

GEORGE GOLDING, the vocal comedian, whose death from paralysis at the age of forty-seven took place at Manchester on the 8th inst. (as announced in our obituary column last week), was a native of Hull. He worked for some time in partnership with the late Pat Geraghty (Geraghty and Gilligan), and was the original Gilligan. Later he joined his brother-in-law, the duo being known as the Brothers Golding, and developed his artistic faculties in a clever Dutch girl impersonation.

ABOUT six years since he toured with Miss Cissy Moxon's *Trip to Rum-Fum* company, playing the eccentric Dutchman and introducing his own speciality songs. Besides being favoured with a good stage presence, an agreeable singing voice, and a quaint phlegmatic style, Golding possessed a gift for turning out useful songs which usually caught on. His "Newsboy" song for his daughter Beatrice Bonnie (Mrs. Stylo) and "Polonies" for himself were fair specimens of his skill. He leaves a widow and a numerous family, two daughters being in the profession.

THE annual matinée at the Liverpool Royal Hippodrome in aid of the Hotpot Fund took place on Saturday, and was a pronounced success. There was a crowded audience, which included the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and party, and Sir Alfred Jones (hon. treasurer of the fund). A pleasing feature in the auditorium was the presence of 220 nurses in uniform from the Liverpool hospitals. A colossal programme, embracing no fewer than forty-nine turns, was submitted. All appeared gratuitously. The augmented orchestra of fifty players also rendered free service.

DURING an interval the Lord Mayor moved a vote of thanks on behalf of the Hotpot Committee to Mr. Thomas Barrasford for his kindness in giving the theatre for the matinée; to Mr. Walter Hassan, the manager; to the staff of the theatre, both back and front; to the artists, to the conductor and members of the orchestra, and to the respective managers and proprietors for their kind permission for the various artists to appear. He was very much pleased at the success of that performance, which would help to provide so many hotpots for the poor.

SIR ALFRED JONES, who seconded, cordially commended the goodness of heart of the actors and actresses in giving their services. They were always, he said, as a class willing to help others in need. He was pleased to tell the audience that Mr. George Leyton had handed him a cheque for £20, the proceeds of the sale of his song-book that day. They were very grateful to Mr. Leyton for that handsome donation.

THE following well-known artists appeared:—Brilliant and Brilliant, Wild, Willie, and West, Gus Barra, Baby Boden, Ruth Moloy, Vesta Victoria, Hetty King, Harrison Brockbank, Happy Fanny Fields, Johnny Danvers, Fanny Dango, Regan and Ryan, M. R. Morand, Malcolm Scott, J. T. Macmillan, Stelling and his wonderful dog, Fred Storey, A. Maitland Stapley, Keith Fraser, Seromgton, The Delormes, Dan Crawley, Horace Wheatley, Jock Whiteford, George Leyton, Ada Twibell, Martine and Son, Sisters Tinsley.

THE French giantess and lady dwarf will be on view at the Crystal Palace at Christmas. The great interest shown by the public some time ago when Henri Cot, the French giant, and Prince Colibri, the dwarf, were on a visit to Sydenham convinced the management that these two remarkable ladies from Belgium would be welcome. The giantess, Marie Scheller, twenty years old, is just on 7ft. high, and weighs 260lbs. Her parents came to Paris from Alsace at the time of the Franco-German War, and she is the youngest of a family of twelve. Her father, though tall, was by no means an Anak, and her mother reached the average height of her sex.

MARIE was born in Langres (France), and even when very young was taller than other children of her age, and when only eleven her age was invariably guessed to be eighteen. To the surprise of everyone she continued to grow so rapidly that she had to crawl through all ordinary doorways, and special chairs, tables, and bedsteads, and other articles in daily use had to be made specially for her on account of her extraordinary height. Medical men consider that Mlle. Scheller has not yet attained anything like her full growth.

LITTLE Princess Hawas, said to be the smallest lady on earth, is eighteen years old. Her height is 32in. and she weighs 31lbs. This marvellous little woman has been nicknamed by the Parisian Press "The Living Doll," on account of her perfectly-proportioned figure, a remarkable fact in one so very small. Her father was an Italian of more than average height and her mother a French lady who stood about 4ft. 6in. The Princess enjoys extremely good health, and her vivacity and intelligence have made her a great favourite with her French audiences. Both ladies are now being shown for the first time in England.

THE working staff, &c., now out of employment on account of the closing of the Brixton Hippodrome wish to convey their heartfelt thanks to the directors of the Empress Theatre for the use of the theatre on Wednesday last, to all the subscribers for their generosity, to all the artists, musical conductors, instrumentalists, and also all the officials, for their kind assistance in helping to bring the matinée to such a successful issue.

MR. ROLLO BALMAIN, who, with Miss Sara Mignon, successfully produced their new sketch, *The Old Homestead*, at the Queen's, Poplar, this week, was the recipient of a letter the other evening addressed to him at the "Popular Queen's Palace, London." Surely a compliment to Mr. Jack Woolf, to whom we might say, "With U there, the Queen's, Poplar, becomes the Queen's, Popular."

MISS KATE CARNEY has just accepted from George Collins (who shares in a large degree the gift of melody possessed by his brother Charles) a most tuneful chorus number, entitled "Sweet Maggie McGee, you're just my company." Mr. Collins has deputised during the week for Mr. George Lashwood at the Holloway Empire, and has scored heavily.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

THE flowing tide of succes attendant on the production of all Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's special pantomime songs continues to rise higher and higher, and a record "high-water" will most assuredly be reached on Boxing Night, when London takes a hand at the game of pantomime. In Mr. J. H. Savile's production at Paisley the firm's numbers, entitled "There's a man in Manitoba" and "It's a different girl again," were both enormous successes, and the same gratifying result attended the singing of "It is the scarecrow," and "Arrah Wanna," in Deane Tribune's pantomime produced at the Empire, Swansea.

"ARRAH WANNA," which may be set down as the song of the year, has caught on with a vengeance in every pantomime in which it has been included, and Miss Lily Burnand has given the fame of the song a great fillip by producing it at the Oxford. This favourite artist has never gone better in a song or sung more sweetly.

MR. FRANK LYNNE'S song, "I can't make it out, can you?" is a feather in the cap of Fred Erick, as is testified by the demands made to Messrs. Francis and Day for copies of the number. The firm has just bought a charming number, by J. F. Lambe and T. W. Thurban, entitled "My Sweet Iranian Flower"; also a song, by Vi Carlyle and Charles Hector, named "Come along, Daisy." Mr. Harry Randall's popular song, "Wicked Mr. Tootle," by Tom Wick, is also in the press.

THE following songs have been added to the list of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's "Sixpenny Pops," by Mr. John Smith, the firm's manager: "Mamma's boy," "Don't tell the world your troubles," "Come and make love to me," "The galloping major," "Oh, for a night in the west," "It's part of a p'liceman's duty," "I can see red roses blooming," "I want Molly, and she wants me," "Fighting for their King and Sireland," "Won't they be glad to see me?" "Come and be a soldier," "Would you mind passing the salt?" and "Just a little rocking-chair and you."

"BOY BLUE," the fine march song, by Harry Castling, which is setting the feet of audiences going in all the best pantomimes, has made a great impression on the large audiences thronging the Holborn Empire, it being sung with verve by Miss Gladys Mavius. Messrs. Francis and Day are the publishers.

THE pantomime song of the year, "Au revoir, my little Hyacinth," by A. E. Sidney Davis and H. E. Darewski, jun., is delighting the publishers (Messrs. Feldman and Co.) by the manner in which it has been taken up by the most prominent managers and artists, and by the already enormous sales. It is being sung in pantomime by over 200 artists in various parts of the country, and in addition, has made a sensational success in various Continental centres, especially Paris and Berlin. Miss Ellaline Terriss specially features it in *The Beauty of Bath*, and the rapid sales of the popular sixpenny edition, both inside and outside the theatre, testify to the favour with which it is received.

THE Star Music Company's "Sailing in my balloon" is to be heard at the Glasgow Grand, Princess's, and Theatre Royal. This irresistible chorus number is published by the Star Music Company, which is being bombarded with applications from all parts of the kingdom for Castling and Murphy's dainty Welsh love song, "On the Isle of Anglesey." Though coming late in the year, the quaint freshness of the song will make it popular in many Christmas productions.

MESSRS. SCOTT AND MILLS' charming song, "Somebody cares for you," has been in extraordinary requisition, both as a principal boy's song and duet for boy and girl; and the majority of this year's pantomimes are "featuring" it, both in town and country. The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are to be congratulated on the possession of this tuneful and "catchy" number.

ONE of the biggest "sellers" in the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s "Sixpenny Successes" series just now is Mr. Ernest Shand's "Oh, dearly beloved breth-er-en," which was specially written for him by two members of the Berners-street firm, Messrs. John P. Harrington and Jas. W. Tate. These gentlemen, up to now, have only written two songs for Mr. Shand (in conjunction), and both were "winners," the other being his popular "Look at the weather we're having."

"TAKE ME BACK TO LONDON TOWN" is a most successful number, and will be in almost every suburban pantomime. The Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., the publishers, have just granted permission for its introduction into the Coronet Christmas production.

THE Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., have just acquired from Messrs. Arthur Chenery and J. Chas. Moore a new song, "Just a sprig of holly," which is being featured with enormous success by Misses Marie Collins and Gladys Mavius. This is the firm's eleventh hour sensation.

MISS FRANCES LETTY has "scored" tremendously in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Newcastle with the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s song "There's a big ship sailing in the morning," by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford; and on Monday last this talented singer wired the publishers: "Scored another hit to-night at Hippodrome, Manchester."

DURING the past week the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. have acquired several new songs for early spring exploitation, including the following:—"A parasol for two," by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford; "In my heart," by Barnes and Weston; "When, when, when?" by Pelham and Rule, and "No thanks, Mr. Octopus," by Percy Edgar and Kenneth Lyle.

A STRICTLY up-to-date song, by Fred Godfrey, has been secured by Messrs. Francis and Day, entitled "In my aeroplane," and another from the same pen, called "Down on the beautiful Rhine." The same firm have during the week purchased "My Montana Maid," by Gilbert Wells and Fred Elton; "The Queen Bee's Wedding," by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford; "Te-ni-aye" (Fred Earle), by Harry Wincott; "Though absent from home" (Pat Rafferty), by F. W. Carter; and "Two little paper roses," by Barnes and Weston.

LITTLE MAX DAREWSKI'S latest song, entitled "I dreamed of a beautiful garden," and dedicated by special permission to Mme. Adelina Patti, has been secured by Mr. David Day for publication. The words are by Gordon Meggy.

THE Stavordale Quintette, who are this week appearing at the Olympia, Liverpool, deputised on Wednesday, at the Empire, for Miss Vesta Tilley, when they made a hit with "Snowflakes," Messrs. Francis and Day's latest success.

MR. T. E. DUNVILLE'S new song, "That's extra," has been secured for publication by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd., whose latest number, "You're my girl in the springtime," is being featured during her pantomime engagement at Sheffield by Miss Daisy Jerome.

SONG publishers, song writers, and singers, wishing to record the date of production of successful songs, are invited to send particulars to the editor.

"THE CRUISE OF H.M.S. VICTORY."

Written by Miss Flo Stanley, Music by Harry Peterson,
Produced, for the First Time in London, at the Empire, Camberwell, on Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Lord Teasum	MR. BOB LEARDO
Jack Marlinspike	MR. ARTHUR WATSON
Dick Hatchway	MR. BILLY MOSS
Bill Scuppers	MR. HARRY WATSON
Sam Mainmast	MR. TED SHEPPERD
Dick Scrubbs	MR. E. J. BARWICK
Joe Topsail	MR. GEO. MARVELLE
Trotter	MR. JOE BURLEY
Lady Teasum	MISS MAUD ROBERTS
Polly	MISS FLO STANLEY
Rosie	MISS ETHEL PRYER
Mandie	MISS KITTY HARRISON
Lillie	MISS GRACE DUDLEY
Violet	MISS LILLIE DUDLEY
Doris	MISS DAISY DUDLEY
Ethel	MISS ETHEL SCRUTTON

A brilliant success attended the production of this tabloid musical comedy on Wednesday evening, and Mr. Arthur Watson and his really clever troupe of comedians are assured of an enthusiastic reception wherever billed to appear. The music is lively, tuneful, and spirited, the fun fast and furious, and the dancing clever, untiring, and energetic. As the story goes, H.M.S. Victory has arrived in the Solent, having on board the Admiral, Lord Teasum, who has returned from a three years' cruise, and is eager to see his wife. She, however, is mad with jealousy, for she has heard that her gay old Lord has been carrying on a flirtation at Gibraltar. She comes to Portsmouth, with the double purpose of exposing her husband and of finding a long-lost niece and heiress. She runs against some of the crew of the Victory. Among these is a sailor, Jack Marlinspike, whom she engages to find out all he can about the Admiral. At the same time, the Admiral enlists the services of another of his crew, Dick Hatchway, to find out if his wife has been true to him while he has been away. The two sailors soon discover each other's mission, and concoct two letters, which they give to the Admiral and his wife, making it appear that they have both been engaged in flirtations. After a stormy scene between the Admiral and his lady, the plotters are bowled out, and Lady Teasum also finds that the pretty waitress at the Rockingham is her long-lost niece and is in love with her sailor detective, Jack Marlinspike, everything thus ending happily.

Miss Flo Stanley has written a smart little comedy, and in the character of Polly the Waitress proved that she can act as well as she can write, her Polly being bright, chic, and distinctly clever. Mr. Arthur Watson as the irresponsible sailor, Jack Marlinspike, who adopts various disguises, was the life and soul of the production, his merry fooling keeping the audience laughing all the time. Mr. Bob Leardo was a realistic Admiral, and his singing of the rollicking sea song "I'm the Admiral," with its rousing chorus and dance, formed a striking final to the first scene. Mr. Billy Moss invested the part of Dick Hatchway with endless comedy touches. As the principal dancers, the three Sisters Dudley won vociferous applause for their energy and skill. All the other parts were well sustained, and the scenery, dresses, and effects were excellent.

The Royal Sovereign Quartette made their first appearance here in the second house on Tuesday evening, and worked so very hard for success that they well merited the warm applause bestowed on their efforts. On the deck of H.M.S. Royal Sovereign we find the captain, the lieutenant, the boatswain and his mate indulging in vocal exercises, merry jests, and knockabout business. Somewhat nervous in their opening item, the old sea song "Anchored," they soon gained confidence, and were heard to better advantage in "Alice, where art thou?" "Sally in our alley," and a medley of popular coon and other songs, while the lieutenant gave an admirable rendering of "The Midshipmite." Much of the fun was due to the boatswain's mate, who by many comical acts kept the audience amused all the time.

Others appearing in the Empire programme during the week are Miss Marcel Eirl in a song scena, entitled "A Moon Dream"; the mysterious Mr. E., pun patterer to peculiar pictures; Miss Rose Martin, vocalist; Mr. Harry Tacho, comedian; Messrs. Hahn and Schmidt in a merry burlesque, and a long series of Empire animated pictures.

MISS ELSIE EARLE is making a great success with her song-scena, "Holly and Mistletoe" from the pen of Will Letters. The scenery and properties are of the best, and she appears in a most charming white broché silk outdoor costume, with coat, fur hat, and muff all trimmed with holly and mistletoe. The chorus is a catchy refrain, and the song would be a great success in pantomime.

MR. WILL EVANS has done the trick in Glasgow. From his first striking entrance his success was never in doubt. He showed great versatility and resource, and made a distinct hit with a comic and melodious ditty entitled "Cowcaddens," specially written by George Arthurs. The enterprising Star Music Company have secured this number for immediate publication.

THE Monte Carlo Publishing Co. have this week secured another "gem" in the shape of a song from the prolific pens of Messrs. Paul Pelham and Herbert Rule, entitled "When, when, when?" which it is confidently anticipated will equal, if not excel, the success already achieved by the same author and composer's great "hit," "She didn't come from Borneo."

THE stirring march-time song, "When the band played the 'Men of Harlech,'" by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, has been very extensively taken up, not only by English pantomime producers, but particularly in Wales, as both the sentiment and environment of the song specially appeal to the people of that portion of the Empire. This number forms one of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s "Sixpenny Successes" series.

WITH the printers working night and day just now, in an endeavour to cope with the present abnormal trade demand for their "Sixpenny Successes," the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. may fairly lay claim to being busy this Christmastide. The call for their biggest "winner," "Bamboo Bungalow," is truly phenomenal, the printer's order for copies being practically unlimited.

THE following are among the songs and dance music secured during the last few days for publication by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter: "Hello! old man!" (Miss Victoria Monks), by Geo. A. Stevens; "I've been over the sea" (George Antill), by Percival Langley; "Come along, my little Daisy," written, composed, and sung by Miss Vi Carlyle; "Mary, Queen of Scots" (Miss Vesta Victoria), by Fred E. D'Albert and Fred Godfrey; "Maizee, my Malagasy" (introduced by Miss Daisy Dormer), by George Collins; "Tess" waltz, by Frank Brockett; "Tillietiddlum" (Jock Whiteford), by J. F. Lambe; "Ye've got the same old way wid ye," by Weston and Barnes; "The boy and the eagle" (Arthur Lennard) and "Girls, beware of the Serpentine!" (George Lashwood), both by E. W. Rogers; "Are you a mason?" and "And then we looked at each other" (Bernard Russell), the former by E. A. Searson and R. Nevitt, the latter by Fred Hastings; and last, but by no means least, Frank Leo's great chorus song for Wilkie Bard, entitled "You! you! you!"

CHAT WITH CHAS. BEECHAM.

(BY OUR OWN COMMISSIONER.)

"As a rule," says Mr. Charles Beecham, the manager of the Paragon Theatre, "I can tell by my Monday evening's audience what sort of business we are going to have during the rest of the week. Say there is a fair house on the opening night, and they appear to be pleased with what they have seen and heard, we are pretty certain to be favoured with satisfactory congregations—from a numerical point of view, at least—even if we do not get packed during the five remaining evenings. But, of course, there is no law on the subject. Exceptional circumstances may, and do, arise, and I could give instances where our receipts have been decidedly poor for the first half of the week and we have had almost to turn money away on the last three nights.

"Judicious advertising," Mr. Beecham goes on to tell us, "counts for a great deal. You might have the finest programme that could be arranged, but if you did not advertise your attractions in an adequate manner you would derive no greater advantage from your star artists than if they were merely of the ordinary fill-in type of turn. The amount spent in bringing prominently to the notice of the public the show for the week is a considerable item in the annual expenditure of a music hall company. There must be no cheeseparing in this respect if a manager has any hope at all of attracting visitors to his establishment. And when you have got your audience you must see to it that you are prepared to carry out all the promises you have made in your poster announcements."

Mr. Charles Beecham commenced work as a lad of thirteen in the cellars of the Canterbury Music Hall, and, as he jocularly remarks, he could

[Photo by Hartmann.

MR. C. BEECHAM.

not have started on a lower step, unless, indeed, he had made his advent from the place of which the Florentine poet has given us such vivid pictures. For some nine years Mr. Beecham faithfully served Mr. Payne at the Westminster hall, which, during the period mentioned, was under the management respectively of Messrs. A. Thiodon, Will Lennon, Harry Lundy, and Fred Holden. On the re-opening of the South London Palace Mr. Payne offered to Mr. Beecham the post of treasurer at that house, Mr. Frank Egerton being the manager at this period. Subsequently Mr. Beecham became secretary and treasurer at the Paragon, and, after two and a half years at that establishment, he took possession of the managerial chair, a piece of furniture he still graces.

Mr. Beecham is not able to look out from his windows upon what might be termed idyllic scenery; but, then, there are other compensations, for when one's time and attention are centred wholly on one's work the fact of residing in the midst of squalid tenements and dismal-looking, grimy chimney-stacks does not count for much. At any rate, Mr. Beecham is cheerful enough; but, then, we should imagine he would make himself at home wherever his work called him, whether it were in the humid and disease-laden air of a West African settlement or under the clear sky and gentler atmosphere of the Antipodes. Since he was vested with authority in Mile End-road he has done notable work in the cause of sweet charity, and in this connection we can make special reference to the enterprise he exhibited on the occasion of the King's dinner to the poor in 1902, when he acted as the Stepney representative on the organising committee of theatre and music hall proprietors. In order to mark his services as manager of the East End district, Mr. Beecham was made a life governor of the Albert and Victoria Park Hospital, while to Mrs. Beecham fell the honour of being the first lady life governor of the Sloane-square Hospital for Women. Mr. Beecham highly appreciates the great help and generous consideration he has always experienced at the hands of his managing-director, Mr. George Adney Payne, under whom he thinks it an honour to work. Mr. Worland S. Wheeler, who spent some time as assistant secretary at the Canterbury, has, during his six years' tenure of office at the Paragon as secretary and treasurer, proved that he could quickly adapt himself to the duties of his position, in which his abilities seem to have found an appropriate channel.

Mr. Beecham has been associated with Mr. Payne for twenty-three years, and it is greatly to his credit that he should, by steady and consistent plodding, have risen from cellar-boy to manager of one of London's largest theatres of variety. Mr. Beecham's history furnishes a story of gradual advancement of which he is justified in feeling not a little proud.

HORACE WHEATLEY

AT PAVILION, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

The name of Horace Wheatley has been a household word in the music-hall world for many a year. "The Genial Irishman" is full of resource yet . . . few stories, told with his old humour, and, in response to a warm encore, Mr. Wheatley sang a ditty of "The Hearty Veteran," which went as well as anything.—*Daily Journal*, Dec. 18, 1906.

Horace Wheatley, the genial and versatile Irishman, with his touches of pathos and comedy, and the lightness of his dancing, was a tremendous favourite.—*Northern Gossip.*

MISS WINIFRED HARE is specially featuring John P. Harrington and the late George Le Brunn's melodious number "One little lonely star" (with which this charming artist has achieved such a signal success in the halls) in the Shakespeare, Clapham, pantomime, wherein she plays principal boy this year. The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are the fortunate publishers of this successful number.

MR. GIBBONS AND THE V.A.F.

SETTLEMENT.

It was a very happy and enthusiastic little party that assembled on the stage of the Brixton Empress on Wednesday afternoon at the conclusion of the benefit performance in aid of the staff and employés of the Brixton Hippodrome, who had been thrown out of work in consequence of the closing of the latter establishment. Earlier in the afternoon certain members of the Variety Artists' Federation had, at the invitation of Mr. Walter Gibbons, lunched with him at the Café Royal, when matters in dispute were discussed, and an amicable agreement arrived at. Mr. George Adney Payne and his secretary, Mr. Harry Masters, as well as Mr. Gibbons's manager, Mr. Charles Read, were also present at the conference, and most of the company drove to the Empress after luncheon, and the happy result of the deliberations at the Café Royal was made known to the audience.

When the curtain rose upon this agreeable "extra turn," Mr. JOE O'GORMAN stepped in front of his party and said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—I have much pleasure, as chairman of the Variety Artists' Federation, to come before you, and, in the first place, to apologise to you on behalf of my brother and sister artists who have not appeared here this afternoon, and to say that this is due to the meeting we have had to-day with Mr. Walter Gibbons and Mr. George Adney Payne. I am pleased to tell you that we have arrived at the most amicable and honourable settlement that was ever arranged between a body of men and a proprietor. Mr. Gibbons, as you know, is one of the directors both of the Hippodrome and the Empress, and we of the Variety Artists' Federation recently had some difficulty with him—the same difficulty, I may mention, that is now existent between us and many other managers. And I, for the Variety Artists' Federation, as well as for the profession generally, stand here to tell you that we have arranged everything most amicably with Mr. Gibbons. Mr. Gibbons has met us in a way that only a gentleman could meet a body of men, and the solution arrived at to-day is the forerunner of brighter times for the artist and the proprietor. In a friendly and gentlemanly spirit Mr. Gibbons met us and agreed to everything he possibly could for the amelioration of our grievances and the betterment of our condition. We have also got the support of Mr. Payne. I have now the greatest pleasure in calling upon Mr. Gibbons to say a few words.

MR. WALTER GIBBONS, whose appearance before the footlights was the signal for a loud and continued outburst of applause, said: I have to thank Mr. Joe O'Gorman for the many kind things he has said concerning myself. As to the settlement that has been arrived at this afternoon, I can scarcely do more than endorse his remarks on the subject. We have come to a most amicable agreement, which, I am sure, is satisfactory to both parties. I think Mr. O'Gorman, in his modesty, has forgotten to say that as a result of the deliberations of his Federation, they have subscribed between them thirty guineas for the object of this matinée, and this sum, of course, is in addition to what has been already subscribed and paid for admission at these doors. This will prove to you how generous the artists that amuse you can be when they have a feeling in their hearts to help other people connected with this profession. I am sorry Mr. Grimes is absent to-day. He has undergone a very serious operation, but is expected to be out and about in a week's time. I hope that all of you will have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year; and I can say to Mr. O'Gorman, "My hand in yours" (suiting the action to the word), and I am pleased all these differences are ended, and in future we shall work together to give you the best entertainment we can.

After Mr. Gibbons had finished speaking, the company on the stage joined hands and sang "For Auld Lang Syne."

As to the afternoon's programme, it contained over ninety names, but it was not, of course, possible for all to appear. The entertainment opened with a magnificent performance of Thomas's "Raymond" by the massed orchestras of the Holborn Empire, the Duchess, Balham, the Brixton Empress and Hippodrome, the Putney Hippodrome, the Grand Palace, Clapham Junction, and the Croydon Empire. Mr. James Sale, the conductor of the Holborn Empire, ably directed the operations of this unusually large band. In regard to the other items, Miss Vesta Victoria gave her inimitable rendering of "Waiting at the church," Dutch Daly delighted everybody with his concertina playing and Mr. Herbert Darnley's company created the utmost merriment with the pantomimic sketch, *Muscles*. Miss Lily Burnand submitted an agreeable number in the song "Picture postcards," and Mr. Sam Spira's imitations were both interesting and attractive. Miss Maud Esmond sings of "Up in the sky," Miss Therese de Silver's "Mistletoe," Mr. Harry Maynard's "Good-bye," Mr. Lew Lake and company in the burgling sketch, Miss Minnie Paget's concertina playing and singing, Mr. Eddie Noble's dancing to his own pianoforte accompaniment, the rollicking fun of Messrs. Raleigh, Abraham, and company, the smart cycling feats of the Five Derringtons, the entertaining "business" of Manley and Fairfax, the coon melodies of the Dalwoods, and the vocalism of Miss Beatrice Renee, afforded excellent contributions to the afternoon's enjoyment. The manager and treasurer for the matinée was Mr. Nelson Francis, Mr. Francis Winchcombe fulfilling the duties of acting-manager, Mr. R. L. Gaston acting as stage-manager, and Mr. Harry Goodson as hon. secretary.

MISS ROSE HAMILTON opens to-night at the Metropole, Glasgow, in the Albert and Edmunds' production of *The Babes*. She is featuring "There's always room for a girl," "Zuyder Zee," and "Rosie is waiting." Miss Ada Martine, who is playing second girl in the same production, will make a feature of "Bamboo Bungalow."

KARL KAPS, the well-known writer and arranger of dance music, has completed for Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. a bright and melodious valse founded on Mills and Scott's popular song, "By the side of the Zuyder Zee." This number will be played in hundreds of dancing rooms this season; the demand for copies and band parts is quite phenomenal.

MISS ANNIE MARS will on Monday next at the Alhambra appear in a new Japanese song-scena, entitled, "Home again, my cherry blossom," written by Charles Wilmott and composed by the youthful genius Hermann E. Darewski. The production will be mounted with pretty scenery by Ryan, and the costumes will be by Altas. This number is published by Francis, Day, and Hunter.

THE first large edition of the "King Pantomime" quadrilles, arranged by Karl Kaps, was bespoken by "the trade" before it was printed, and disappeared as though by magic the day it was published, but by dint of keeping presses going night and day the supply is now within measurable distance of catching up to the demand. The quadrilles embody the following choice morceaux from Messrs. Francis and Day's recent successes:—"When love comes knocking at the door," "My Irish Rosie," "Welcome home, boys! welcome home!" "Arrah Wanna!" "My Castle in Spain," "Snowflakes," "Billy Muggins," "Let me sing," "She's proud and she's beau-ti-ful," "Alice, where art thou going?" "Oysters and clams," "Nobody," "Good old Union Jack," "My cosy caravan," "Henny Klein," "Rosy's cosy bungalow," "Wouldn't you like to learn to love me?" "We parted on the shore," and "Grow, little mushroom, grow!"

THE VARIETY ARTISTS DISPUTE.

The friction which had, unhappily and unexpectedly, occurred between Mr. Gibbons and the Variety Artists' Federation has been put an end to, and friendly relations established which all parties agree should be permanently retained. The cause of the dispute and the terms on which it has been terminated are interesting to the music-hall world, and affect, in an important degree, the welfare of all concerned.

Our readers are conversant with the original grounds of the dispute between the Federation and Mr. Gibbons, and we are now in a position to say that the delay in effecting a settlement led to an alliance being formed between the Federation, the Musicians' Union, and the National Association of Theatrical Employees, and the intervention, on their behalf, of the London Trades Council, representing the whole of the organisations connected with the various occupations and industries in the Metropolitan area.

There had been frequent consultations between the Trades Council and the Committee representing the Alliance, and the Trades Council appointed Mr. B. Cooper, L.C.C., Mr. J. Gregory (chairman of the Trades Council), and Mr. James McDonald (sec.) to wait on Mr. Gibbons on Saturday last. These gentlemen were unable to meet Mr. Gibbons on that day, but secured two interviews on Monday, at which Mr. Gibbons placed his views before them, and consented to meet the representatives of the Alliance on Tuesday, at three o'clock. At a meeting of the Committee of the Alliance on Monday evening, the Trades Council representatives reported their interview with Mr. Gibbons, and the following were appointed to meet Mr. Gibbons as arranged:—Mr. Frank Gerald, secretary of the Variety Artists' Federation; Mr. William Johnson, general secretary of the National Association of Theatrical Employees; and Mr. C. Jesson, L.C.C., London secretary of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

At the time appointed these gentlemen met Mr. Gibbons at his offices, No. 1, Durham-street, Strand, when the views of the three societies were submitted. During the interview Mr. Adney Payne arrived, and took part in the proceedings. Mr. Gibbons expressed his willingness to grant the request of the stage employees on all points not covered by his arrangements. He also agreed to meet the wishes of the Musicians' Union in a similar manner, and an agreement was drawn up and signed by Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Frank Gerald satisfactory to both parties in relation to the claims of the artists and Mr. Gibbons. The discussion was of a most friendly nature throughout, and all parties agreed as to the desirability of a mutual understanding and the protection of all interests represented—the managers, artists, and workers in the profession. The misunderstandings which had arisen were entirely removed, and there is every reason to believe that in future the most amicable settlement will be possible in any little matter requiring consideration.

Mr. Adney Payne kindly made an appointment for an early date with the representatives of the Alliance to discuss with them various matters they expressed a wish to submit to him; and it is hoped that a friendly agreement will be arrived at in the near future between the three societies and all music hall proprietors.

The present agreement marks a new departure in the music hall world, which, if generally adopted, is sure to have most satisfactory results.

The following are the terms agreed upon between Mr. Walter Gibbons and the V.A.F.:—

(1) Matinées to be paid for; but an exception is to be made in the case of exclusive contracts at the Holborn Empire and referred, if necessary, to the Arbitration Boad.

(2) No commission to be stopped when artists book direct.

(3) No transfer of artists without their consent.

(4) No variation of times that will interfere with artists' other engagements without their consent.

(5) A Board of Arbitration, consisting of two representatives of Mr. Gibbons' and two of the V.A.F., with an independent chairman appointed by the four.

(6) Six months' notice is to be given by either party to vary or suspend this agreement.

It is assumed the Board of Arbitration will deal with the Barring Clause. The Musicians' proposals were a minimum salary of 36s. per week—matinées 6s., in one show a night houses, and 3s. in two shows a night houses. The Stage Employees rates of pay to be 24s. per week for day-work, exclusive of show money. In two shows a night houses 2s. 6d. per night and 2s. for each matinée. Daymen, for day and night-work, 36s. per week.

THE EMPIRE, OXFORD,

The Oxford magistrates granted Mr. Frank Stuart, on Tuesday at the City Court, Oxford, a dramatic licence for the re-opening of the Empire, Oxford, which in future will be known as the East Oxford. Extensive alterations and improvements are in hand. Electric light is being installed throughout. The stage is being enlarged, and the roof over the stage raised twenty feet. The building will be heated with a service of hot-water pipes and radiators, and will have extra emergency exits and numerous other improvements. The licence is to take effect from Feb. 25, 1907, if the alterations and improvements are carried out by that date.

Mr. Albany Ward, the former lessee, sends us a *résumé* of the facts connected with the refusal to him last summer of the Empire Theatre licence, which was held by him for six years.

In 1903 the Bench asked for structural alterations in the theatre. Mr. Buckell, architect, of London, was called in by Mr. Ward, and all alterations suggested by the Bench, as well as many others on his own initiative, were made. The building was seen and passed by the Justices. In 1904 the Bench requested Mr. Ward to put in a fireproof curtain. This was done, and the building again inspected and passed. Many minor alterations were made. Late in 1905 the Bench requested Mr. Ward not to allow any cinematograph shows. These he stopped.

On June 6 he applied for a licence; and though no objection was made by any person or the police, or any suggestion of mismanagement, the licence was refused. Notice of appeal to Quarter Sessions was given, which the Bench allowed.

Mr. Ward was told the appeal could not be heard that Sessions, and Saturday, July 28, was fixed for the hearing.

Mr. Ackland, the Recorder, decided that there was no appeal as no order had been made. Mr. Ward then applied for an order to show cause why a *mandamus* should not be issued, and the Judge in Chambers granted this.

The Theatrical Managers' Association not seeing their way clear to give any assistance in the matter, Mr. Ward did not consider himself financially strong enough to fight any further; and, the place being closed, and Mr. Ward's chief source of income destroyed, he was compelled to abstain from any further action.

Public opinion was roused, and some little agitation was the result. As Mr. Ward had determined his tenancy of the Empire, Mr. Frank Stuart made application, and, after one or two adjournments, and having promised to carry out certain alterations demanded by the Bench, a licence was at length granted to him.

Mr. Ward suggests that the Bench really never intended to again renew the licence of the Empire; and would not have done so had not public opinion become too strong for them.

CHRISTMAS VARIETY CARNIVAL.

The Yuletide variety programmes, both in the centre of amusement and in the suburbs, present a bewildering series of attractions, in spite of the depletion of the ranks of the stars to brighten pantomime.

On Christmas Eve, at the Hippodrome, Mr. Frank Parker will produce *The Treasure Ship in Fairy Seas*, a beautiful extravaganza, in which many adventures above and beneath the sea will be shown with all the beauty and completeness for which the house is celebrated. We are promised a wonderful combat with an octopus, and mermaids will be represented by Miss Annette Kellerman, the heroine of the Channel, and two of the Finney Sisters. Miss Simeta Marsden will play the part of a young diver. Mr. Carl Kiefert will be responsible for the much-talked-of "Swimming Waltz" and also the incidental music throughout.

In the strong and varied programme at the Tivoli the chief novelty will be the travesty *Robin Waller*, in which Mr. Arthur Roberts will appear in the title-rôle. A newcomer, Miss Helen D'Aubigny (from the Paris Opera House), is a vocalist who has already won fame in the principal cities of Europe, and is said to possess a voice of exceptional beauty and power. Clark and Hamilton, in a new act; Clarice Mayne; Alice Raymond, with a novel performance, in which she is assisted from an unexpected quarter by handsome John Kurkamp; Dutch Daly, Herbert La Martine, Chas. Norton, Datas, &c., will all aid in an entertainment that is certainly hard to beat.

As already announced in these columns, Mr. Joe Elvin will be a leading attraction at the Oxford in the new sketch by Wal Pink, *The Sunny Seaside;* and Mr. Blyth Pratt's first Christmas programme will also be made interesting by the demonstrations of The Fays, eminent thaumaturgists, who are appearing daily with special variety programme at 2.45; Arthur Lennard, Mendel, Bonnie Goodwin, Ada Cerito, and Nellie Wallace are also of the company.

At the Palace Mr. Alfred Butt will present Mr. Harry Vernon and company in a Christmas idyll, entitled *Christmas Eve*. This playlet has been capitally mounted, and contains a pretty story. What will probably prove one of the wildest dances that has ever been seen by the British public will be presented by the Molassoes, a quartette of disciples of the terpsichorean art that seem to rouse the audience to the greatest pitch of excitement. Little Tich will be exclusively engaged. Mr. R. A. Roberts, with his new protean sketch, entitled *Ringing the Changes;* Princess Trixie, the spelling and calculating mare; and Chirgwin, the White-Eyed Kaffir.

Mr. J. L. Graydon, who now occupies the proud position of *doyen* of caterers, was accustomed in former days to present a sketch specially written for the festive season, and at the Middlesex we have seen highly creditable versions of Dickens's "Christmas Carol." This year his bill is mainly restricted to variety. Mr. Esmond and Miss Edith Evelyn will, however, appear in a clever and bright musical duologue, and Lee and Bentley will also present a sketch. The Boisset Troupe, Lily Burnand, and Tom Leamore are among the big liners.

At the Paragon the famous Dunedin Troupe will appear after their triumphs in South America. Whit Cunliffe, the typical topical comedian; Florence Esdaile, the operatic prima donna; the Gotham Quartette; the Harvey Boys; and Lew Lake and company, in *My Pal Jerry*, will also entertain.

A strong card in the Canterbury bill will be Joe Elvin and company, in the sketch *Trespassers Beware*. Mendel, the blind pianist; Nellie Wallace, the low comedy lady; Kurkamp and Raymond; Phil Ray; Carter Livesey; Valazzi, the famous juggler; Chris Richards, and others will also entertain. "The Fox Hunt" will be vividly portrayed by Ruffell's Bioscope.

A special feature of next week's programme at the Metropolitan will be the Urbanora films, including the famous picture "Climbing the Dolomites." The special engagement of Miss Simeta Marsden is also announced, and other attractions will be Price and Revost, the Boissets, in *The Dock Strike*, Hal Forde, Chris Richards, Blake and Granby, Ambrose Thorne, Chas. Vincent, Cinizelli, and the Five Whiteleys.

On Guard, with Mr. Ernest Ball, the popular actor-vocalist in the principal character, will form the chief attraction in the Christmas holiday programme at the Empire, Camberwell. In addition to Mr. Ball, some fifty persons will be engaged in the sketch, including a military band. Three new scenes are being specially painted for the production, and the military uniforms and costumes are being executed by Clarkson. The scena will be produced under the direction of Mr. Gerald Stevens, for many years with the late Sir Henry Irving.

In his holiday list at the Royal Standard, Mr. T. S. Dickie is presenting J. L. Shine and company in *Hogmanay*, Bijou Russell, the Celtic Comedy Trio, Florence Esdaile, Herbert La Martine, Lionel Vaughan's company in *In Trouble*, Frank Léon, the Two Bees in *The Man in the Moon*, the Maitland Comedy Trio in *The Portrait*, and others.

"The Mysterious Cross," Chirgwin, Leo Dryden, and Millie Payne are billed as the principal attractions for Monday at the Chelsea Palace, other attractions being Ian Colquhoun, Will Goodwin and company in *Repentance*, the Stevens Troupe, Ambrose Thorne, and Marquis and Mignonette.

At the South London, on Monday, will appear George d'Albert and company, Frank Sylvo, the Two Whites, Tom Hughes, Beatrice Renée, J. P. Ling, Emmie Ames, Joe Archer, and the Raymond Trio. The indispensable Ruffell's Bioscope, with seasonable films, will also be an attraction.

To have a "Costers' Beanfeast" at Christmastime seems a trifle out of place; nevertheless, at Shepherd's Bush Empire Mr. Alec Hurley will present his successful sketch of that name. In addition Tom Costello will give his views on the Suffragette question. Young and De Voie, a "team" of American expert dancers, will "show Britishers something new in the dancing line," and there are James Brady, Jeannie Mackay, a new series of Bioscope Pictures, the Welsh Wanderers, and others.

The Alhambra, with the sensational success of the Zancigs—whose show has received the approval of the King and been witnessed by the Duke of Connaught—and the two fine ballets *Parisiana* and *L'Amour* still winning nightly triumphs, will not present any remarkable novelty until January, when the alterations that are now progressing will be completed. The Urbanora pictures will illustrate Christmas incidents, and other attractions include De Witt, Burns and Torrance, and "The Awakening of the Toys."

The Empire in Holloway-road will submit a programme scintillating with stars. First and foremost is Ernest Shand with a new budget of songs and patter. Billy McClain, together with Miss Cordelia, is a certain winner, and the powerful dramatic sketch, *The Yellow Fang*, has a place on the bill. Mention must also be made of those talented artists Lennie and Hast, who will be seen in an artistis fantasy, *The Sea Nymph*.

The Christmas attractions at the suburban houses of the Moss-Stoll circuit are many and varied. At Hackney Empire Mr. Herbert Darnley's sketch, *The Skirmishers*, has pride of place in the bill. Verno and Voyce will present *Jack Sheppard*, and three other turns that have always been great favourites at this house are the Findens, Jack Camp, and the "Punch and Judy Girls."

Louie Freear is the premier attraction at the New Cross Empire during Christmas week. As "Snooks" this delightful artist never fails to interest audiences of all classes. Michael Nolan, the great Irish comedian, Dot Hardy, and the four Royal Welshmen are other numbers.

That much-discussed lady, La Milo, is relied upon by the Stratford Empire management to pack the house at every performance during Christmas week; but it must not be imagined that this lady, despite her undoubted charms, is the only attraction in this bill, for we find that Frank and Jen Latona, Theo Hardeen, Victor Newman, Hurley and Cole, and the Mascotte Trio have also a place in the programme.

The chief attraction at the Empire will still be *The Débutante*, with Adeline Genée in the title-part. Mr. George Lashwood, most successful of swell impersonators, will appear until further notice; Hymack will continue to mystify and amuse in his own original way; and *Burning to Sing* will continue its humorous career. Arthur Prince, the Five Olracs, and Herbert Lloyd will be other strong attractions.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The London County Council met on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

THE ALHAMBRA.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported with reference to drawings submitted by Mr. W. M. Brutton, showing an external iron staircase proposed to be erected at the Alhambra Palace, Leicester-square, for the purpose of providing additional means of escape from the ballet-rooms; certain alterations to be made in the existing o.p. dressing-room staircase next Hunt's-court; a bay proposed to be constructed on the Leicester-square frontage; and the provision of a new gallery entrance on the o.p. side of the premises. They recommended that Mr. Brutton be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the six drawings submitted by him, provided certain stated conditions be complied with.

BATTERSEA EMPIRE.

The Committee had had before them drawings submitted by Mr. A. E. Brooker, showing how it is proposed to comply with certain of the suggestions made by the Council for the structural improvement of the Battersea Empire, York-road, Battersea. They recommended that Mr. Brooker be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the two drawings submitted by him with regard to the method of compliance with certain of the suggestions made for the structural improvement of the building, provided certain stated conditions be complied with.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

The Committee approved of drawings submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co., showing a proposal to provide additional dressing-room accommodation at the Hackney Empire provided that the usual conditions be complied with.

THE LONDON.

The Committee had considered a drawing, submitted by Messrs. F. J. Eedle and Meyers, showing a proposal to provide a permanent iron barrier at the London Music Hall, Shoreditch High-street, with a view to meeting the Council's requirements with regard to the egress of the first and the admission of the second audiences, and recommended that Messrs. Eedle and Meyers be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted provided that the usual conditions be complied with.

LONDON PAVILION.

The Committee also recommended that Messrs. Wylson and Long be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by them with regard to the proposed cinematograph apparatus and additional stage lighting to be provided in the roof at the London Pavilion Music Hall, provided that certain stated conditions be complied with.

The Building Act Committee recommended that the Council consent to the retention of four electric arc lamps and a projecting sign in front of the London Pavilion, as shown on the plan, dated Nov. 8, submitted with the application of Messrs. Wylson and Long, on behalf of the directors, such consent being subject to the usual conditions.

FIRE CURTAINS.

The Committee reported that they had considered drawings, submitted by Mr. W. G. R. Sprague, showing the proposed arrangements in connection with the fire curtains to be provided at the new theatres in course of erection in Shaftesbury-avenue and Rupert-street, and Shaftesbury-avenue and Wardour-street. They had also considered drawings submitted by Mr. T. J. Digby, showing the arrangements in connection with the electrical installations at these theatres. They recommended that Mr. Sprague and Mr. Digby be informed that they had no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawings submitted provided that the usual conditons be complied with.

HICKS' THEATRE.

The Council, on Dec. 20, 1904, approved, subject to certain conditions, drawings of a theatre building, to be known as Hicks' Theatre, which it was proposed to erect at the corner of Shaftesbury-avenue and Rupert-street. The building is approaching completion, and it is desired to open it to the public on Dec. 24. In order to enable this to be done it is necessary that the lessee should be in possession of the Council's certificate under the Metropolis Management and Building Acts Amendment Act, 1878. The Committee considered that a certificate in respect of the premises should be sealed, so that it may be issued as soon as the Council's requirements shall have been completed, and they recommended accordingly.

THE PLAYHOUSE.

The Committee recommended that Messrs. Blow and Billerey be informed that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted by them with regard to the King's room in the basement at the Playhouse, Northumberland-avenue, provided the regulations of the Council with regard to lighting be complied with.

THE SAVOY.

The Committee have approved of drawings, submitted by Mr. A. Blomfield Jackson, showing proposed alterations in the position of certain electric light points and radiators at the Savoy Theatre, in connection with the provision of a new entrance from Savoy-court.

CHRISTMAS RECESS.

The Committee recommended that they be authorised, during the Christmas recess, to deal with any matters, included in their reference, which may require immediate action on behalf of the Council, provided that the Committee do act only upon such decisions as may be unanimously arrived at by the members present, and report to the Council any action taken under this authority.

All the above recommendations were agreed to, and at the conclusion of the sitting the Council adjourned for the Christmas recess.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE TIVOLI.

The Yuletide shopping interferes most unmistakably with business at the halls, and, however attractive the bill, managers and proprietors cannot avoid the almost universal slump that sets in during this, one of the dullest weeks of the year from the entertainer's point of view. With the sketch bogey "laid," we are not surprised to find a couple of sketches in Mr. Joseph Wilson's current scheme of amusement. The first of these, called *The Night Owls*, is a mere incident, though it is grandiosely termed a comedy. A husband who has dined and wined well with a bachelor friend, brings him home. The half-tipsy couple mistake a full-dressed costumier's model for the wife, who, in her turn, abuses and "bashes" with an umbrella the second person "singular," under the impression that he is the first person "plural." On the latter's part, a pretence of fierce jealousy and wholesale abuse of his bachelor chum, who is treated with contumely, entirely spoil the plan of the lady for punishing her lord for his too indulgent view of his responsibilities. The little piece is chiefly remarkable for some excellent acting by Mr. Guy Rupert Lane as the bachelor. Mr. William Lee and Miss Helen Bentley do all that is necessary with the other characters. Miss Phœbe Mercer and Mr. Langhorne Burton have in Miss Zoe Herbert's sketch, *Mistakes Will Happen*—a crude title, by the way—an excellent vehicle for comedy. The fun of the dialogue is based on the old game of cross purposes exploited in the comedy of the theatres as well as in the broader farce of the halls. The lady of the duologue in this instance comes in error to a matrimonial agency instead of a dog-fancier's, in order to replace a terrier known as General. In sympathising with her grief at the loss of her pet, the agent thinks it is her husband of whom she is speaking. Explanations ensue, of course, and the curtain falls to the strains of "The Wedding March." Miss Phœbe Mercer makes a handsome and vivacious widow, and the agent finds in Mr. Langhorne Burton an actor with a light and agreeable style, who gives all possible effect to the *equivoque* of Miss Zoe Herbert.

Mimics loom largely in the bill. Early in the evening Miss Lilian Elfreda shows how cleverly she can copy the methods of such dissimilar stars as Miss Marie Lloyd, Miss Kate Carney, and Mr. Gus Elen, whom she imitates with an accuracy and fidelity to the originals that are remarkable. Mr. Wilson Hallett, who has been winning triumphs on the other side of the Atlantic, returns with his admirable presentments of the manners and speech of children, whom he makes quite amusing. A special feature of his welcome interlude is the singing of "Daddy" in the voice of a little girl. In this there is an unexpected touch of pathos. Mr. J. P. Ling pokes fun—and very good fun too—at the entertainment at a village hall, where the local choral society sings "Hail, smiling morn," and other bucolic amateurs make more or less successful efforts to entertain. Mr. Leo Tell is an animal imitator who reproduces a whole farmyard in his selection of animals and birds.

A newcomer to the Tivoli is Mr. Horace Lane, a comedian from the ranks of the theatre, whose agreeable light comedy is most effectively displayed in two songs, the latter of which is entitled, "What more can I do for you, little girl?" an excellent number, that should do the new aspirant for variety fame capital service. Miss Lucy Weston, looking very charming indeed in white, sings of the experiences of Mary Ellen, a Lancashire lass, sent to London, who follows very closely mother's advice, until she finds anchorage in the haven of matrimony. Mary Ellen is quite an interesting personage, and pretty withal.

Little Tich, the star of the bill, evokes the usual compliments, expressed by loud laughter, by his park-keeper impersonation, and shows his powers of travesty in his droll sketch of a lady serpentine dancer. A bright and entertaining duologue, *Getting Even*, is presented by that clever pair Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford; drollery marks the entertainment of Will Van Allen; there is topical smartness all through the interlude of Tilbury and Prior, the former being excellent at the piano; and other contributors to the bill are Carrie Laurie's youngsters; the Four Aces; and Mr. Jack Camp, a parodist of the first rank. Mr. James Howell, in front, is very popular here.

WALTHAMSTOW PALACE.

Although the week immediately preceding Christmas may, generally speaking, be set down as an unprofitable season in the world of amusement, the state of business at the handsome palace the destinies of which are so ably controlled by Mr. Arthur J. Barclay gives no indication of any falling off. Certainly one missed, on Monday night, the familiar presence of the popular manager, who was agreeably engaged in the opening of another palatial hall in an adjacent suburb, the joint management of the two establishments, as is well known, having been placed in Mr. Barclay's able hands. But the absence of "the chief" is less to be deplored when he leaves behind him such a capable and hard-working deputy as Mr. Geo. F. Slatter, whose mere presence is sufficient guarantee that "business will be carried on as usual."

The strong card of the week is the "dramatic and moral episode" entitled *A Lost Woman*, performed by Mr. Fred G. Brooke and company. The little play, written by Dora Deane and Fred G. Brooke, deals with a certain phase of fast life in Paris, and is well constructed and full of startling incident. An innocent young English wife, decoyed into a den of profligacy, is beset by the villains. As Pierre Cousset, a detective or "man-hunter," Mr. Fred G. Brooke has a capital part, in which his alertness, good-humour, and ease serve him in good stead. The actor has plenty of opportunities throughout, and makes full use of an effective part. Mr. J. C. Aubrey is very good as the hypnotist, Felix Lascelles, his villainy being well emphasised. Mr. Harry Hiller is manly as the Rev. Harry Tracy, and Mr. Richard Cowell gives a good account of the maudlin artist, Louis Cordelle. As the arch-villainess, Emile Lousaine, Miss Dora Deane plays with much distinction, and Miss Louise Hampton is nervous and highly strung as the unfortunate victim. *A Lost Woman* is handsomely staged and costumed.

Miss Katie Marsh is bright and entertaining in her scena "Grave and Gay," acting, singing, and dancing with plenty of spirit and considerable versatility. Larola, the funny man with funny ways, excites alternate laughter and admiration by his clever juggling feats and his touches of humour. A very agreeable turn is that of Miss Rose Cabani, whose two songs are loudly applauded, especially one with the refrain, "That's good enough for me." The Harvey Boys (three in number) as London Messengers, give a laughable boxing act in *That Was Me*, besides indulging in much amusing patter. The popular James Fawn is quite up to his accustomed form, and might well claim to give points to some the younger school in the matter of distinct enunciation. His well-known effusion, "The Henpecked Jossers' Club," goes as swingingly as ever, and is responsible for no end of mirth. Miss Rosie Lloyd, looking very chic and pretty, sings her two songs to a running accompaniment of laughter and applause. Her first contribution is a pretty song, "Love me for a little while," prettily sung, while her coster ditty, "Never introduce your bloke to a lidy friend," is warmly received as it deserves. An immense success is made by Mr. Will English, the coloured comedian, who has an apparently inexhaustible fund of humour to draw upon. His singing, talking, and dancing are all admirable in their various ways, and the audience show a disposition to encore everything the artist does, says, or sings. Notably is this the case with the concluding portion of his "show," in which he amusingly burlesques many eccentric styles of walking supposed to be in vogue in various districts of the metropolis. These are really clever and amusing. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope winds up an agreeable programme in an interesting manner, with, as usual, a display of some clever films. The overture for the week is the melodious "Poet and Peasant" of Suppé, which receives a well-balanced interpretation by the Palace orchestra under the musicianly bâton of Mr. H. Petersen.

THE SOUTH LONDON.

No depreciation in business has been apparent at the South London this week, despite the imminence of the holidays, and the proceedings have gone merrily in the presence of the customary large audiences. Contributions to the programme are made by well-known artists, favour being early secured by Mr. Harry Bancroft, whose resonant voice is melodiously employed in the rendering of "The Seagull," which soars high in estimation. The song possesses sentiment of a sort well attuned to the popular ear, and Mr. Bancroft sings it in a way that proves irresistible to the audience, who are loud in praise. Clever patterers and comedians are found in Ferris and Farnley, who greatly divert the audience with their amusing cross-talk and skilful dancing.

Versatility is the key-note of the turn provided by Marie Terry and J. S. Bentley. Attired in hunting garb, they sing a duet and dance, and later the young lady indulges in a ballad about the sun and the moon, supplementing it with a neat *pas seul*. A number of extraordinary acrobatic feats performed by the comedian on a chair and table complete the interlude, which throughout wins well-deserved cheers. Dutch Daly reappears in the scene of many triumphs, and amuses his audience with funny anecdotes. He plays the concertina with his customary facility, and his rendering of "Sing me to sleep" and other selections is agreeably varied by imitations of the chiming of bells and the playing of a bugle. Rubie and Elsie Redfern give smart duets on the banjo, an instrument which they are able to manipulate while joining in a clever dance. They are finished performers, and their efforts are loudly and frequently commended.

Suits of white flannel are selected by Starr and Jerome in which to sing their duet with the refrain, "Good-bye, Mazeppa," the name, apparently, of a foreign maiden with whom tender memories are associated. The couple sing tunefully, and one of them is very expert as a sand-dancer, executing some skilful movements. Forest and King provide a humorous ten minutes with comedy business and dancing, a comely young lady also executing a series of hand-springs, which are deservedly applauded. Mr. Harry Maynard earns the sympathy of the audience in his song "Does that sun shine all for you?" and moves them to mirth by the piquancy of the patter attached to the injunction "Don't grumble, girls." Mr. Ted Cowan gives a droll turn to the phrase "Deary, deary me!" and a subsequent effusion also arouses laughter. A lively sketch is provided in *Bank Clerks*, played by Charles Baldwin's comedians. The playlet, which is given in dumb show, portrays the misadventures of a couple of clerks, who occupy positions behind the counter of a bank. The fun is at times very furious, but it is leavened by melodramatic incidents depicting the attempt to rob the safe, and a fight between the villain and his confederate. The little piece is played with considerable energy, the vagaries of an office-boy being among the droller features. Ruffell's Bioscope shows a varied set of pictures, which are accorded general favour. Mr. William Payne, the manager of the South London, was absent on the occasion of our visit, directing the stage and supplying some of the items for an entertainment given by Mr. Henry Tozer, one of the directors of the hall, to the employees of the Westminster City Council, of which Mr. Tozer is a member. The front of the house was, however, well looked after by Mr. H. B. Wincote, the acting-manager.

MR. TOM LEAMORE IN A NEW CHARACTER.

Mr. Tom Leamore, the popular variety theatre artist, has hitherto been associated in the public mind with the highly humorous impersonation of comic constables, funny firemen, slatternly females, the much-married man, and numerous other equally eccentric characters. On Monday evening, at the Paragon, Mr. Leamore essayed, for the first time we believe quite a new type of character, and attained a degree of success that is surprising when one bears in mind that he has hitherto been known to fame as a comedian who worked upon broad burlesque lines, entirely removed from the domain of tragedy. An audience—more particularly the occupants of the gallery—are not always disposed to take a comedian seriously, and he is no doubt to some extent handicapped on this account if he ventures beyond the limits of the purely humorous.

Mr. Leamore appeared in a new and original dramatic scena, entitled *Sweet Liberty; or, Convict 99*. In a dismal cell we see the wretched man who has been condemned to a long term of imprisonment. He is weighed down with heavy irons, and laments his hard fate in a song, into which is introduced a thrilling account of his trial and the separation from the only being for whom he has any affection—his daughter. The song and spoken words were both well-rendered. "I will have my freedom if I get killed in an attempt to escape" is the burden of the prisoner's mournful soliloquy. The door opens, and enters a warder; he displays an inclination to jeer at the prisoner, who has, it seems, given the officials trouble on some previous occasions. The convict assumes a submissive attitude, and implores the warder to remove the irons. The official is deceived by the man's manner; he thinks that at last the unruly convict has been subdued, and he takes off the heavy shackles. But no sooner is this done than he is attacked by the desperate prisoner, who has made up his mind to attempt to regain his freedom at any cost. The cell becomes the scene of a fearful struggle. The two men fight like enraged wild beasts for supremacy. They become gradually exhausted, but the convict, seizing a stool, strikes his opponent a deadly blow, and the warder falls to rise no more. Then the prisoner, after throwing the clanking irons on to the body of the dead man, opens the cell door and disappears. The sound of gun-shots is heard, and Convict 99 returns with a ghastly wound in his left breast. He is followed by some half dozen warders, who cover him with their loaded guns. His attempt at escape has failed; but it matters little, for Convict 99 has only a few brief moments to live. He reels and falls to the ground a dead man. Mr. Leamore played the part of the prisoner with much vigour and earnestness. The fight with the warder—a rôle ably sustained by Mr. James Loft—proved most realistic, and evoked the hearty applause of the audience. Mr. Leamore can be cordially congratulated on the success of his new departure.

The top-liner at the Euston is Arthur Roberts; topicalities at the piano will be given by Tilbury and Prior; and Lily Langtry, Nina Marteno, and the Sisters Caselli will be on the spindle side of the company.

The Milton-Rays will be a prominent attraction at the Bedford with their rollicking sketch *Cruise of the Calabar*, and Hymack, Cline and Clark, Fred Keston, and Ruffell's Bioscope will be among the other turns doing duty for Mr. B. Pearce Lucas at Christmastide.

STOKE NEWINGTON PALACE.

PRIVATE VIEW.

Mr. Albert Gilmer, the managing-director of the Palace Theatre of Varieties, Stoke Newington, held a reception at that establishment on Thursday afternoon, which was attended by a considerable number of well-known local people. As we have already announced, the Stoke Newington Palace will open on Monday as a two-houses-a-night music hall. Mr. Gilmer, who for so many years was the manager of the Oxford, will have complete control of this, London's latest variety house, and his wide experience and personal popularity should do much to ensure success for the new enterprise. The auditorium and stage have been brought up to date in order to suit the requirements of the twice-nightly programme, and thus, for the first time, the inhabitants of Stoke Newington will find in their midst all that is brightest and best in a music hall and its style of entertainment. Mr. Norfolk Megone has been engaged to preside over the orchestra, every member of which is a picked musician, and here it may be stated that it is Mr. Gilmer's intention to make a special feature of the band. Mr. T. J. Robinson, who occupied the post of acting-manager at the Stoke Newington Palace since it was opened as a theatre, is to retain that position under Mr. Gilmer.

During the afternoon Mr. Gilmer, who received quite an ovation on his appearance before the footlights, delivered a brief address, as follows:—Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of Mr. W. Clifford-Weblyn, our chairman, my colleague, and myself, I beg to thank you for your presence here to-day, which I take as an expression of your goodwill towards us. I can assure you that I thoroughly realise the responsibility that has been placed upon my shoulders, and I shall leave no stone unturned to present to you an entertainment which will reflect credit upon ourselves, this theatre, and Stoke Newington. I have had great difficulties to surmount in securing my artists. Fortunately, I have been successful in making such excellent arrangements as will enable me to give you a bright and varied programme. I am led to hope that in the near future a reasonable spirit of free trade will prevail among my friendly rivals, and that the barring which has always been such a bone of contention between artists and managers alike, will be adjusted so as to bring prosperity to all. I thank you all again for your presence here to-day, and hope I shall have the happiness of seeing you on many future occasions.

A most admirable programme of music was played from three to five o'clock by Mr. Norfolk Megone's Meistersingers Orchestra. Mr. Megone's noteworthy composition, "The Eccentric Club March," was included in the selections, and the reply, "He's all right" to the question, "What's the matter with Albert Gilmer?" was shouted most lustily by both orchestra and audience. The other performances were taken from *Lohengrin*, *The Catch of the Season*, *Faust*, *Tannhäuser*, *The Beauty of Bath*, *William Tell*, Messager's *Les Deux Pigeons*, Ganne's "La Housarde," Allier's "Polka des Clowns," Sousa's "Uncle Sammy," and Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance." Everybody was delighted at the orchestration of the different numbers.

Among those who sent telegrams wishing success to the Stoke Newington Palace were Miss Marie Lloyd, Dr. Distin Maddick, and Mr. Joseph Wilson. One of the later arrivals during the afternoon was Mr. Jack de Frece.

"BACK NUMBERS."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Your correspondent, "Back Number" (whose singular alias I utilise in the plural), puts in a good word for the old-time comic songs. A fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind—and I am another fellow feeling that way. "Back Number's" sentiments with regard to some of his namesakes will, I am sure, win a responsive echo from many who are approaching or who have passed life's fatal forty.

"The Mouse-trap man," "Up in a balloon," "Any ornaments for your firestoves?"—why, the very mention of such classics of the halls is conducive, if one only be built that way, to day-dreams reminiscent. They suggest, amongst scores of other early favourites, that most tuneful of "comic ballads," "She danced like a fairy," the fickle heroine of which delectable ditty—like so many of the famous Lion Comique's admirers—"doated on Leybourne." "Drivel" some of the old lyrics may, or may not, have been; still, taking haphazard a batch of present-day "comic" song words, one is somewhat puzzled to find out wherein lies that "vast improvement" of which we hear so often so much. With all due respect to the many clever song-writers of our own time, there are, perhaps, few of them that possess the knack of the late "Jingo" Hunt for turning out wares that withstand the wear of time. If only for old time's sake let us not speak of "Down among the coals" as "drivel," but rather (with abject apologies for the pun personal) as doggerel *in-stead*. The song in question was probably (after "The mad butcher") the greatest "hit" of that genuine artist, Henri Clark. At one time it was nigh as popular as the immortal "Daisy" herself, and, like her "bicycle made for two," might almost be said to be "still running."

As regards motto, topical, and drinking songs, they have degenerated rather than improved. We have in motto songs little that can compare for healthy tone and manly sentiment with the world-famous ditties of Harry Clifton; whilst, in the way of topical effusions, Arthur Lloyd and Fred Albert gave us in their day much that would be considered up to—and possibly a trifle above—our present exalted standard of excellence. As for the drinking song, it is practically extinct, or, rather, it has developed into the drunken song—a marked distinction with a lamentable difference. "Clicquot," "Moet and Chandon," "Sparkling Moselle," nay, even "Champagne Charlie," have been anything but "improved" upon. The "swell" worship of Bacchus has given place to the rowdy glorification of the pot-house.

Coming to present-day melodies, they are, no doubt, more intricate and elaborate than their predecessors, yet, in the briefly-popular "ragtimes," &c., of to-day, one misses the simple, direct tunefulness of the early "settings." There was something quaintly melodious about such songs as the immortal George's "Pretty little Flora" and Alfred ("The Great") Vance's "Pal o' mine," "Act on the square," and "Idol of the day."

Comparisons, however, are ever odious. Perhaps in doing justice to the past we can pay a compliment to the present. Let us ascend, as it were, from the comparatively ridiculous to the superlatively sublime, and liken the old school of "comic" melody to Verdi, and the new to—Wagner. The fact remains that there are some amongst us (blame sentiment who will) that have a sneaking preference for—Verdi.

As a collector of old comic song covers, may I be allowed to add, Sir, that I would much like to "compare notes" with your correspondent "Back Number"?—Yours truly,

W. E. IMESON,

13, Crusoe-road, Mitcham,
Dec. 11.

Miss Lottie Poole, daughter of the late Mr. Ted Poole, of Poole's Minstrels, has been specially engaged to play Alice in *Dick Whittington*, and is featuring "Cheyenne" and "My Little Hyacinth," backed up by a big chorus.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

FIRST of all we have again with great gladness to wish all our Showman World readers a Merry, Merry Christmas.

WE are still old-fashioned enough and yet young enough to believe in the old, old greeting—A Merrie Christmas.

KNOWING as we do how closely bound together is the family life of the travelling showman, we also know that in every home on wheels the great Hometide Festival will be duly honoured and well kept by both old and young. It is an extremely gratifying and most significant fact that immense indoor fairs in North London and in South London will bring together at Christmastide this year an enormous fellowship of the men and women who travel the fairs. At the great Hall, Islington, in the North, and huge Olympia on the West, the brotherhood of the road will be able to demonstrate their Christmas neighbouring with even greater facilities than the settled denizens of town dwellings.

BESIDES these settlements under cover in and around London, at such places as Mile End, Stratford, Deptford, Fulham, Ealing, Uxbridge, and Hounslow there are open-air settlements of show dwellings sufficient in their number to prove the important truth that the show race is a thriving and progressive one. To each and all of these we send heartiest Christmas greetings.

BY kind permission of the lessee (T. E. Read, Esq.), the annual meeting of the United Kingdom Showmen and Van Dwellers' Protection Association (the Showmen's Guild) will take place at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, at half-past eleven in the forenoon of Jan. 23, 1907. For speakers and other details see forthcoming announcements.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to the Showmen's Guild:—Isaac Richards, Esq. 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Ackerley, 10s. 6d.; Richard Newall, Esq., 10s. 6d.; Mr. Tiller, 10s. 1906: R. H. Mellor and Sons, £1 1s.

AT Kidwelly Town Hall Mr. Foster Boggis gave a good animated picture show for the first half of this week, and did very well. He possesses a high-class machine and some excellent films.

MESSRS. BARKER AND THURSTON opened at the Agricultural Hall, Norwich, on Monday for an eight weeks' carnival. Chief among the attractions are their Royal cinematograph show and gigantic motor-cars, both of which are deservedly popular and well patronised. Among the side-shows are W. Abbott's, Mrs. Abbott's, H. Parkin's, George Hearn's, and H. Westropp's shooting galleries; John Holmes', W. Westropp's, J. Norman's, Charles Abbott's, and Mrs. Abbott's doll saloons; George Hearn's striking machine, Mackintosh's toffee, R. Holmes, jun.'s fish saloon, Candy King, Bray's automatic machine, George Summers' penalty football, G. Bond's bottle-breaking saloon, Avory's weighing chair, G. S. G. Mason's rolled gold, and others.

AT the Drill Hall, Dundee, Mr. F. H. Hobbs' grand Christmas and New Year carnival was opened last Saturday afternoon by Lord Provost Longair, who was accompanied on the stage by a large number of magistrates and councillors. The programme is a varied one, and amongst the turns appearing this week are Tamamoto, wire and rope walker; Mons. Silvo, in ladder and ring act; Mlle. Ameda, novelty entertainer; Charles Hughes, lightning cartoonist; Musical Silvo, with his wonderful instrument the Silvochimes; Zasma and Mlle. Louie, gymnasts; the Strathmore troupe of international dancers; Mitza, Japanese juggler; and Hinton and Wooten, trick cyclists. Amongst the side shows are Captain George Texas and his Wild West show; the mysterious Fying Lady; Charles E. Milton, Japanese sword walker; Mlle. Flo, the tattooed lady; palmists, rifle saloons, roundabouts, &c. A capital orchestra, under the direction of Mr. J. C. Johnstone, discourses music.

CINEMATOGRAPH film subjects of present-day events, affairs of state, Royal movements, naval and military demonstrations, opening of public buildings, with kindred functions and operations in peace and war, are all depicted as they are actually seen by the accurate and truthful eye of the camera; and the day will come when motion pictures of present current events will be treasured as vital documents among the historical archives of our museums. Numbers of such subjects, which would have proved of inestimable value, are lost. They had their day on the entertainment and lecture platforms, but the firms producing them, being business corporations and not State departments, having none but commercial interests to serve, the pictures were relegated to the limbo of the useless when they had served their turn.

THE march of improvment is so rapid that it is hardly possible to keep pace with it. What was wonderful a few years ago is now a matter of course; but the doings of those few years will make valuable history nevertheless. For instance, where, in twenty years' time, shall we find records of Booksellers'-row? Where, even now, can we procure more than fugitive prints of the old Seven Dials? And the list can be indefinitely increased at will by subjects which are all of value even to the present generation, but how much more valuable will they be to men and women of the future?

ANIMATED pictures of almost daily happenings, which possess no more than a passing interest now, will rank as matters of national importance to future students, and it behoves our public authorities, the heads of museums and universities, to see to it that the institutions under their control should become possessed of these important moving records of present events. Books, pamphlets, prints, and the like are perforce kept for reference, but films depicting important movements with a detail verbally impossible are lost to the nation for want of a little forethought and a ridiculously small expenditure of capital. Though many subjects illustrating past events are lost, it is reasonably certain that enough remain to make the securing of a film here and there a good investment for the future of our institutions.

MR. TOM GREEN, the well-known comedian, stage-director, and picture-producer, has brought out, amongst other fine subjects, a first-class comic, *The New Apprentice; or, Fun in the Bakehouse*, which has been described as "one long laugh."

MRS. J. PETTIGROVE'S world's carnivals are on Stratford and Plaistow Grounds for Christmas. The attractions comprise H. Oliver's varieties and novelty shows, alligators, serpents, crocodiles, and lady wrestlers, Biddal's picture show, Nail's phantoscope, Burnett's athletes, and a large aggregation of fairground novelties, including the famous "slipping the slips," Smith and Whittle's switchback, gondolas, and roundabouts and gallopers.

"THE INEXPERIENCED SHOPPER," Messrs. Ruffell's new film, has been the talk of Tottenham, and has been a big hit in conjunction with their other fine pictures displayed for the last two weeks at the Palace, Messrs. Ruffell having taken the Tottenham house for a short season, and installing as manager Mr. Edgar Curtis, so well known at Clacton and elsewhere.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE WORLD'S FAIR AT ISLINGTON.

It is an undoubted record in the history of Showland that for twenty-eight years in succession, and each year with additional success, a fair big enough and grand enough to justify the title "The World's Fair" has been held under the same roof and practically the same management in London. We are often told by the economists that it is "demand that creates supply"; this truth is subject to a very wise reservation, that in certain instances the appropriate supply creates demand. We find that when certain would-be wise people were fondly prophesying the speedy ending of fairs, and the ultimate blotting out of the showman and his work, that such men as the late Messrs. Read and Bailey, and Mr. Read's son, who now controls this immense Christmas enterprise, were proving by the very convincing fact of tremendous success that the fairs and shows of the kind that the people delight to patronise were still deeply entrenched in the hearts of the British public—that, given the opportunity, a fair thoroughly up to date, but yet containing all those old-time elements of attraction so dear to the heart of the people, would meet with unbounded success.

We were favoured the other evening with a view of the Fair at the Royal Agricultural Hall in the making, a veritable "Peep behind the scenes in Showland." Both Mr. T. E. Read and his courteous and energetic assistant-manager of the World's Fair—Mr. Fowle—were within as we perambulated the vast expanse of the great hall. We noticed in their usual position the splendid travelling shows of Mr. Wm. Taylor, whose magnificent coliseum of living pictures is a feature at our very best fairs, and Chittock, the veteran showman, with his theatre of cinematograph and varieties. W. Le Neve and Norah Sullivan, "the Sandows of the Fairground," and John Hastings, with his celebrated exhibitions of midget marvels, and the giant lady occupied their usual positions. These are shows of the character that fully maintain the highest record of our British fairs. In order that elements of up-to-date novelty may be wisely associated with these old standard attractions, Mr. Read has found space for the celebrated troupe of Dahomey Warriors, the finest illustration of Darkest African life on exhibition in Europe, and Mr. Arthur Twigdon with his unique electrograph, both of them shows of a character to justify their inclusion at the World's Fair. Bailey's Fine Art Show and Bailey's Shooting Saloon are again to the front. The haunted room, a most weird experience for those who delight in occult sensations, and various electrical appliances, such as the new electric target shooting saloon, the electric fish-pond and shooting-range, and the optical illusion—a capital side show—"the direct road to real fun"—demonstrate the thoroughly modern side of the show business. Amongst the newcomers to the hall this year special notice must be taken of Messrs. Kirk and Saraski's troupe of expert swimmers in their delightful demonstrations of the art of natation.

The enterprising Frank Turner, who has been identified with the World's Fair from its inception, again provides a great number of interesting and up-to-date side shows; these include the very beautiful gallery of cosmoramic picture and waxwork, one of the artistic features of this year's show, electric fish-ponds, shooting-ranges, distorting mirrors, automatic galleries, and other novelties.

The immense range of galleries, occupied as usual by some of the very best concerns of the travelling amusement caterers, is set out to display the throwing games, varieties, coker-shies, dolly frames, variety stalls, football games, ring and dart boards, and the hundred and one other attractions of a British fair.

Prominent amongst the providers of these entertainments are Messrs. W. Bedford, H. Taylor, Hyatt and Brown, T. Irish, G. Taylor, Walcot, Stevens, J. Mayne, Pickard, Saunders, Slatter, Hussey, Evans, Brett, Traylen, F. Turner, and Mrs. Rawlins. The roundabout concerns and mechanical novelties include Wilson's galloping horses, Mrs. Bailey's steam horses, Slatter's juvenile motor-cars, and the tunnel railway. In the some position as last year the immensely popular contraption "Slipping the Slope" has been again erected, this year with considerable enlargements provocative of vastly more enjoyment for its patrons. The great central avenue and entrance hall is a striking feature of the decoration of the whole building. On either side there are side shows and stalls, and in the centre an entirely new feature for this year's fair. Apparently descending upon the heads of the expectant throng is seen a huge balloon or aerial car; in this car Father Christmas is seen bringing with him thousands and thousands of presents for the children attending the Fair.

Mr. Read has provided an exceptionally strong programme for the absolutely free sights of the great show. These embrace a grand free circus, with unique and varied performances, and this year the circus ring has been considerably raised, and thus a splendid view is afforded to the visitors from all points of the vast hall. Advance arrangements have been made with some of the very best British and Continental artists of the ring; all the very latest novelties, both equine and aerial, have been secured, and a strong company of clowns and jesters engaged, so that there will be frequent changes of programme and a succession of fresh novelties week by week. Amongst the artists already billed we find the celebrated Siegrist and Silbon, the Imperial Troupe of Viennese aërialists, fresh from their triumph on the Continent of Europe. Caicedo, the most daring and sensational artist on the high wire, will give his most astonishing performance. Caicedo is engaged for the whole run of the Fair, and will repeat at each performance—twice every day—the same astounding evolutions that provoked from His Majesty the King the congratulatory remark—"Indeed, Caicedo, you are the king of the wire." This gratifying communication was given to Caicedo after the King had witnessed his performance at the Ronacker Theatre at Vienna. When we add that again all the usual elements and attractions of a high-class circus are provided in addition to the special novelties by Sir Robert Fossett, of circus renown, who with his clever family constitute the necessary permanent elements of the great free circus, enough has been said to indicate the thoroughly satisfactory nature of the enterprise.

Another great free sight, and one that marks the World's Fair as the very best of its kind, is the presence of Wombwell's great Continental Menagerie, another of the abiding features of this great aggregation of shows. The whole of this vast indoor zoo is free to the people paying the sixpence admission at the door. Within this menagerie is found a collection of the rarest specimens of animal, bird, and reptile life, selected with absolute regard to their educational value to the youth of the nation. At the same time so complete is this menagerie that it contains rare specimens worthy the observation of the most advanced student of zoology. Herds of elephants, a flock of camels, including that unique novelty—the baby camel born at Islington a year ago. The intrepid lion-tamer connected with Wombwell's will give frequent performances in a den of forest-bred lions daily.

We have said sufficient to indicate that Mr. Read, profiting by the experience of his father and his partner—Frank Bailey—has gone forward and has devoted himself with distinction and success to extending wherever it has been possible the attractions of the World's Fair, and we anticipate that the Fair we saw in the making will more than justify our first notice, and we congratulate Mr. Read and the whole of the working-staff upon the enterprise which we confidently predict will be rewarded with even more than the usual success.

FUN CITY AT OLYMPIA.

We are frequently told that "the superior person" has no place in his life for the ordinary common or vulgar delights of a popular fair. This syllogism of the modern philosopher has very little attraction for the real student of "the human documents." Contrariwise, we have seen at the great fairs of the Empire the highest and the lowest, as men class human society with regard to social position, and again the most intellectual, and, in a non-invidious sense, the most simple people entering into all the fun of the fair, and each and all enjoying its never-failing delights.

It is this actuality of human experience that accounts for, and we trust will fully justify, the creation of a conglomerate carnival and international fair at Olympia. In fact, we see no reason why "The Fun City" (along its own lines and enterprise) should not be equally as successful as the long-established World's Fair in the North of London. We venture also to hold the opinion that the Fun City in the West catering for the vast populations of South and West Suburbia, as well as the constant stream of visitors who come up to London to spend a merry Christmas, to see all the shows, and to celebrate a New Year in the very heart of showland, will full justify its existence.

At the very outset we must congratulate the International Fairs, Ltd., its enterprising managing-director, Mr. C. B. Cochran, and, in fact, the whole directorate, on the extremely successful outcome of their enterprise. We consider that the West of London has never seen so marvellous an aggregation of show novelties as that gathered beneath the roof of Barnum's mammoth show building—Olympia. We go further, and make bold to say that even great Barnum himself, visiting "again the glimpses of the moon," would find his spirit delighted with the mammoth carnival and stupendous aggregation of show talent at the scene of his great London triumphs. We made the circuit of the Fair the other day, and although it was merely a Press view, we saw enough to indicate the complete and eminently satisfactory arrangements for a carnival fair that will be a ceaseless source of delight to the people of the West End, and also to the people of greater London.

Dealing with the free sight shows (an essential element in enterprises of this nature), we find an interesting variety of attractions. In the central hippodrome the Cirque Métropole, Paris, director M. Irlicht, will provide the equestrian free show. Sedgewick's incomparable menagerie, one of the finest zoological collections in the world, is another free sight. Mention must here be made of the expert performances in both animal training and taming with various ferocious and hitherto untameable beasts. Sedgewick's menagerie is strong in the number and ability of its animal tamers—Mlle. Rosina, with lioness and with Russian and Siberian wolves, Zarmah in den of lions, lionesses, and boarhounds, Captain Alphonso, with untameable Nubian lioness, and Captain Marco, with grizzly bears and hybrid wolves, give thrilling exhibitions of the power of man over the brute creation.

The mighty Hackensmidt, a strong "magnet" in the double sense, will visit again the scene of his former triumphs. Forrest's Military Band will provide an excellent and varying programme of music.

These be a few of, but not all, the free sights of the Fun City at Olympia. What a wonderful free sight it is, the outside parade performances of the shows gathered together at a well organised fair! Of course, you have to go inside and see the show, but the showman on the parade is an anticipation and an inducement that we all take as an earnest of better things to come

In this first notice of the Fair at Olympia we can only enumerate the shows and novelties under its mighty roofage. The British shows include Biddall's bioscope, so well known and so much appreciated by the frequenters of our metropolitan fairs; W. L. Neave and Norah Sullivan, in feats of strength, weight lifting, wrestling, and physical culture; P. Collins' enterprises, the composite roundabout set, galloping horses, and motor cars, the aerial twinships, the miniature motors, and whirling switchcars; Relph and Pedley's razzle dazzle; Wingate's bicycle circus; Knighton's stereorama; the distorting mirror show; White's Indian menagerie; Stacey's shooting jungles; Mme. Salva's novelty booth, and all the fun of the fair; coker shies, orange groves, emma sheets, throwing and variety games by a crowd of metropolitan caterers, including Messrs. Stroud, Mayne, Peters, Houldsworth, Manning, the Brothers Wilson, Matthews, Bond, and Hussey.

The American contingent include the following novelties: Inshaw's Coney Island cyclone; Hales's tours of the world; Leon Gould's modern American enterprise, "Black Art"; the white negress and family; Oliver Holt's freaks and curiosities; the Moki Indians; the Ituri dwarfs; the oscillating staircase from Coney Island and New York's windy corner, the famous flat-iron building. The other shows include M. Lesot's Parisian Salon from the Fête de Neuilly (in illustration of La Savate); Herr Bianco's Salon des Illusions; Sidi Ben Mahomed's Turkish Seraglio; the Californian ostrich farm; the baby elephants; the sacred bull; and Miss Minnie Letta's company on the rolling stage.

A very interesting feature will be the revived Richardson's show, run by that "prince of modern mummers," Fred Karno, who will endeavour to restore the glories of the palmy days of the British drama. This is a show that we shall delight to see, and if the mummers of to-day can inspire us with one half the admiration and the pleasure that the mummers of the portable theatres of forty years ago gave us, we shall arise and bless the name of Karno. We understand that the chief character on the outside, Richardson himself, will be taken by one of the most celebrated of the real showmen of to-day, Mr. B. T. Burnett having been retained for the leading part on the outside—Richardson, the doorsman of his own show.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Contains in a handy compass and in a clear style the law relating to theatres and music halls. The book is well up to date.—*Law Times.*

GREAT DRAW.

GRAHAM,

The Human Marionette.

"A Sure Top."

Agent,

GEORGE BARCLAY.

DEATH OF MRS. CHARLES FARRELL.

Well known and universally esteemed, Mrs. Farrell's death will cast a deep gloom over Showland. The wife of Charles Farrell, the Cheshire Round local caterer, and the niece of Patrick and John Collins, of roundabout celebrity, the deceased lady had many interests in, and links with, the world of shows. Her death took place at Wrexham, in her private living carriage, on Sunday, Dec. 16. The interment took place at Wrexham Cemetery on Wednesday, Dec. 19, after solemn Requiem Service in St. Mary's Cathedral, the officiating priest being Father Quinn.

Attending the funeral were:—Carriage No. 1: Mr. C. Farrell, son, and daughters. No. 2: Mr. and Mrs. P. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. John Collins, and Mrs. Margaret Collins. No. 3: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hibbert, Mrs. J. Wright, and Mrs. Turner. No. 4: Patrick Collins, jun., Master John Collins, and Mr. and Mrs. Barrett. No. 5: Mr. and Mrs. J. Humphries, Great Bridge; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shaw, Manchester; and Mr. Frank Marsden and wife, Manchester. No. 6: Mrs. J. Symonds and sons, Leicester; Mr. and Mrs. T. Connell, Coed, Porth; and Nurse Jones, London. No. 7: Mr. and Mrs. Allcock, Wrexham; Mr. Tom Curry, Ironbridge; Mr. L. Jones, son of the Deputy Chief Constable of Denbighshire.

Wreaths were received from C. Farrell and son, Chester; Messrs. P. and J. Collins, Walsall and Liverpool; Mr. and Mrs. J. Wright, Birmingham; Messrs. P. and J. Collins, juns.; Mr. and Mrs. C. Shaw, Wrexham; Messrs P. and T. Fitzpatrick, Liverpool; Miss McDermott, Wrexham; Mr. P. Collins's employees, Borough-road, Birkenhead; Mrs. Thomas and family, Oswestry; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Humphries, Sparkbrook; Mr. and Mrs. James Humphries, Great Bridge; Mrs. Hyde and family, Craven Arms; Mr. and Mrs. Cordwell, sen., Liverpool; Mr. and Mrs. J. Fletcher, Birkenhead; Mr. and Mrs. Jefferies, Birmingham; Mr. and Mrs. J. Hall, Birkenhead; Mr. P. Ross Collins, Chester; Mr. and Mrs. R. Dixon, Salford; Mr. and Mrs. R. Decks, Liverpool; Mr. Bert Dobson, Birmingham; Mr. and Mrs. Curry; Mr. and Mrs. Greatoreaux, Coed Porth; Messrs. Orton and Spooner, Burton-on-Trent: Mrs. Clara Mullett and Mrs. Flora Hobbs; Mrs. Weir, Burton-on-Trent; Mrs. Edward and family, Wrexham; Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, Birmingham; Mr. and Mrs. A. Inshaw, Birmingham; Mr. Walter Hobbs and family, Liverpool; Mr. and Mrs. W. Davies, Stoke-on-Trent; and Mrs. George Hyde, Birmingham.

FUNERAL OF MRS. JAMES WILMOT.

The funeral of Mrs. James Wilmot left the Cottage Hospital, Hawick, on Friday morning, the 14th inst., for the railway station, where six of the men employed on the machine carried the remains from the hearse to the train for conveyance to Glasgow, a distance of ninety-two miles. The names of the bearers were the brothers David and Colin Ross, Henry Marshall, Charles Gilbert, Ernest Higgs, and David Harkness. On arrival at Queen-street Station, Glasgow, the remains, and mourners, who had travelled from Hawick and Edinburgh, were met by a large number of sorrowing relatives and friends, some of whom had travelled a long distance to show their last respects. The bearers shouldered the remains of their late dear mistress, which were contained in a handsome oak coffin, and once more placed it in the hearse, when the last stage of the sad journey was begun, followed by seventeen coaches, to Sighthill Cemetery. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Sommerville (who had united Mr. and Mrs. James Wilmot on March 6, 1901) gave a most touching address and prayer at the graveside. The coffin was lowered into its last resting-place by the husband, Mr. James Wilmot, John Wilmot, sen., John Wilmot, jun., Charles Wilmot, George Wilmot, Hugh Wilmot, Mr. Alex. Johnson (uncle), and Mr. H. C. Chapman (cousin). There was a large number of mourners present, among whom were the following:—The two young children of the deceased, Mrs. Chadwick (sister), Mrs. Henry Chapman (cousin), Mrs. Goldthorpe Marshall, Mrs. Wilmot, sen., Mrs. J. Wilmot, jun., Misses Elizabeth and Ellen Wilmot, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wilmot, Mrs. M. Reilly, Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Wm. Murphy (who, it may be mentioned, was the deceased's bridesmaid). The number present at the funeral would amount to over 200. After returning from the cemetery, dinner was provided in a large hall by Mr. Wilmot. Floral tributes were sent by the following:—Mr. James Wilmot (husband), Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick (brother and sister), Mr. and Mrs. H. Chapman (cousins), Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilmot, jun., Mrs. Jewell (aunt), Minnie and Nora Jewell (cousins), Mrs. Wm. Mitchell, jun., Jeanie and Nellie Buckley (cousins), Misses Millington (York), Mr. and Mrs. Bradley, Mr. and Mrs. E. Stevenson, Mr. and Miss Day (Glasgow), Mr. and Mrs. George Green and family, Mr. and Mrs. McIntosh, Mr. and Mrs. B. Mitchell, A. Varetta and Sons, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Murphy, and Mr. and Mrs. James Day (South Wales). A large number of beautiful sprays were sent with no name attached. Artificial wreaths with glass shades were sent by the following friends:—Mr. and Mrs. Wilmot, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wilmot, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Holdsworth, Mr. and Mrs. James Day (South Wales).

Mr. James Wilmot wishes to tender his sincere thanks to all friends and relatives for their kind sympathy in his sad bereavement.

"THE ERA."

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OPENING OF THE EAST HAM PALACE.

There was quite a buzz of excitement in the thickly-populated district of East Ham on Monday evening, and crowds assembled in the vicinity of the new theatre of varieties, which has been erected on a plot of land close to the East Ham railway station. Monday was the opening night, and though the inaugural proceedings were of the briefest nature, the local population was evidently determined to give the new venture in the way of providing entertainment for the people a good send-off. And so they crowded at both houses into pit and gallery, and great was their admiration of the fine appearance of the interior of the building. Externally, the front of the house is of red brick and Portland stone, with a bright beacon light at the S.W. end, which adds materially to the imposing and impressive appearance. Entering through the handsome vestibule, a short, broad flight of steps gives entrance through a double archway to the box-office hall. Here are the stalls entrance and the main entrance to the balcony. This is a fine feature in blue Belge and rouge griotte marble, with Swedish vert-de-mer balustrading and dove-coloured Napoleon marble dado. To the right of the box-office is the stalls corridor. In the stalls the seating consists of thirteen rows of tip-up armchairs, on a richly-carpeted floor, at a slope fully commanding the stage. The house is divided into stalls, pit-stalls, pit, balcony, and gallery, and affords seating capacity for 2000. There are also four large boxes, tastefully and luxuriously furnished. The large panelled ceiling and cove have been beautifully treated with artistic paintings, to which the rest of the decorations, which are in the Rennaisance style, with predominating tints of cinnamon, form an appropriate setting. The interior generally has been treated architecturally with stately Corinthian columns, carrying a full emblature above the proscenium opening, and over the boxes. The construction of the theatre is as fire-resisting as it is possible to make it. The crimson velvet drop-curtain, with its wealth of folds, falls gracefully on either side of the stage, its rich colour vividly enhancing the general scheme. The seats on the tip-up principle are covered with the same costly material, and are in unison with the exquisite pile carpet. The orchestra well is sunk below the stage, and is capable of accommodating twenty musicians. The exits are numerous, and conveniently situated, and the doors are fireproof. Two noble domes—one on either side of the auditorium—still further enhance the general effect. The auditorium is 64ft. wide and 86ft. from curtain line to back wall of auditorium, and 55ft. from pit floor to ceiling. The house is being run on the two-houses-nightly system, performances commencing at 6.30 and 9 o'clock.

The new Palace reflects the utmost credit upon the skill of the architects, Messrs. Wylson and Long, while at the same time mention should be made of the admirable decorative work carried out by Mr. J. M. Bockbinder. The upholstery has been supplied by Messrs. Shoolbred, and the seating is by Mr. J. S. Lyon; the mere mention of the names of these well-known firms is a sufficient guarantee that everything is satisfactory in these important departments. The act-drop, representing a classical subject, is a clever and effective study in colours; and Mr. Francis Bull has also furnished some very pretty sets.

Mr. George Adney Payne, the managing-director of the syndicate having control of the variety theatres to the list of which the East Ham Palace is the latest addition, was present; and Mr. Arthur J. Barclay, who has been appointed manager, appeared on the stage before the programme proper was started in the first house, and in a few brief words gave a hearty welcome to the audience. Mrs. Geo. Adney Payne then sang the National Anthem with her usual charm of manner, and the opening ceremony was at an end. Mr. W. S. Bassett, formerly of the Granville, Walham Green, is the experienced musical-director, Mr. Albert E. Hill is the assistant-manager, and Mr. John Grant stage-manager.

The opening programme gave every satisfaction. Miss Florence Yeaman, American coon burlesque artist, was well received; Sibb and Sibb, trapeze artists, gave an exhibition of their skill, and were greeted with deserved applause; Mr. Tom Leamore, the favourite comedian, was welcomed with a round of applause, and opened with "What a fool I was to marry 'Liza," his amusing narrative of the wedding being received with shouts of laughter. He next appeared in the guise of a park-keeper, whose experiences furnished more food for mirth. The Stella Troupe consists of a number of young ladies, who on the rise of the curtain are found to be occupants of swings, and, thus pleasantly occupied, sing a chorus song with much acceptance. They also give a lively song and dance, and their success is beyond doubt. Mr. Gilbert Gerard is a remarkably clever mimic of animals, &c. He gives some wonderful imitations of various denizens of the farmyard, but probably his most realistic imitation is that of the lions at the Zoo what time they are being fed. One has only to shut one's eyes to imagine that they are in the lions' house at the famous Regent's Park establishment.

The dramatic episode entitled *Nell Gwyn, the Orange Girl* was played by Miss Dolly Elsworthy and company. This well-staged and picturesque sketch recalls in vivid style the days of King Charles II. and his gallant courtiers. Miss Dolly Elsworthy as Nell Gwyn represents the saucy orange girl with delighted piquancy, and her utter disregard for the conventional attitude in the presence of Royalty is a most amusing feature of the sketch. Mr. R. Purdie was a right gallant King Charles, with an eye for a pretty girl. Mr. J. H. Ash was good as the Duke of Buckingham; Mr. A. Howard was a manly Dick Hamden; and Miss C. Rivers did well as Mother Gwyn.

Carlton's wonderful illusion, "The Mysterious Cross," was, of course, a source of mystification; and the mimicry of Clarice Mayne received due recognition. The Two Whites, comedy artists, also contributed; and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope was an additional attraction. Amongst those present at the opening on Monday were Mr. Walter Gibbons and several other people prominent in the variety world.

SOUTH WALES NOTES.

At Stoll's Panopticon, Cardiff, the Christmas programme is very good, consisting of the American Bioscope; Mr. Louth Griffiths, actor vocalist; Miss Edna Lewis, contralto; Mr. Fred Smith; and musical items by Miss Hetty Hocking. Mme. D'Arc's Waxworks, with many new items, is another strong attraction; also Mr. John Studt in the Hayes. At Skewen Messrs. Baker's original circus paid a successful visit. Messrs. Hy. Studt and Son have returned to their winter quarters at Swansea with their new motor-cars, zoological roundabout, and gondolas. Mr. John North's shooters, egg and bottle saloon, and coker shies are also in the same district.

Mr. Allworth's portable theatre is still a strong attraction in Caerphilly. Mr. E. Ebley at Blaina is making active preparations for his patrons for Christmas.

Mr. Wm. Haggar, jun., has a strong pantomime programme for his many new Neath friends.

At Barry Dock Mr. John Johnson, with his usual alertness for good things, has secured excellent talent in Sadie, the march-time dancer, &c. Messrs. Johnson at Tredegar have a good bill for panto, and should do good business.

At Port Talbot for the holiday seeker is Mrs. Sheen's Emmas, ringboards, &c. Prof. Lloyd and Mr. Kinder have paid a successful visit to Cwmaman.

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WANTED, First-class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E., Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, April 1, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING, Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, Feb. 11, March 25, May 6, 13, 20, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, Feb. 18, Mar. 11, 18, 25, April 1, 11 (3 nights), 15, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, Feb. 4, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 25, April 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, Jan. 28, Feb. 11, March 4, 25, April 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, Feb. 18, 25, March 25, April 1, 8, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, March 25, April 1, 29, May 13, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, GRAND T., NEWCASALE-ON-TYNE, May 6, onwards.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, April 22, May 6, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD, Feb. 4, 18, March 4, 18, 25.
Address,
SIDNEY BACON, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, Feb. 11, March 11, 18, April 8, 15, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, April 15, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY, Dec. 31, Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 18, March 4 (three nights only), onwards.
Add., E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST BROMWICH.
Lessee, Mr. HARDING THOMAS.
WANTED, Comic Opera, Musical Comedies, &c., Vacant Feb 4, on. Add., HERBERT VERE.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Jan. 3, 4, 5, March 4 (?), April 22, May 20.
Address, FRANK KING.

THEATRE ROYAL, ILKESTON.
Manager and Licensee, Mr. L. F. A. ROGERS.
WANTED, Companies, March 4, April 1, onwards.
Silence a courteous negative.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SOUTHEND.
WANTED, Companies, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March, May 6 (3 nights), June 17, June 24, July 15, 22, and 29, Nov. 11 and 18 (3 nights).
Only vacant dates next year.
Apply, G. CONQUEST.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 11 and 18, 1907. L. CARSON, Keighley.

WANTED, for Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge, Panto., Feb. 4 (good business certain); also good Drama, Feb. 14, 15, 16, various, on. DOUGLAS C. PHELPS.

WANTED, Good Musical Comedy, Jan. 28, through obliging Mr. George Dance. Apply, J. W. CHAPMAN, Grand Theatre, Doncaster.

WANTED, Big Attractions, Jan. 7 (?), 14, Grand, Radcliffe.
Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, and April 1. Add., E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Good Companies, Jan. 10 (3 nights) and Jan. 28. Apply immediately, SHERWOOD and Co., Theatre, Wakefield.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Jan. 14 and 28. Good Panto. write for first in.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

GRAND HIPPODROME, WIGAN.
WANTED, First-Class Magnet Attraction, Dramatic or Pantomime, for Feb. 4 (vacant through postponement of Tour). Address, WORSWICK, as above.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Easter, Whit, and on.
Address.
CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Companies vacant Easter, April 8, 15, 22, May 6, 13, and 20, Aug. 5, 12, 26, Sept. 2, 9, and 23.
CHARLES CAREY.

WANTED, Attractions, for Prince's T., Llandudno, Queen's Palace, Rhyl, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, on, with exceptions, to follow panto. CHAS. CHAPLIN, Sea View, Colwyn Bay.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 18, March 11, 18, 25, April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 7, 20.

Apply, JAMES KIERNAN, Owner and Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Jan. 9 (4 nights), 14, Feb. 11, March 4, and on, with exceptions. W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Inverness, Attractions for Feb. and March. Vacant dates apply, CAMERON BURGESS.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 4 and 18, 1907. L. CARSON, Keighley.

WANTED, Good Companies, Jan. 21, to March 4, 11, onwards. Good Pantomime write.
FRANK PAYNE, Avenue Theatre, Kettering.

CASINO, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
WANTED, First-Class Fit-up Companies, Musical Comedy preferred; Share or Rent.
Apply, THORNELL, Casino, Bexhill-on-Sea.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Magnificent New Town Hall, moderate rental, permanent excellent accommodation. F. W. WESTERN,

COMPANIES WANTED.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District. Holds £90 at Ordinary Prices.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, for March 18 (?), April 1 (?) and 15, May 6, on, with exceptions

The Bookings for this Theatre include the Principal Attractions Touring.

All Applications for Dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, Strong Musical or Dramatic Attractions, Jan. 7, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18.
R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

AVENUE OPERA HOUSE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, High-class Musical Comedy or London Successes for the following dates, 1907:

Feb. 11,	April 22,
Feb. 18,	April 29,
March 4,	May 6,
March 11,	May 13,
March 18,	May 20
March 25,	and onwards.

Address, CHAS. E. MACHIN.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.
WANTED, First-class Companies, March 4, 25, April 15, 29, Sept. 23, and Oct. 7.
WILLIAM MARTIN
3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-Class Star or Musical Attraction, Feb. 25 and March 4; could entertain good Pantomime one week; also Attractions May 6 and onwards. Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 500. Lighted throughout with Electricity Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards Share or Rent. Apply, W. J. COTTON.

THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, March 11.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11 and March 11.
Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 11, Aug. 5.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, 25, April 1.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 4.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, April 22, 29.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, May 20, Aug. 5, 12.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Jan. 21, Jan. 21, Easter Week vacant.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Weeks of Jan. 14 and 21, Scala Production.
Wire or write, W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

'UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 7, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Corn Exchange, Wakefield.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"THE WEARIN' O' THE GREEN."
WANTED, Feb. 11 (through transferring), and Easter; only Vacant Dates.
Address, Ashdale, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.
Aut., 1907, Grand Production, "Rollicking Rory."

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Feb. 4, March 4, 18.
Address, J. W. CORDINER,
T. R., Loughborough
See Companies' advertisements, page 2.

MISS MARY NEIL AND MR. GEORGE KIRK'S
"HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO.
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, March 4, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 30, Oct. 7, Nov. 25, Dec. 16, 23, 30.
Only Vacant Dates 1907.
CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
this, T. R., Ashton; next, P. O. W., Salford.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR,"
by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Easter week, for this great Attraction, all Autumn, 1907, fully booked, except Xmas.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Wanted, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 28, Easter, only vacant dates, for this huge Attraction. Racehorses toured, all Scenery carried. Wire for both these moneymakers to F. G. KIMBERLEY, G. T., Newcastle-on-Tyne; next, T. R., Scarboro'.

ALLAN WILKIE, supported by Mr. G. Alexander Marsh, Miss Ine Cameron, and Miss Carrie Baillie. The Strongest Shakespearean Company Touring the British Isles.
WANTED, Theatres, only Vacant Dates Feb. 11 (three nights, south), May 13 (Midlands), June 10, between Swindon and Blackpool, June 24, to follow Aug. 5, onwards, with exceptions. ALLAN WILKIE, Theatre Royal, Colne.

"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
Herbert Ralland's Principal Company.
WANTED (unexpectedly vacant) Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, and several Spring Dates.
Address,
RALLAND, King's Theatre, Edinburgh.

"TOMMY."
By Jerome K. Jerome.
Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
A striking success.—Daily Telegraph.
WANTED, Dates, Feb. 11 and 18, March 4.
Apply, Mr. J. E. WATSON,
40, Windsor-road, Holloway, N.

"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 21.
For others, see Companies Page.
J. EDWARD WHITTY, T. R., Batley.

HARDIE AND VON LEER'S COMPANY.
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS."
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Jan. 14 (Lancs.), 28 (Midlands), Mar. 4, 11.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY," No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, and 28, Feb. 4 and 11, March 25, April 1, May 13, Autumn from Aug. 5. Address, E. C. STAFFORD, care of Samuel French, Ltd., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C. Wanted to Lease, a good Provincial Theatre.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, "Bluebell in Fairyland," Easter, to follow Newcastle.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THEATRES WANTED.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
"OLIVER TWIST."
(By arrangement with Mr. Tree.)
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Jan. 21, 28 Feb. 4, and Easter.
"THE FOUR JUST MEN."
(By arrangement twith H. A. Saintsbury.)
Vacant Feb. 4, 25, March 4, 11, and Easter.
WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

DR. WALFORD BODIE.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates.
Owing to Dr. Bodie's decision to postpone his American trip to later in the season, he is now at Liberty to entertain Provincial Offers. Managers requiring this stupendous Attraction—the only one of its kind—are requested to communicate. Must be large Theatres, Halls, or Buildings capable of holding big money.
Communications re Provincial Dates to Dr. Bodie's Provincial Representative,
ARTHUR JEFFERSON,
Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.
All others direct to Dr. Walford Bodie, 163, Blackfriars-road, London.
Thanks T. W. Rowe, Esq., for contracts, Palace, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Whit Week, 1907, at the biggest sharing terms ever given to any Attraction.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN."
WANTED, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, and 14, Perfect Cast, Crowded with Mystic Effects. Also, "THE ANARCHIST TERROR."
Monday and Tuesday better than last visit here. Wednesday beat Monday. Refer Mr. Lee. First-class Dates invited, either or both plays.
Wire, to-day, LOIE ESMOND, T. R., North Shields; Dec. 24, Gaiety Theatre, Ayr.

Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S CO., in "THE WALLS OF JERICHO."
WANTED, First-class Theatres for Feb. 11, Feb. 18, March 11, April 15.
Address,
Mr. SILVANUS DAUNCEY, 22, Charing Cross, S.W

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR,"
By Eva Elwes.
WANTED, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 4 (to precede Queen's, Liverpool),
Sumptuously Staged, Big Plant of Special Printing, and a Cast second to none touring. The name a guarantee. E. A'DELL, Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood (Xmas).

"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
(By arrangement with Mr. Martin Harvey.)
WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 11.
"HEARTS ADRIFT,"
Vacant April 1 and 15, for this Stirring Drama with a strong cast.
EUGENE BERTRAM, Killarney, Lewisham, S.E.

MR. EDWARD McLEAN'S TOUR,
"THE HERO OF THE FLAG"
(By arrangement with Sydney Spenser).
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 4, and on.
LESLIE VYNER, Surrey Theatre, London, S.E.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, for this great Play, just remounted and dressed. Refer Chatham this week. Band of Drums, Fifes, and Bugles for Parade. F. G. KIMBERLEY, T. R., Scarboro'.

E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, Jan. 7, 14, Feb. 4, 18, 25.
GEORGE DENHAM,
This, Royal, Rotherham; next, King's, Cardiff.

WANTED, Feb. 4, 18, and Whit Week, for "THE MIDNIGHT MAIL."
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 25, for Miss Maud Hildyard.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Theatre, Dec. 31, for "Gipsy Jack." Printing ready.
Wire, BEDFORD,
99, Halton-road, London, N.

MR. ARTHUR HARDY'S CO., "BEAUTY AND THE BARGE," including Mr. Blake Adams as Captain Barley.
WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, Feb. 11, March 4. Write or wire, ARTHUR HARDY, 89, Comeragh-road, West Kensington.

WANTED, Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, for "Her Lost Self," by Nita Rae; "The Biggest Scamp on Earth," by F. A. Scudamore. Wire, to-day, FRANCES DELAVAL, Theatre, Barnsley; after, Metropole, Abertillery

"THE TRAITOR." E. Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg's Magnificent Production.
WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, New Theatre, Consett.

"A HEART'S DESIRE."
WANTED, Dec. 31, various, onwards.
H. ELLIMAN, 5, Vernon-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, "The Greatest Scoundrel Living," vacant Jan. 7, 21.
SIDNEY DENCH, 33, Tudor-road, Cardiff.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Jan. 28. Feb. 4, 11, and 25, Only vacant dates.
Miss MAUD HILDYARD, 51, Dalston lane, London, N.

SHINTON AND GREENWOOD'S TOUR.
WANTED, Theatre, "The Price of Her Soul," by Wm. Hibbert, no vacant dates till Easter. JOHN B. SHINTON, Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Money-maker, Feb. 11, March 18, Easter, and on.
FRANK M. THORNE,
Public Hall, Redditch.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE,"
From Dalston Theatre, London.
WANTED, Feb. 4, between Gateshead and Birmingham. Address, FRED J. LITTLE, Dalston Theatre, London.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, onward, with exceptions, for the above Attraction.
Address, F. BROOKE WARREN,
Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.

"BLUE BEARD."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 21, 22, 23, (Midlands), Feb. 7, 8, and 9 (South).
WILLIAM MARTIN, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Feb. 11, for "Sleeping Beauty" Pantomime; must be theatre capable of holding good money.
Address, F. J. ELLISTON, Bolton.

EDWARD MARRIS'S COS.
"ROBINSON CRUSOE."
WANTED, Feb. 4, Feb. 4, Feb. 4.
EDWARD MARRIS,
Theatre Royal, Grantham.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, Aug. 5, onwards.
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, Jan. 14, March 4, 11, Easter.
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 19, 26, Sept. 16, 23,
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

WANTED, Theatres, "The Silent Witness," Vacant Dec. 26, Dec. 31, Jan. 7.
Wire, F. H. NEVILLE, Prince's Theatre, Horwich.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, the Brightest Little Show on Tour.
DICKIE CLARE, Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall

WANTED, Theatres, Music Halls, Circus, &c., for Arnold's No. 1 Amalgamation of Variety Stars, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, ten sound, recognised Acts. Complimented on Monday night by Manager Robinson. Wire, J. ARNOLD, Dramatic and Variety Agent, Theatre, Darwen. Next week, Pal., Leigh.

THEATRES WANTED.

LINGFORD CARSON'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, Managers, to kindly Note that any of my Plays not produced satisfactorily, please acquaint me immediately, so that I may have an opportunity of rectifying.—Faithfully yours, LINGFORD CARSON.

"THE DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Autumn Dates, for this most excellent attraction, August, on. L. CARSON, Keighley.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction, Jan. 14, 21
Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25,
April 29, on, with exceptions.

Garrick Theatre, Hereford, Dec. 24.

WANTED, "Revenge" and "Death or Glory Boys," Star Company, Jan. 28, Feb. 4.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, New Theatre, Consett.

ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, for a Special Week, smart Light Comedian, good Actress for Statuesque part, and Juvenile Lady, for production Comedy Sketch, Jan. 14. If suitable engagement to follow. Rehearse Friday previous. Terms, photos., and particulars, FRED EMMELL, Theatre Royal, Darwen.

WANTED, Artists, "Her Lost Self" and "Biggest Scamp," a few vacancies for early Spring Tour. All particulars to FRANCES DELAVAL, Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.

WANTED, Bright Chambermaid and Comedian, both to Sing. Rehearse Peterboro'; open Liverpool. Send age, photos., full particulars, STANLEY CARLTON, to-day, P. O. W. T., Salford; next, T. R., Peterboro'.

WANTED, good Juvenile Gentleman, Responsible Gentleman, and good Comedian, sing and Dance; also Lady for small part. Sing and Dance a little. Terms, Miss A. BEDDARD, Prince's Theatre, Horwich.

WANTED, Gentleman, to Play Responsible Parts, in Spring; must be tall. References, &c., W. HOWARD ASHLEY, Managers' Club, Savoy Mansions, W.C. (for Norman V. Norman).

WANTED, for Important Spring Tour, Two Clever Amateur Actors; no premium required; understudy and small parts. Tuition given. Address, first instance, Box 4,137, "The Era."

WANTED, a good Heavy Gent, immediately, through disappointment, for Jacob M'Closky. "The Octoroon," combine Stage-Management Wire terms, &c., RUSHBURY, Elmwood, Dunoon.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Norman V. Norman receives four ladies and gentlemen as pupils, most thorough practical experience gained. W. HOWARD ASHLEY, Managers' Club, Savoy Mansions, W.C.

Pick of the Bunch.
WANTED, Dancers and Chorus, Italian, French, Spanish, or American, not English. All must sing well.
CHARLES CAREY, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, at Once,
Free to Travel,
Good Acrobatic Dancers.

Apply, MADAME HAWKE,
99, Falmouth road, New Kent-road.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Soprano, trained by Italian master, powerful voice, desires Engagements for Concerts, Musical Evenings, Masonic Banquets, &c.; highly recommended. VOCALIST, Parkinson's Music Saloon, 22, Broadway, Wimbledon.

WANTED, by Miss Amy Bell, Engagement, Chambermaids or Boys. Sing and Dance, Liberty Second Girl, Panto. Wire, Hippodrome, Blyth.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Mary Cleveland, at Liberty through disappointment, fairy queen, contralto. Charnwood, W. Hartlepool.

WANTED, Panto., through misunderstanding, Charles Brown and Nilla D'Alberte; young, Sing and Dance; last two years Fairy and Ruffian. Wire, P.O., Walham Green.

WANTED, Panto Engt., by Bob Baxter, dame preferred, last two seasons Robert Arthur, Esq. Add., c/o ALMA OLVEY, Alexandra T., Sheffield.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Maxford and O'Neill.
Address, 6, Plan-street, Liverpool.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenic Artist to Co-operate in Sketching Speciality for Variety Halls. Share small expenses. METRO., Box 4,133, "The Era."

WANTED, Scenic Artist, Permanency, own brushes, for Castleford. Full particulars, lowest terms, references, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Town Hall, Brighouse, Yorks.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO. LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams "Theatrical."

WANTED, Known, S. Beltram open to receive Contracts, large or small, Touring Scenery re-painted; salary or contract. Address, c/o Waterloo Hotel, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, G. Sackmann, Scenic Artist and Contractor. Painting-room, Kennington Green, Kennington-road, S.E. Tel., N3295 Hop.

WANTED, Contracts for Bright, Effective Scenery, at lowest prices. Carlyle Scenic Studio. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Scenery.—A. G. Betts, Scenic Artist, late of the Grand Theatre, Leeds, and now at the County T., Reading, Contracts for Scenery of every description; nothing too large or too small. Address, Theatre, Reading.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, April next year, Acknowledged First-class Stage-Manager;
must have experience of large crowds.
Thoroughly capable, reliable, and responsible.
Write, stating all particulars, Box 4,130, "The Era."

WANTED, Agent in Advance, for England and France, for Variety Concert Party. FORDEN, 462, Uxbridge-road, Shepherd's Bush, London.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Smart Property Master, to assist billing, and make himself generally useful. Apply, with refs. and terms, GEOFFERY FULTON, Theatre Royal, Rugby.

WANTED, Immediately, Good Baggage and Fit-up Man. Age, references, lowest terms, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Man and Wife, as Bill Inspector, Cleaner, and to make themselves generally useful. Lowest terms and photos. first letter. SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, Lady's Maid, by Miss Lelia Roze, will be required to appear on the Stage as Maid, must be good dressmaker and make herself generally useful. Apply, with references, to Mrs. DOWNES MARTIN, 3, Highwood-road, Mercer's-road, Holloway, N., any day before noon.

WANTED, Engagement, as Business or Assist.-Manager, by experienced Gent. (24); excellent refs. Apply, Box 4,138, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Edward Walpole, Advance Agent, at Liberty, theatres or fit-ups, excellent refs. Wire, 7, Berwick-street, Pimlico, London.

WANTED, Spare Time Employment (evening preferred), by experienced Electrician; any useful capacity. ELECTRO, 52, High-rd., Wood Green.

WANTED, Known, W. H. Grieves, Carpenter, own tools, Liberty Xmas and Spring. Resident or Tour. Theatres or Sketches, or as Stage Manager in Music Hall; Bar, cellar work if required. 29, Faunce-street, Kennington Park, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, in Box Office, by Miss L. Dale, late Theatre Royal, Stockton-on-Tees. Address, 55, Ware-st., Norton-rd., Stockton-on-Tees.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Leader, Second Cornet and Oboe Player.
Apply,
W. COLLINS, Empire, Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, Leader and Drums, Tympani and Full Effects; must be good. Refs. Open at once. MCMILLAN, Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, First-class Conductor, Violinist.
Apply,
SHERWOOD and Co., Theatre, Wakefield.

WANTED, 12 Violinists, ditto Cornets, Basses, &c. Money small, but permanent if suitable; must be used to varieties, ex-Army men preferred. Apply, with refs., HARRY SAUNDERS, Variety Agent, Tintern Villa, Aldershot.

WANTED, to open Dec. 24, Empire, Bradford, First Violin; only experienced, steady, and reliable Players apply, with references and salary required.
PERCIVAL CRAIG, Act.-Manager.

WANTED, Good Second Violin, to join Dec. 24, for Palace of Varieties, Gloucester, twice nightly. Lowest terms to C. W. POOLE.

WANTED, experienced Second Violin, for Palace, Stoke Newington, Open next Monday, 24th, twice nightly, one matinée. Terms, age, Wire or call to-day before 2, DIRECTOR, 119, Clapham-road, S.W.

WANTED, to open on Monday, Dec. 31, Hippodrome, Wigan, First-class Solo Cornet, and 'Cellist; permanencies to good steady men with Variety experience. Apply, WORSWICK.

WANTED, Cornet Player; must be good Sight-reader. Terms, 25s. per week.
New Opera House, Kidderminster.

WANTED, to Open at Once a good, first-class
Orchestral Clarionet Player,
for Stage Work;
must be young, single, sober
All fares paid after joining.
To the right man,
this is a permanent berth.
State age and salary required to
MANAGER, Ten Loonies,
Regent Theatre, Salford, Manchester.

JOHN HENRY COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, Good Trombone, to open Dec. 24 or 31. To save time, lowest terms and last two references forwarded. H. WAMBA, Conductor.

WANTED, for White Star Line, Mediterranean Service, smart 'Cellists.
Musical Duties only.
CHAS. WM. BLACK,
19, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Brilliant Pianist, well up in Standard Selections, Overtures, &c., for Café Engagement. Salary 30s.
Evenings free. Open immediately. Write or wire, S. PHIPPS, 27, Lower Mount-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Good Pianist-Accompanist. State lowest terms per week out of town. 45, Marlborough-crescent, Bedford Park.

COUNTY OF LONDON.
TO BANDMASTERS.
WANTED.—The London County Council invites Tenders for Military and Brass Bands, whose headquarters are in the County of London, for performances during the season from May to September, 1907, at Parks and Open Spaces in London. Military Bands must consist of 15, 24, or 30 Bandsmen, and Brass Bands of 24 Bandsmen, exclusive i neach instance of the Conductor. Bands will be required, before engagement, to pass a Test Examination, and Conductors must furnish proof of their Qualifications. Conductors and Bandsmen must wear suitable and complete uniforms.
Forms of tender, containing all particulars, can be obtained from the Chief Officer, Parks Department, 11, Regent-street, S.W. All tenders must be made upon the official forms, in accordance with the printed instructions, and be delivered not later than 10 a.m. on Jan. 18, 1907.
The Council does not bind itself to accept any tender.
G. L. GOMME,
Clerk of the London County Council.
County Hall,
Spring Gardens, S.W.,
Dec. 20, 1906

SEASON BAND.
ROTHESAY.
WANTED, for the Burgh of Rothesay, for Season 1907, Professional Band of Sixteen or more performers, Single and Double Handed, or Double Handed only, period June 10 to end of Sept, three performances daily. Applications to specify instruments composing Band.
Apply, THE TOWN CLERK, Rothesay.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, Violin, Viola, 'Cello, Clarionette, Pianist, combine other instrument, join Dec. 24. Terms, refs., age, to DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, A DRUMMER.
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Small Orchestra (permanency), used to Variety, for Castleford, open Jan. 14. Apply, stating instruments, terms, references, full particulars, first letter, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Town Hall, Brighouse.

WANTED, immediately, 40 Lady Brass Instrumentalists. Write or call, BISERA, 14, Canterbury-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged now. Composer of music, "Silver King," "Lights o' London," &c. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violinist; well up in Dramatic and Variety Business; excellent refs. Terms mod. VIOLINIST, 5 Buller-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, by experienced Musical Director, Engagement in First-class Music Hall. Highest references if required. Box 4,134, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, competent, and experienced all lines. J. PLATT, Ivy Cottage, Currier-lane, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, permanent, or pantomime season. NICHOLLS, 48, Enfield-rd., North Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, Theatre or Variety Business, London preferred. SIMPSON, 58, Collier-st., King's Cross, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Violinist, experienced, any Business; good refs. G. W., 33, Brewerton-road, Oldham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Arthur Faulkner, late principal cornet, Tower, Blackpool, and Derby Castle, Douglas (Tower 10 years), at Lib. Dec. 29. 15, Varley-st., Miles Platting, Manchester.

WANTED, by Cornet, good, well up to music Hall and Theatre Business, Engagement or deputising. Fox, 51, Nansen-road, Clapham Common.

WANTED, by Clarionettist, thoroughly exp. Situation, any Business, permanency or deputy; good references of ability. Write, call, CLARIONET, 385, Hornsey-road, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, through closing, thoroughly experienced; good refs. H. HART, 335, Blackburn-road, Bolton.

WANTED, by French Clarionettist, Engagement, good Theatre, Glasgow or Edinburgh; excellent tone; good Second Violin also. FAIRWEATHER, 7, Craigowl-place, Dundee.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Bassoonist; highest refs.; now at Liberty. Address, A. DAVIES, 11, Lingdale-cottages, Manor-road, Dover.

WANTED, by Double Bass, Engagement, any Business, four strings.
J. EVANS, 33, Queen's-road, Tipton, Staffs.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombone, Theatre or Music Hall, or Deputising.
W. GOFF, 111, Upper Kennington-lane, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement as Bombardon; thoroughly reliable at any Business; distance no object. H. WOODAGE, 6, Parnell road, Clevedon, Somerset.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, on 'Cello; also Good Engagements for 'Cellist. Mr. CASSELLE, 35, Granville-square, King's Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, Engagement in London, Sudays excepted. Disengaged after Christmas. 'CELLIST, 118, Elgin-avenue, W.

WANTED, Known, Maud Estlin Grundy, age 19, Harpist; brilliant Soloist. All letters, 7, Provost-rd., Hampstead, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Æneas Gibson, Harpist and Pianist, immediate engagement; young, gentlemanly, travel abroad. MUSIC SELLER, Bayswater House, Roundhay-road, Leeds.

WANTED, by Pianist, position, either lucrative or for pleasure. Sketch not objected. BAYES, 16, Alexandra-road, Twickenham.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drums, any Business. Address, A. EASOM, 16, Stonebridge-road, South Tottenham, London.

WANTED, at Once, Engagement, as Drums and Effects, experienced and reliable, any business. CHAPMAN, 140, Hampton-road, Southport.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington. Bookings Johannesburg, Jan. to Dec. Quartet now Disengaged.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, HYDE.
WANTED, Known, this Grand New Circus, the most Up-to-date Building in this Country, Opens for the Season Monday, Dec. 24, with the Greatest Circus Company now in England. 100 Star Turns engaged, 100 more required. Money no object for Big Novelties. Note.—All engaged must be at Circus by 11 o'clock Monday, sharp. Address, KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand New Circus, Hyde.

CIRCUS, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Dec. 24 and on, Specialities of every description; anything that can be done in a Circus Ring.
Address,
C. ALGIE.

FETES AND GALAS. FETES AND GALAS. 1907.
WANTED, Attractions, High Rope and Wire Shows, Aerial Flying Acts, Acrobats, Three Bars, and all kinds of Sensational Novelties, &c., &c., for fêtes, Whit Week, May 20, July 1, 8, and 15, August Bank Holiday, Aug. 5, 10, and other dates.
Apply, stating lowest terms, along with all particulars, also sample litho., to
W. and J. WILDER, Fête Agents,
Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, an Attractive Young Lady, with a slight knowledge of wire walking, to take the place of Kitty, in the wire act known as Wyndham and Kitty. Send photos., height, and terms, WYNDHAM and KITTY, Empire, Holloway.

WANTED, First-class Hand Balancer, for Troupe. Can open at once.
MAXIM, 26, Hill street, Stoke.

WANTED, Immediate, Smart Tumbler, used to shoulder work, to play comedy part.
GRAHAM, 4, Baker-st., West Derby-rd., Liverpool.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Four Champion Trick Ponies, Single and Double, Great Attraction for any Pantomime. TUDOR, Hippodrome, Blyth.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Dec. 31, few weeks only, the Refined John Scott Family of Male and Female Equestrians, &c. five in number (one lady and four gentlemen), including Poor Billy, the King of the Ring.

Lithos., &c., address,
Bell Hotel, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, Miss Pinder, with her Stage Circus Turn, introducing her Highly-trained Horse Riding Collie Dog and Flight of Pigeons. Notice. Miss Pinder is the only lady rider standing on a bareback horse doing this marvellous Stage Turn. Also John Irvin, Foot Equilibrist, in his marvellous entertainment. Liberty Jan. 7. Stage or Circus.
Address,
Ohmy's Circus, Hyde.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Cyril E. Cooke, Jockey Act Rider, still continuing with Great Success on the Continent, with Circus Carre, Brussels, and wishes all old friends a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. Not at Liberty till April, '08.

WANTED, Known, Miss Becky Daniels, bareback equestrienne, own horses; A. E. Gaertner, juggler, on rolling globe. Address, 12, Mill-lane, Blackburn.

WANTED, Known, Mr. and Mrs. S. Anderson, barebacked equestrians and clown, own horse, at Liberty. Add., 6, Thornley-st., Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, Musical Acrobatic Eccentric, now appearing in Gilbert's Christmas pantomime, "A Fête in Tokio," at Liberty for Jan. 7. Address, Hippodrome, Yarmouth. Wishing all Managers, Agents, Friends, Merry Christmas.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Europe's Funniest Musical Comedian, also Talking Knockabout Clown, Liberty for Summer, home or abroad. Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Cara Magda, in her Gymnastic Stage Act. The only lady doing this act. Liberty Jan. 14. Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, Les Stockels, Gymnastic Speciality, Big Hit, Empire, Dudley, Monday, Circus, Aldershot. A Merry Xmas to All. Agent, STEBB.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lolo, charming lady gymnast, trapeze, and teeth speciality artist; also Little May, graceful contortionist and Irish dancer. Next, Hippodrome, Mansfield; Lib. Dec. 31.

WANTED, Known, Ariel and Astarte, Lady and Gent. Gymnastic Pot-pourri Act, Jan. 7, 21, North, through misunderstanding. Jan. 24, Carnival, Dalkeith, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Four Zolas, Lightning and Herculean Acrobats and Tumblers, just finished nine months' tour, at Liberty Dec. 31 and Jan. 7. Next Week, Ohmy's Circus, Hyde. Address all letters.

WANTED, Known, the Three Lloyds, Double Bounding Cable Wonders, Entire Act without Balance Poles, Vacancies from Jan. 7, on. Dec. 31, Agricultural Hall, London. Address, Monday (24th), 49, Station-road, King's Heath, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Cara Magda, in her aerial trapeze and spar act, the only lady doing this act, Lib. Jan. 14. Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, Jan. 7, onward, Alonzo, the Man with an Iron Head, Lamp Manipulator, and Human Anvil. Address, 16, New King's-street, Deptford.

WANTED, by Smart Tumbler, Acrobatic Balancer, work Comedy, to join Troupe or Sketch. C. S., 32, Stonehill-road, Gunnersbury, W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Nothing too big. Send full particulars, with Lithos. (if any), to MORGAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Classes, for 1907, Gala List. Lithos., Memos., FARNSWORTH and DYSON, Agents, 124, Crookesmoor-rd., Sheffield.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Dec. 31, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. REYMOND, as above.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, open Dec. 29. Absolute lowest salary to Dr. OLIVER, 48, High-street, Arbroath. Pianist-Vocalist wire.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Jan. 14, onwards, for Castleford. State lowest terms first letter. One house nightly, money sure, small town. BEANLAND and EMERSON, Town Hall, Brighouse, Yorks.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM.
WANTED, Variety Artiste, Jan. 7, 14, and on, new to Stanley. Address, JOHN CASSIDY.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, DURHAM.
WANTED, Variety Artists, for immediate and future dates. Address, JOHN CASSIDY.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Big Acts (shares). Bioscope, Pianist, open Alexandra Hall, Dovercourt, Essex, Boxing Day, 4 nights. Wire, DEMPSEY.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
ANDERTON CROSS, GLASGOW.
Proprs., THE GLASGOW GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES Co., LTD.
Manager, W. H. HOWARD.
WANTED, Artists of Every Description, for Present and Future Dates;
must be good,
and free from vulgarity.
Will be pleased to hear from
a good Pantomime Co.,
complete in itself, for two weeks,
Feb. 4 and 11, 1907.
State terms, full particulars, and
where to be seen working.
must not run more than two hours.
Two houses nightly.
N.B.—In all cases Agents and Artists are particularly requested to name earliest vacant dates, and quote lowest actual terms, also state when and where last engaged in Glasgow.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
General-Manager, H. L. SKIVINGTON.
WANTED, Star Artists in all Lines.
Nothing too big.
Salary or Share.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, for Scotland, immediate dates. ANDERSON'S Agency, 6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines,
Palace, Lancaster.
J. FELL, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Empire Palace, Dover, and the Alhambra, Sandgate. FRED DURHAM'S Variety Agency, 14, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Telephone 15, Brixton.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Concerts and Halls, for present and future dates. SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists wishing to be booked for First-class Music Hall Engagements, communicate with BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists all Lines, Dec. 31, onwards. Terms, bookings, lithos. Also big Gala Acts, May 20, onwards, Aerial and Ground Acts, useful numbers. EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone 69261. Wires, "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Monday next, and on. Send full list of bookings, lithos, &c. FRITZ, Empire, Nottingham.

WANTED, Artists all Lines,
Jan. 14 (week).
Combination Terms.
The Dayton Family,
The Dayton Family,
Palace, Gloucester.
Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines,
from now, onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

Dec. 31 and Jan. 7.
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Dec. 31 and Jan. 7.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for above Dates. Send absolute lowest terms and full list of bookings in first instance, SAM L. BURY'S Agency, 14, Panton-street, Haymarket, London, S.W.

WANTED, Artists, Dec. 31 and onwards, for
Leicester,
Sheffield,
Sandgate,
Dover.
Write, with full particulars, to
J. W. JOHNSON, Variety Agent, 86 Waterloo rd., S.E.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Dec. 24, 31, on. FRED DURHAM'S Agency, 14, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W 'Phone, 15 Brixton,

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Oldbury and Bilston, for Monday next. Wire, but not reply paid. PRICHARD, Palace, Oldbury.

ROYSTON WORKING MEN'S CLUB AND INSTITUTE,
ROYSTON, near BARNSLEY.
WANTED, Two Good Lady Artists, for Dec. 24 to Jan. 1. Terms, £4. References required. Address, SECRETARY

WANTED, Artists, to Note,
ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL,
SANDGATE, KENT,
is Changing Proprietorship on Dec. 31, 1906. All Artists holding Contracts to open on that date or later must communicate at once with Mr. Fred Durham, 14, Loughborough-road, Brixton, to obtain New Contracts, as the New Syndicate refuse to entertain any Contracts other than their own booking.

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ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL,
SANDGATE, KENT,
is Changing Proprietorship on Dec. 31, 1906. All artists holding contracts to open on that date or later must communicate at once with Mr. Fred Durham, 14, Loughborough-road, Brixton, to obtain New Contracts, as the New Syndicate refuse to entertain any Contracts other than their own booking.

WANTED, Known, Calls for Queen's Hall, Castleford, for Dec. 31, 1906, for the Cumberlands, Acrobatic Cyclists, A. Minor, T. Whiteley, Professor Hershal, C. Cowan, The Two Dees, Brown and Spink, Spangoletti's Circus, also the Band. Rehearsal for all, 1 o'clock. Manageress, LADY ELO.

WANTED, Known, Call, Monday, Alhambra, Edinburgh, Clive Watts, Lily Davis, Three Cheers, George Bernard, Marie Rosebery, Bioscope, Deora. Artists required, 31st, onwards.

TIVOLI THEATRE, DUBLIN.
WANTED, for the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties, Dublin,
All the Greatest Stars in the Profession,
Acts New in Dublin, for the above,
the Premier Variety Theatre in Ireland,
Direct or through Agents.
All communications to WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street, Manchester.
Telegraphic Address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

BARNARD'S AGENCY,
24, Islington, Liverpool.
WANTED, Stars and Specialities,
Nothing too Big.
Telephone, 1114.

WANTED, Big Stars, Big Numbers, for Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, Leeds, Bolton, Sheffield, Bradford, Oldham, Hanley, Wigan, Stockton, Middlesbrough, Hull, York, Derby, Grimsby, Attercliffe, Nottingham, Walsall, St. Helens, Coventry, Warrington, Accrington, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21, onwards. Wire or write, JESS VERNO'S Agency,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and Future Dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

ROYAL
HIPPODROME,
BELFAST,
Now in Course of Erection,
and
when
Finished
will be the Largest and Handsomest Building in Ireland.
WANTED, February, onward, all the Finest Acts in the World.
Price no object.
New and Novel Turns of every Variety.
The above is Booked
in conjunction with
TIVOLI THEATRE,
DUBLIN.
WILL SLEY, 41, Oxford-street, Manchester.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, Known, any Star Acts who have odd weeks vacant should send list of vacancies to FRANK LYNNE, Empire, Middlesbro'.

WANTED, Variety Acts, all Lines, on, Gymnasts new to Wales, Midlands, North. Guarantee to book sound acts. J. ARNOLD, this, T., Darwen; next, P., Leigh.

WANTED, Big Acts every description, suitable Ring or Stage, Smart Sisters. Particulars, Lithos., &c., SAKER, 17, Cranworth-gardens, Brixton.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
Lessee and Manager, JAMES FIONI.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines. Contracts made by the previous Management are cancelled. Managers of First-class Twice-Nightly Pantos. are invited to communicate.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wigglesworth's Agency, late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c., 164, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park Manchester

WANTED, Big Novelties, &c., for Dec. 31, on. Kindly wire lowest and particulars, DENTRICH'S Vaudeville Bureau, 31, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Specialities and Acts, in all Lines, immediate and future dates.
MARTINO'S Agency, Circus, Spennymoor.

WANTED, the Cream of the Profession, those new to London can have a trial show. Nothing too big. Send lithos., memos., bookings, and lowest terms to BILLY HENDERSON and Co., 30, Handforth-road, Brixton-road, London. Seen by appointment only. Manager, FRANK LANTON.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY. 'Phone, 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, Big Tops of Bill, for January; can pay from £100 to £200; also Artists in all Lines. Read my advertisement in last week's "Era." 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Dec. 31, onwards, Top, Bottom, and Sides of Bill. Variety Acts, Specialities all Kinds. T. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Big Combinations, with Singing Pictures preferred, Jan. 7, on; new stage, 22 by 46. When writing, send particulars of acts, with bill and programme.
TUDOR, Hippo., Blyth.

BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
WANTED, Known, the Band Committee invite tenders from Costume Concert Parties for separate weekly engagements during July, August, and September, 1907. Two performances daily (al fresco), each of 1½ hours' duration. Address, stating inclusive terms, to Mr. H. G. GROVES, The Pantiles, Post Office, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Good Comedy Sketches; must be excruciatingly Funny; also Spectacles or Music Hall Acts. DAVIS, 30, Grosvenor-terrace, London, S.E.

WANTED, Tenor and Baritone for Dec. 31 and Jan. 7, week, for Music Hall Scena; rehearse immediately. Terms, &c., to FOSTER, Hippodrome, Mansfield.

WANTED, Lady Skater for big Skating Act, also Wanted, Lady Buck and Step Dancer. Full particulars and photo. (returned) to VOLT, 195, St. George's-road, Peckham.

LEO FRITZ'S AGENCY,
40, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton-road, S.W.
WANTED, every class of Turn for immediate and future Dates, Comedy Numbers in particular; full work guaranteed to good numbers. Wire or write, LEO FRITZ, Hippodrome, Lancaster, until Thursday morning.

JOSEPH POOLE'S MYRIORAMAS.
WANTED, for Immediate and Future Dates, First-class Variety Turns, Long Engagement to suitable people. Good Comedian write. J. W. POOLE, "Verona," Malmesbury.

WANTED, Turns, for Hull and Wakefield, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, and on.
ALFRED SELWYN, Prince's Theatre, Llandudno.

WANTED, for Monday next, Double Turns doing Singles, also Lady Vocalist and Pianist combined; Vent. that can lecture. Wire, DUNLOP, Central Hall, Colne.

WANTED, Useful Turns, suitable for Circus Ring. State lowest for Dec. 31.
Bosco, Hippodrome, Aldershot.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Big Variety Turns,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Something New and Up-to-Date,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
Novelties and Sensational Acts,
for Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 7, onwards.
Send at once, Terms, Dates, and Lithos.
Those having a Good Act can rely on Immediate Work.
I can give you nine months' solid work.
Also Wanted, Big Acts, of all Kinds, for the Coming Season, for the Seaside.
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
41, Oxford-street,
Manchester.
Manchester
Manchester.
Manchester.
Telephone 09144.
Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester."

WANTED, Good Marionette Act, for Dec. 24; also Big Tops, and Artists of all kinds, to complete book for 1907. Send full list, lowest price, and permanent address, to FRED NEIMAN and Co., 108, Strand, London, W.C. Telephone 8488 Gerrard.

WANTED, Wanted, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21,
DALTON'S AGENCY Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21,
DALTON'S AGENCY Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21,
DALTON'S AGENCY Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21,
DALTON'S AGENCY Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 14, 21,
DALTON'S AGENCY Comedian and Serio.
DALTON'S AGENCY Wanted also
DALTON'S AGENCY Miscellaneous Acts.
DALTON'S AGENCY "Granbeste, Withington,"
DALTON'S AGENCY 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY Withington, Manchester.

WANTED, Dec. 24, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, and on, Star Comedians, Specialities, &c. GEO. AYTOUN, Variety Agent. Note New Offices, Address, 120, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E. Telegraphic address, "Antics, London." Telephone, 1949 Hop.

WANTED, Comedians, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Dec. 24, onward.
WM. B. BROADHEAD, Hippodrome, Manchester.

WANTED, Knockabout Pantomimist, Join at Once. Wire lowest terms, Alf Farron. Wire to-day, WYS, 4, Conway-street, Stoke-on-Trent; after, Gaiety, Glasgow. Only experienced artist need apply.

WANTED, Comedian (young), good voice, able play Violin Solos, for Speciality Act of well-known Lady Artist. Letters only G., 29, Bishop's-mansions, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Baritone Vocalist; must patter, read music, and do Irish part. Apply, "CHARACTER," 14, Gassiott-road, Tooting, S.W.

WANTED, for Palace, Tottenham, and the Hippodrome, Hounslow, good bioscope, to open Boxing Day. Apply at once to SECRETARY, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

WANTED, Man, with Moving Picture Machine and Films; 6 months' work. Address,
Box 4,141, "The Era."

WANTED, Operator, with own Cinématograph, vent., or good entertainer. State lowest first letter. LEE, Hanbury Hotel Ground, Bargoed, Glam.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, Electric Light; no Sunday work. LE CLAIR, 355, Walworth-road, next to Penny Bazaar. Apply between 12 and 4.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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WANTED, Known, Nellie Lovell, the great male impersonator, the absolute draw, Vac. Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28. Wire, 88, Boston-st., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Xmas Week, by Elsie Earle, in Song Scena, "Holly and Mistletoe," Vacant through misunderstanding. See Back Page. Wire up to Saturday, H., Coventry; after, 210, Brixton-road, London, or PEEL'S.

WANTED, by Nellie Nora, Dainty Instrumental Act, Monday next, also 31st. Big Success, Hip. Wire, 12, Mann-street, Hastings.

WANTED, Monday next, by Jessie Star, the only Female Harry Lauder. Wire,
Pavilion, Greenock.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Dancers, Monday. Wire or write 35, Florence-street, Islington, through hall closing.

WANTED, Monday next, 5 nights, engaged Newcastle Xmas Day, Frank Newbury, Gentleman Comique and Inimitable Siffleur in Characters. Wires, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, by J. C. Heffron, comic singer, Monday next, or Dec. 31.
Wire or write, Hippodrome, Coventry.

WANTED, Known, Will Burton, Eccentric Facial Comedian and Dancer, at Liberty Monday next. Wire or write, 45, Liverpool-rd., Canning Town, E.

WANTED, Known, George Ritter, Musical Comedian, just concluded 17 weeks with Jury's Bioscope, vacant Monday, on. Wire, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

WANTED, by Allan Hanbury, Comedian, Monday next, Dec. 24.
Wire, Palace, Lancaster.

WANTED, Monday next, and on, Edie Sheldon, high-class singer, comedienne, and dancer, sing to pictures, sacred concerts. Wire, 15, Offley-rd., Kennington.

WANTED, by F. H. Dundas, Actor-Vocalist, Monday. Wire, Hippodrome, Oldham. Big Success this week.

WANTED, by Vosper, the Master Mimic and Necromancer, Monday next, one week.
Address, 144, Great Brunswick-st., Dublin.

WANTED, Dec. 31 and on, with exceptions, by Carl Vernon, Modern Magician, just concluded Tour with Bioscope, great success everywhere. Always re-booked. Grand Stage Fit-up. Write or wire, permanent address, 15, Hart-street, New Cleethorpes, Grimsby.

WANTED, 24th, Lethbridge's Mysteries, two turns, "The Sleep Lady," and Dr. Lethbridge in Pure Magic and Manipulation. Wire, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Jan. 14, onward, the Original Kyoto, Mysterious Japanese Box, a Clever Contortionist a Comedy Conjurer, Juggler, and Oto, the only Performing Pug Dog. Also May Geraldine, a Sprightly Comedienne and Dancer. Enormous Success. Gaiety, Birmingham. Monday, Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle, comedian; also Ada Whitton, burlesque. Wire, Hippo., Wakefield; after Sunday, 39, Hedon-rd., Hull.

WANTED, Jan. 7, 14, and 28, by the Lennards, Unique Illustrated Songs. Address,
253, Gray's Inn-rd., W.C. Singles if required.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, by N. C. Bostock and Nellie Elliene, Monday, 24th, and 31st. Wire, Rothesay House, High-street, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, Jan. 14, by The Monckions, in screamingly funny musical comedy absurdities. Kindly refer Messrs. Broadhead, Next, King's, Longsight, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, through mistake, Charley Dixon, comedian, dancer; Kate Lynd, comedienne; two distinct turns. No other vacancies. Wire, Hippo., Wigan.

WANTED, the Eugene Andre Duo, Gymnastic Pot-pourri and Balancing Act, trapeze, rings, balancing, juggling, &c., character, comedy, two people, principal and grotesque. This well-staged, reliable number requires Dec. 24, 31, only. No other vacant times. 11, Queen's-row, Walworth, Surrey.

WANTED, Monday, The Reays, Silver Chain Acrobats. Wire, Empire, Wrexham, Saturday. After, 55, King Cross-street, Halifax.

WANTED, Monday, by E. W. Selman, comedian; and Ivy Gallard, smart comedienne. Wire for the good goods, one or two, 62, Aldgate, London.

WANTED, Known, The Two Dees (D'Argan and Dene), Novelty Comedy Act, Luncheon à la Magique, Liberty Monday, Jan. 7 and 14. All comms. 1, Hawkins-st., Camp-rd., Leeds.

WANTED, by The Woolhafs, Versatile Pair in a Great Comedy Act, Vacant Dec. 24, on. Wire, Pal., Lancaster.

WANTED, Known, Cope and Hagan, the laughing hit of the programme, Grand T., Gravesend, Lib. Xmas week, also Panto. Wire.

WANTED, Dec. 24 and 31, by Reszki and Raszki, gymnastic grotesques and tumblers. Wire or write, 6, Beech-grove, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Dec. 24 (Xmas week), by Hector and Sultan, great comedy eccentrics. Wire, Albert Hall, Southport. Starring here this week.

WANTED, by The Carls, Comedy Trampoline Speciality, Dec. 31 to Jan. 26 through postponement of Contract; just finished Walhalla Halle, Walhalla, Magdeburg; Tivoli, Bremen; Circus, Rotterdam; and Flora, Amsterdam. Big Success everywhere. Roars of laughter and applause. Splendid lithos. Wire. Wire. Big Act for Panto. Hip., Ton-y-pandy. Dec. 24, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, the 24th and 31st, The Three Bostonians (Leon, Edith, Cecil), in their refined Singing and Dancing Act. Tremendous success Palace, Boston, the hit of the Bill.

Managers wanting a sure success, wire as above.

WANTED, next week, for Successful Duos, "Pity the Blind" and "A Motor Muddle." Wire, FERINA, Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, Jan. 7, 14, and 21, by Titan, Telka, and Wyllie (three acts), Strong Show, Musical Act, and Ballad Vocalist. This week, Theatre Royal, Wednesbury; 24th, Palace, Oldbury; 31st, Hippodrome, Hull.

WANTED, by The Five Halyards, in their New Comedy Musical Scena, Dec. 31 and Jan. 7. Address, 88, Lower Ford-street, Coventry.

WANTED, Xmas week, Lieut. Albini and his Mysterious Lady in Black, vacant Xmas week. Wire till one Sunday, 46, Pen-street, Boston; after, London. (See Cards).

WANTED, Monday next, by Kieth's London Waifs, singing and paper tearing novelty act. Barnard's, Chatham; then, 4, Holland-st., Brixton.

WANTED, Monday next, Dec. 24, also Jan. 7, Five Abadaroffs, Comedy Act. Big Feature. Wire, 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Dec. 31, onwards, by Geo. Gulliver, First-Class Ventriloquist. Thanks to three Managers for offers. This week success Empire, Dublin. Monday, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED Monday and New Year's Week, Le Wist, world's ventriloquist; also as Reno, neat conjurer. Wire, 75, Richmond-terrace, Darwen, Lancashire.

WANTED, Known, Karl Birvell, F.O.S., Novelty Ventriloquist, Liberty for Tour, Pictures, Halls, &c. Wire, Royal Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd, S. Wales.

WANTED, Jan. 28, onwards, by Hulbert, ventriloquist, and De Lil, illusionist; two first-class acts. Monday, Montgomery Hall, Sheffield.

WANTED, Monday next, also Dec. 31, vacant through injunction, Paul Pelham's "King's Navee," supported by extra powerful combination. Enormous success Gravesend and Chatham. Share or Certainty. Wire, PELHAM, Grand, Gravesend.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's best existing Lion Show (only full-grown Male Lions, finest and cleanest in Profession), Vacant March 25 (London preferred), April 15 and 29 (London or South preferred). Address, week Dec. 24, New Hippodrome, West Bromwich.

WANTED, Mdlle. Roza's Great Canine Electric Spectacle and Hippodrome, through Woolwich changing Licence and being barred, Dec. 31, London. Great elaborate stage set, top liner, costumes, stage appointments unsurpassable; three people, fourteen animals, great electrical final, and the great draw, the Football Team, with the only Canine Goal-keeper in the World; 14in. leather ball (not air bladders). Com., 16, Clarendon-place, Landport.

WANTED, Dec. 31, onwards, Mons. Le Clair's Wonderful Performing Dogs, including Spot, in his daring High Dive. Drill Hall, Dundee.

WANTED, Monday next, Melverne, Living Marionettes, Ventriloquial Sketches, Two Splendid Acts, suitable any entertainment. 37, Canterbury-road, London, N.

WANTED, Engagements, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, as Operator, eleven years' experience, lime or electric; also Miss Laura Travers, Pianist. TRAVERS, 154, High-street, Clapham, S.W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult TOM NORMAN, Auction Office, Manor Farm, Dallington, Sussex.

WANTED, Known, that owing to the Crystal Palace Riding Machines having been withdrawn at the Sale by Auction in London recently, I am prepared to consider offers for the disposal of the same by private treaty. Full particulars, with cards to view, &c., can be obtained from TOM NORMAN, Auction Office, Dallington, Sussex.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Tom Norman is open to accept an Engagement during the Holiday Season as Manager or otherwise, where 26 years' practical experience would be a consideration. Wire, Manor Farm, Dallington, Sussex.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, Electrical, Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, manufacture four and six pole Showmen's Dynamos (improved pattern), also new Flame Arc Lamps, geared motors, for driving organs and roundabouts, large stocks, cable, carbons, globes, incandescents, all classes of repairs; new line, direct coupled portable electric plants, driven by paraffin.

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"New Royal Red."
"Salisello," a perfect white enamel.
Extra Pale Durable Body and White Copal Varnishes.

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WANTED, Novelties, Signor Durland's Novelty Exhibition, High-st., Gateshead-on-Tyne. Glad to hear from Faning Marionettes, and numerous others.

WANTED, a good Novelty, with Paintings, to open Mile End-road Fair Ground Monday; also good Doorsman Wanted. PROFESSOR RUBY, X Rays Exhibition, Mile End-road.

WANTED, to Open immediately, Xmas, on, Novelties for Big and Side Shows, Lady Paraders, useful people, and Dancers, for Stage. Address, PICTURE SHOW, Brook-road, Plaistow, London, E.

WANTED, Novelties, to open Monday, Four Good Shops; must have good Window-flash. Address, PROPRIETOR, 100, Lower Marsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, for Best Position in Kettering Good Drawing Novelties. Terms, shares. Wire for 24th, two weeks, MANAGER, 32, Gold-street, Kettering.

WANTED, Novelty Freaks, Quick-showing, to Open Dec. 24 or 29. Lowest salary to Capt. TEXAS, Carnival, Dundee.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, or any Good Illusion for two weeks, Xmas and New Year. Wire, THOMPSON, 78, Castle-street, Bristol.

WANTED, a Good Side Show, to open Monday, Dec. 24. Shares. Wire, BARRON'S Exhibition and Carnival, Public Hall, Ipswich.

WANTED, Good-looking Assistant Character Reader. Apply, Olympia, Saturday. Good Doorman also apply. All open Monday. Mrs. DALY, Character Reader, Olympia.

WANTED, Phrenologist and Character Reader, can open at once, good business, on shares. Wire or write, MANAGER, 73, Wallgeat, Wigan.

WANTED, Respectable Doorsman, for one week, Dec. 29, Arbroath. HUMBER, Waxwork, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, for W. C. and S. Hancock, Winter Gardens, Plymouth, a Cinematograph Operator; must be used to Travelling, and make himself generally useful; also a man to look after electric light; good Traction-engine Driver; and a man to take charge of Helter Skelter. None other than those used to travelling need apply.

WANTED, Known, the Original Midgets are at Liberty for Monday, Dec. 24, for two weeks through misunderstanding. Plenty of printing, photos., &c.; also grand street parade of six tiny ponies and State carriage. Sure draw; or would accept large Hall or Shop in good position, Shares or Rental. Distance no object.
Wire, Wire.
CARL HULTZ, 100, Lower-marsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, Chas. Mount, at Lib., Lecturer or Doorsman, fluent speaker, King's English; dress well, reliable, thoroughly experienced. 49, Sidmouth-street, W.C.

WANTED, to Let, Show Ground,

Tranent Show Ground
is to be Let

during the
Annual Fair Holidays in June.

Apply,
TOWN CLERK, Tranent, N.B.

BLACKPOOL SANDS.
WANTED, Known, the South Shore Pleasure Beach is the only site in Blackpool for Open-air Attractions.
The grounds are forty acres in extent, right on the sea front, and are situated immediately next the Promenade at the Electric Tramway Terminus. From April 1 to Dec. 31, 1905, 4,000,000 passengers were carried on these tramways. The permanent attractions now include the "River Caves of the World," "Maxim Flying Machine," "Sea Circus," &c. Great Canadian Water Chute now being erected for next season, commencing at Easter. For sites and concessions for really good Novelties address, PROPRIETORS, 14, Balmoral-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Let, a few Small Spaces, at the Exeter Trades Exhibition. Apply to the EXHIBITION MANAGER, Albert Hall, Barnstaple.

WANTED, to Hire or Purchase, on Deferred Payments, immediately, Large Trumpet Organ, suitable for Galloping Horses. Apply, 16, Queen-street, Kettering.

WANTED, Large Hall or Space in Xmas or New Year Exhibition, by Chevalier T. H. Crowther, Champion Skater and Swordsman, with 300 pairs of Skates. Wire, Kursaal, Cleethorpes.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100 101, and 1024, Houndsditch, has Special Departments for 9ct. Rings, Secondhand Watches Unredeemed Pledges, and Cheap Jewellery. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. All up-to-date Lines.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, Husbands, Babies, Love-Letters, Palmistry, Lunatics', Marriage, and Liars' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, of every description best and cheapest. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-rd., Olympia, Kensington, London. Established 1887.

WANTED, to Sell, Two Handsome State Coaches (the property of the late Duke of Cambridge), excellent advertising medium, together with four-in-hand harness, cheap. K., 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, to Sell, Auction Tent, Shutters, Ropes, and Stakes, Acetylene Gas Generator, and New Fittings, Advertising Lurry and Pullman Living-saloon. The lot or part, cheap, for cash. Box 4,139, "The Era."

WANTED, to Buy, Set Galloping Horses, second-hand lot, for cash. BERT ELLIS, Stanley-road, Chingford, Essex

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WANTED, Showmen who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any Railway Bookstall to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED, to Sell, the following Films: "Sailor's Wedding," about 600ft., £5; "Drink and Repentance," about 550ft., £5; "A Railway Tragedy," 250ft., £2 10s.; "Wood-Logging," 300ft., £3; "London Window-Cleaners" (comic), 250ft., £2 10s.; "Father's Birthday Cheese," about 350ft. (comic), £4; "Off for the Holidays," about 300ft. (comic), £3; also 2 Regulators, with Gauge attached (Beard's patent), cost £5, will take £2 10s.; also Gwyer Jet, No. 3, cost £3 10s., take 30s. No films sent on approval. All in good order. First wire has them. Address, ANDERTON'S Modern Show, Sat., Westbury, Wilts.; after, Cattle Market, Trowbridge.

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WANTED, Known, to Let for Practice, Wright's Gymnasium. Absolutely Private, Comfortable, and Reasonable. Apply, 66 or 68, Kennington-road, S.E.

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has been instrumental in booking the following Artists during 1906: Otto Schuman's Twenty-five Horses, Otto Schuman's New Sport Act, Paul Wilkes' Great Animal Act, Emma Don, The Great Avolos, Claesen's Bronze Statuary, Ella's Lions, Miss Gatley, Vermette and Dionne, Sheil and McNeil, The Hulines, Bessie Travis, Will Godwin, Chloe Convere and Cake-Walk Horse, The Seven Savonas, Mendel, Smith and Johnson, Vincent, T. W. Barrett, Juma Octoroons, Babusio Bros., The Cumberland Troupe, Frantz Troupe, Carl Lynn, Harry Frisky, Lauri Bros., Marie Elsie, The Arleys, Martini Bros., Miss Zetta, Tokio Troupe, Andreassen Bros., Hector, Juno Salmo, Lillian, Casselli and James, Three Huxters, Ibrahim Arabs, Pietro, Edie Grey and Coons, The Walbys, Wild Willie and West, "Seves," Hyasyas, Donatos, The Novellos, Massona, Four Maisanos, Aerian and Ostara, Plattier Frères, Les Ombros, Viviana, R. C. Note, Tom Lloyd, Stanley's Urchins, The Wambas, Almero, Dan Noble, Counsell and Mills, Jacius, Chas. Stevens and La Belle Nello, Little Richard, "Doodles," Dayton Family, Helene and Emilion, Hagenbeck's Animals, Florizell, The Three Lloyds, Les Quierolos, Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, Gatler's Horses, Elephant, and Lion, Debreans, "Billy," Garder Troupe, Glenroy Troupe, Frank Hartley, Three Ohmys, Luis Hardt, Polo and Florence, "Datas," Burke, Andrus and Frisco, Hinton and Wooton, Marsumas, Watson, Addison's Terriers, Four Juggling Girls, Virto, Lucifer and Angelo, Les Perezoffis, Gerard's Lions.

TACIUS,
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in Musical Playlets,
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and her Cake-walk Horse, Kentucky Beau, at present CIRQUE METROPOLE, LYONS, the most charming Equestrian Act before the Public.
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Great Acrobatic Cyclists,
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Continental Comedy Jugglers,
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New Sport Act.
Entirely new to England; will be free shortly for Stage Act, five people, three horses, and a number of hounds, in new Spectacle, "A Fox Hunt."
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"A Night in a Japanese Tea-Garden."
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New Act on the Five Bars, Aerial or over Stage, will be produced in England shortly.
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CALLS FOR MONDAY, DEC. 24, 1906.

Wires: "Twigsome, London"

THE LONDON HIPPODROME.

"The Treasure Ship in Fairy Seas," Chung Ling Soo, Cruikshank, the Kremos, Marzella's Birds, The Tupps, Bellonini, Rio Brothers, Tschernoff's Dogs, The Maniugos, Morris and Vincent, The Althoffs, Chronomegaphone.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"The Globe of Life," Cairns and Lynch, Tom Woottwell, Sam Elton, Baker and Balfe, Bros. Hayes, Albert Christian, Katie Cohen, Chas. Stevens, Morimura, Meymotts.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"Early Birds," Leo Stormont, Fred Frampton, Chas. Pastor, Lavails, Dora Barrington, Bioscope, Kerr and Coe, France and Stuart, Frank Darwin, Marlow, Dorran Trio.

ZOO AND HIPPODROME, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Strassberger's Lilliputians, Two Romers, Charles Kay, Chas. Prelle, Bioscope, Schwartz Bros., Gertrude Bradshaw, Arthur Lloyd Trio, W. J. Ashcroft.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"The Freaks," Hall and Earle, Chas. Coverdale, Bioscope, Amy Russell, Arnold Bell and Co., Techow's Cats.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Gorilla's Revenge," Ethel Ra Leslie, Mlle. de Dio, Chas. Mildare, J. H. Crewe, Maud Marlow, Harry Drew, Prince Kokin, Three Olympiers, Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Buddha's Blackboard, La Danseuse, Cambrian Trio, Boyd and Gilfain, Griff and Alpha, Syd May, G. W. Hunter, Paulinetti and Piquo, Bioscope, Mabel Bardine and Co.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Kellinos, Debreans, Three Sisters Chester, Zanfretta and Napio, Alexandra Edwin, George Newburn, Viviana, Madge Lessing, Walter King, Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Stavordale Quintette, Jessie Burnett, Frank Maura, Petram Sisters, Paxton Trio, Glenroy Troupe, Parker and Parr, Rapoli, Bioscope, "Three of a Kind."

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Gilbey, Esta Stella, Ginnett's "Remounts," Princess Pauline, Mason and Bart, Frazer and Mac, Coloured Meisters, The Clarkes, Carlos Cæsaro, Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Jake Friedman and Co., Tom Parker, Two Butterflies, Francis Letty, Motramos, Selbinis, Raie Walters, Beattie and Blanche, Bioscope, Maude Rochez's Monkeys.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Fred Eustace and Co., Harold Hughman, Lily Tiso, Five Bogannys, Harry Simms, Nina Gordon, Bioscope, Marguerite Ismay and Co.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 11 for :—
J. F. Elliston's Pantomime, "Puss in Boots."

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"La Vivandiere," Jordan and Harvey, W. H. Clemart, Russell Brandon, Dare Devil Schreyer, Marie Duma, Clarice Netta, Chronophone, Browning and Wally, Selma Braatz.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
"The Skirmishers," Prof. Dunning, Kahn and Kahn, The Findens, Verno and Voyce, Sisters Geretti, Les Voces, Jack Camp, Punch and Judy Girls, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"The Yellow Fang," Lilian Lowe, Vasilescu Troupe, Lennie and Hast, Ernest Shand, Kate Trail, Billy McClain and Co., Three Tauberts, Wyndham, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Louie Freear and Co., Dot Hardy, Michael Nolan, Agnes Hazel, Two Bostons, Bandurrias, Four Royal Welshmen, Burns and Burns, The Robertys, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
La Milo and Cruickshank, Mascotte Trio, Hurley and Cole, Frank and Jen Latona, Theo. Hardeen, Holden's Marionettes, Victor Newman, Bioscope, Chas. Robinson.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Alec Hurley and Co., Tom Costello, Frobel and Ruge, Three Ramoniers, Young and De Voie, James Brady, Welsh Wanderers, Jeannie Mackay, Carrie Joy, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
"Bo Peep," Harry Anderson, Winnie Derson, Three Guitanos, Wilson and Waring, The Ohms, Alexander, Northern Troupe, Bioscope.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, ST. MARY-STREET, CARDIFF.
Cinématograph Exhibition, Curio Halls, Roller Skating, Phonograph, Waxworks, Galatea, Magic Maze, Shooting Ranges.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Leopold Troupe, The Saphos, Matweef Troupe, Frank Elliston and Co., Sybil St. Elmo, Speedwell, Fred Elton, Bioscope, Sisters Lavender.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
"The Dandy Thieves," Monte Myro Troupe, Ernesto, Die Schultzenlieserlyn, Schenk Bros., Hettie Chattell, Carney and Armstrong, Ed. Forde, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
"The Duchess of Tooting," Wotpert Trio, Albertus and Millar, Herr Fritz, Strolling Players, Harry Coates, Harry Lawson, Jimmy Shields, Boris Lensky, "Crystal Gazing."

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
The Dandies, Aurora Troupe, James Stewart, Amoros Werner Troupe, Cliff Ryland, Gordon Highlanders, Johnnie and Charlie, Ray Maskell, Bioscope

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Mdme. Esty and Co., Bioscope, Vansart, Mezzetti and Mora, Lauri Clare, Six Imrie Girls, Arthur Reece, Amy Sullivan, Lottie Lennox, Woodward and Walton.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 11 for :—
"The Flood," Bioscope, Barrington, Stein Eretto Troupe, "Mysterious Mrs. ——", Illustrated Song, Elsie Burnard, Harry Leybourne, Barton and Ashley.

SIR EDWARD MOSS'S ANNUAL CARNIVAL,
WAVERLEY MARKET, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 10 a.m., for
Paul Conchas, Seven Perezoffs, Robbins, Four Geraldos, De Wynne Bros., Stelling and Revell, Prof. Duncan's Dogs, Spissel Bros. and Mack, Spessardy's Bears, La Belle Nello, Cot and Colibri, Indian Fakirs, Johnny Tunley, Prince Samouda, Pharos, Harcourt's Blackboard, So-da, Three Small Heads, Seaforth Highlanders' Band, and all artists, side shows, &c., engaged.

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CLOSED.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Wal Pink's "Repairs" Co., Pat Carey, Pictures, George Adams, Leverto, Lilieth Leyton and Co., Bernardo, Edwards and Espinosa, Dennis Drew.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Chas. Dare's Minstrels, Chas. Russell, Frank Harwood, Lyons Trio, Rosie Archer, Lee and Kingston, Picitt and Lizette, Three Panamas, Zasma and De Louie.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Casey's Circus," Kathleen Radford, Macarte Sisters, Conway and Leland, Two Dixons, Dollie Goldin, Pictures, &c., &c.

RICHMOND THEATRE, RICHMOND.
Proprietor, Mr. George Dance.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"The Mystery of the Cliff," Lily Sharplin, Paragon Trio, Time and Money, Venola Bros., Madge Osmond, Frank Halter and Marie Ray, Singing Blacksmiths, Pictures.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL
Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Chas. R. Whittle, Amy Marsden, Arif Hemet, Corbyn's Dogs, Phil and Nettie Peters, Bioscope, Goggin and Davis, Knick Knacks.

THE GRANVILLE, WALHAM GREEN.
Rehearsal at 3 for :—
"The Devil's Sunday," Dion Wade, Prof. Thornbury, Fred Holland, Ethel May, Kathleen Cogan, Madge Osmond, Maggie Rennie, Athas and Collins, Three Laurels, Les Reubens, Muir and Bartlett, Doody and Wright, Graham, Pictures, Lionel Vaughan and Co., Dorothy L. Clarke.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Both performances: Harry Ford, Paul Martinetti and Co., Archie Glen, Percy Hannon, Bessie Benson, Twin Sisters Anderson, Haley's Combination, Benson and Geoffreys, Doody and Wright, Sisters Desmond, Bonnie Goodwin, Pictures, Dorothy L. Clarke.

EMPIRE, COVENTRY.
Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Howard and Harris, Bioscope, Nellie Coleman, Dome, George Young, Six Primrose Girls, Abdullah Arabs, Montague Bros., Dan Conroy.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

ARTISTS ARE REQUESTED TO NOTE THAT IF THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE, STOKE NEWINGTON, SHOULD OPEN AS A VARIETY THEATRE, IT WILL COME WITHIN THE AREA ABSOLUTELY BARRED BY US.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND (in course of erection).
Artists should be careful to keep Dates Open for this Theatre, Booking for which will shortly commence.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras (Fifteen for those engaged at the London Coliseum). Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, or at least TWO WEEKS, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagement cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to Opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.
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"CHEYENNE,"
"I CAN SEE RED ROSES BLOOMING,"
"BOY BLUE,"
"COME BACK TO BORNEO,"
"IN MY PAGODA,"
"WHY DO THE GIRLS LOVE CHARLIE?"
"HENNY KLEIN,"
"IT IS THE SCARECROW,"
"MY IRISH ROSIE."
"I WANT MOLLY AND SHE WANTS ME."

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"WHEN THERE ISN'T A GIRL ABOUT."
"COLOMBO."
"WALTZ ME AROUND AGAIN WILLIE."
"MY BUNGALOW IN BORNEO."
"I WANT NO OTHER LITTLE GIRL BUT YOU."
"GOOD-BYE, DEAR OLD LONDON TOWN."
"WHAT'S BECOME OF OUR SONGS?"

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Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns.

Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follows:—

MANCHESTER, LIVERPOOL, AND DISTRICT.
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MR. W. LEA,
Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. WILLIAM COLLINS,
The Empire, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously

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CALLS for MONDAY, DEC. 24, 1906.

REHEARSAL EVERY MONDAY AT ALL OUR PLACES AT 12 NOON.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.
Rosina Casselli, Katie Marsh, Williams and Warden, Davis and Gledhill, Two Anartos, the Albanos, Les Rallis, Pictures, Boswell Browne, Gus Garrick.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.
Six Bros. Luck, Sisters May, Charles Ulrick, Jennie Hartley, Otto and Olga, Allsopp and Bekwith, Mamie Cannon, Pictures, Horace Wheatley, Mahatma.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.
John Tiller's Co., in "Aladdin." Carpos Bros., T. W. Royal, Ross and Grayson, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.
Lydia Yeamans, A. E. Clifford, Ada Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Royston Dene and Co., Three Richards, Wills and Wills, Carle and Lenton, George Antill, Pictures, the Brittons, Kados.

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ALHAMBRA, PARIS.
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"ZING TA-RA-RA BAND." (DELMAR and BURTON."

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CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, DEC. 24, 1906.

PROVINCIAL CIRCUIT.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
Rehearsal at all Halls, Monday, at 12-0 sharp.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Friscari, Cardiffs, Josephine Colona and Co., Pallister's Bioscope, Florrie Beck, Vi Raynor, Violet Francis.

PALACE, LINCOLN.
Fanny Wentworth, Tom Yorke, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Carl Rosine, Amurat, Florence Schuberth, Ida Kathrena, "Mlle. Pom Pom."

GRAND, SHEFFIELD.
Pallister's Bioscope, Learto, Robbie Roy, Calligan, Clara Sefton, Baker Belphor, Bros. Tarrant.

PALACE, BATH.
Colby and May, W. H. Downs, Raymond's Bio-Tableau, Donnas Trio, R. T. Crawford, Les Sados, Lily Esplin, Czar Troupe.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Collinson's Sketch, Francis and Alfred, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Chas. F. Best, Geo. Hall, Brilliant and Brilliant, Gillin, Johnny Holland's Co., Chee-You-Say Family.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Damerell and Rutland Co., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Pollo Jerome, Gondolier Glee Singers, Takio, Tom Lloyd, Gravetta and Parr, Eldra and Dog, Ghita Corri.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, HALIFAX.
Galletti's Monkeys, Wallace Whitney, Beattie Foster, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Will Musgrave, Bouncing Dillons, Steinway Quartette, Mignonette Kokin, Maisonas.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
D. Cruikshanks and Co., Eric Graham, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Richard Finberg, Alexr. Victor Duo, Ethel Loftus, Seddons, Silvertone Quartette, Story and Trigg.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Fred Maxwell and Co., Blanche and Diacoff, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Lillie Soutter, Yolande Noble, Will Bacchus, Wilfords, Grant and Grant.

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THE BRITANNIA.
Matinée Monday.
Frank Hardie and Co., Horace Monto, The Staccatos, J. Hegerty, Jansons, Ethel Yorke, F. Gerald and Co., Pyck Tholl and Taylor, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Dolly Elsworthy and Co.

FORESTERS.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Fred Casburn, Carlotta De Yonsen and Co., Harry Melvin, Lester May, Bros. Henres, Three Whirligigs, Raymond, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, "Dick Whittington" Co., Tiny Arnold.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Harvey and Holt, Little Salvino, The Bensons, Johnny Dwyer, Flo Burris, Bright and Bright, Raymond, The Hamiltons, Kitty Marion, E. Ranier and Co., Vaudeville Co.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band parts.
Matinée every Monday.
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ORDER OF SCENES:

SCENE ON THE HOUSE TOPS. Santa deposits gifts down chimneys.

HAPPY FATHER'S CHRISTMAS. Too much of a good thing. Triplets! Realistic scene. Man in the moon jubilant.

THE SENTRY'S CHRISTMAS. Cook is the messenger; Sausage the gift.

OFFICER DISCOVERS SENTRY EATING. Suspicious. Search. Sentry hides food behind him.

THE DOGGIE'S CHRISTMAS. He commandeers the sausage.

THE FISHERMAN'S CHRISTMAS. The hut. Father absent. No Happy Christmas here. Nothing in larder. Mother and daughter sleep, and dream.

DREAM-BOAT IN DISTRESS. Beautiful Marine Effects.

SAILOR HUSBAND'S RETURN. Doll for Baby. Sweet awakening.

THE BEGGAR'S CHRISTMAS. Starving, he sleeps on bench beneath a rich man's window; stone for pillow.

THE WEALTHY CITIZEN'S CHRISTMAS. Happy family gathering. Jollity dispelled by bad cookery. Nothing pleases the mistress. Everything and everybody upset, crockery included. Family jars. Husband pitches the viands out of window, when they are

CAUGHT AND EATEN BY THE BEGGAR TRAMP, who fully appreciates his bombardment and enjoys a Christmas dinner, after all. Man in the Moon in ecstasies.

SICK WIDOW'S CHRISTMAS. Before sleeping, her little girl-nurse writes to Santa Claus.

SANTA ARRIVES; reads letter, but unaccountably leaves no presents.

RICH CHILD'S CHRISTMAS. Santa leaves gifts, and also the letter of the poor child.

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ORDER OF PICTURES:

LOAFER SOLICITS ALMS. Benevolent party gives him a gold coin in mistake.

LOAFER'S JOY. He dances a jig. Wonderful facial expression.

SUDDEN DISMAY. Thought he had lost his treasure. Delight—Found it!

ON THE RIVER BANK. Loafer enjoying himself.

TWO MEN IN A BOAT APPEAR. Loafer lends a hand; boat drawn up.

BOATMEN QUARREL AND FIGHT. One throws the other into the river and leaves him.

RESCUED BY LOAFER, he retires to change.

LOAFER SEIZES HIS OPPORTUNITY—AND THE BOAT—and decamps.

UP THE RIVER: the Loafer is hailed by a man on the bank. Negotiations for hire of boat.

LOAFER, PAID HANDSOMELY, SURRENDERS POSSESSION. The man makes a suggestion.

LOAFER AGREES, AND A CHANGE OF ATTIRE IS EFFECTED.

A FURTHER STROKE OF LUCK: Stranger, with the boat, departs, leaving the Loafer, who finds a well-stocked pocket-book in the coat he now wears.

ORIGINAL OWNERS OF BOAT APPEAR, and, with policeman, chase their property.

THEY SEIZE THE BOAT AND PURSUE ITS OCCUPANT, who leaves a hand-bag in the boat.

POLICEMAN SECURES HIS MAN, and in the struggle both fall into the river.

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Rehearsal, at 11 o'clock, for
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GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES, GLASGOW.
Manager, W. H. HOWARD.
CALL for Monday, Dec. 24, 1906.
Marie Collins, Ena Richards, The Smalleys, Kerr and Shaw, Nellie Duval, Little Don, The Gaiety Bioscope, Iva Kildare, the Nys Pantomime Company, Fred W. Millis.

Rehearsal, Monday, 2 p.m.

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NEW HIPPODROME.
CALL for Monday, Dec. 24. Rehearsal 1 o'clock for The Seven Wulfrunas, Rita Bell, The Two Eltons, Bert Weston, Whitworth Cycling Girls and Campkin, Dorothy Dundas, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Capt. Devereux's Dogs.

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NOTICE.—PARK PALACE, LIVERPOOL. The above hall will Close as a Variety Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 2. All artists holding contracts after that date please communicate with F. WILLMOT, 156, Islington, Liverpool.

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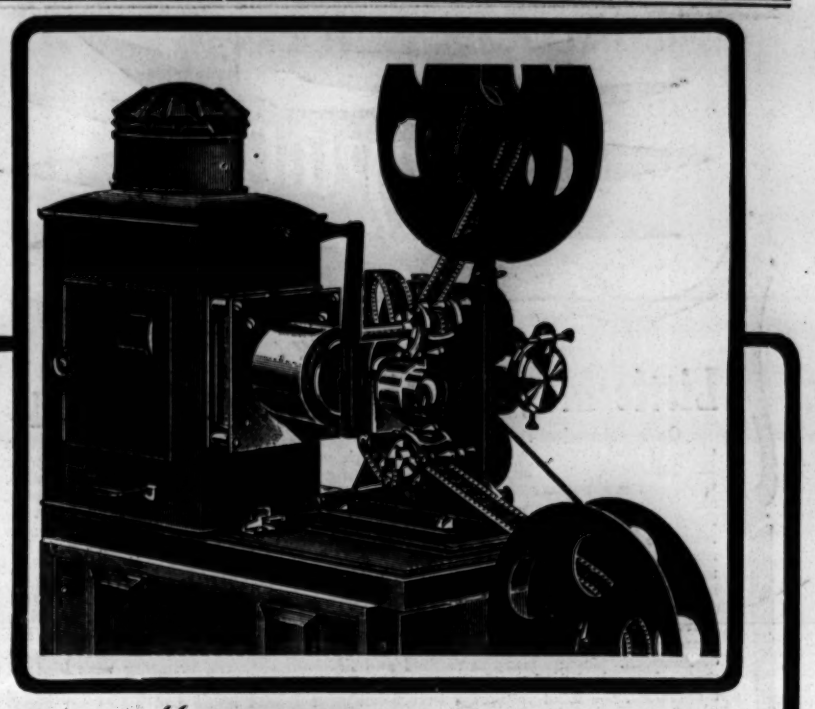
NOTICE OF REMOVAL. Mr. W. SMITH begs to notify to the Music Hall Profession that he has removed his Offices from Laurence Pountney Hill, City, to 17, Cravenstreet, Charing Cross, W.C., where he still continues to make advances upon their Contracts.



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STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

STAGE employees, as well as the variety artists and musicians, have benefited by recent events. Through an alliance of the three societies an understanding has been come to with Mr. Walter Gibbons, who has agreed, after a conference with him and Mr. Payne, to adopt at all his halls the working rules and rates of pay recognised by the General Staff Branch of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, and the changes involved by this agreement are to come into operation on and from Monday, Jan. 14.

THIS agreement applies, at present, to the Islington Empire, the Royal, Holborn, the Duchess, Balham, the New Grand, Clapham, the Hippodrome, Ealing, and the Empire, Croydon. The stage employees at these houses will receive 2s. 6d. per night and 2s. for each matinée, and it is a New Year improvement which they will much appreciate. On this basis, the variety artists, the musicians, and the stage employees will be only too glad to welcome any further additions to the number of his halls which Mr. Gibbons can provide.

THE rates of pay for the two-shows-a-night houses have been a sore point with the stage employees for some time, and the Alliance finds itself backed by a unanimity which will, no doubt, add much to its influence in other directions. It is well known that the stage hands have to put in from one hour to one hour and a half more time per night, and the increase of sixpence per night is a very modest advance on the previous rate. As showing the need for such an alliance as has been formed, instructions were given last week at an East-end house to reduce the pay of the stage hands from 2s. to 1s. 6d. per night, but immediately the proceedings of the Alliance became known these instructions were cancelled.

THE representatives of the stage employees and artists and musicians who had an interview with Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Payne, much appreciate the courtesy shown to them, and they were delighted with the evident desire of these gentlemen to come to an amicable understanding honourable to all parties. We understand that a cordial letter of thanks has been dispatched on behalf of the Alliance to Mr. Gibbons and to Mr. Payne. These efforts to secure "peace and goodwill" are as seasonable as they have proved successful.

MR. T. HARRISON has been appointed master carpenter for the Grand Theatre by Mr. S. James, and will take over his duties in a few days. Mr. Harrison is a man of wide experience, and is a member of the Stage Employees Association. It is satisfactory to note that an effort is being made to remove any cause of friction between Mr. S. James and the Stage Employees' Association.

AT a meeting of stage employees, held in Islington, it was reported that Mr. William Johnson, general secretary of the National Association of Theatrical Employees had been adopted by the Islington Trades Council to contest one of the seats in the East Division at the next County Council election. Mr. Johnson will have the support of all the labour organisations in the district, and will seek election as the labour representative.

MEMBERS of the General Staff Branch of the N.A.T.E. are informed that the annual meeting will take place next month, and resolutions to amend the general rules or branch bye-laws, and nominations for office, should be sent in on or before Jan. 14.

DESTRUCTION OF THE WARRINGTON THEATRE.

The early hours of Christmas morning brought disaster to the Royal Court Theatre, Warrington, where, through causes unknown, a fire broke out which resulted in the total destruction of the building. About three o'clock on Tuesday morning a police-constable discovered smoke issuing from the theatre. The alarm was at once given, and Mr. Potter (one of the two proprietors of the theatre, who lives in the same street) was informed of the outbreak, and was quickly on the spot. Fire-engines and men soon arrived, and it was found that the fire was located under the stage. Every effort was made to keep the flames from spreading to the adjoining premises, and it was thought at one time that the outbreak had been mastered, but quite suddenly flames broke out on the north side with such force and fury that it was at once seen the conflagration would be of a most serious character. The men became exposed to great risk as the roof of the building over the stage got well alight. The fire assumed still more serious proportions, the roof over the stage falling in and shortly afterwards the remainder of the roof, and the result was that the premises were completely gutted. The offices and side rooms were left intact, while the seats in the theatre under the balconies suffered comparatively little damage. The chairs and forms in the centre and side balconies were rendered useless. Music-stands and other paraphernalia shared the same fate, and daylight revealed a scene of complete desolation. The firemen remained on duty throughout the day, for there was continuous smouldering, accompanied by spasmodic outbursts of fire that needed prompt attention.

What the extent of the damage is cannot be accurately determined as yet, but it is estimated at £10,000, which is partly covered by insurance. The chief sufferers, of course, are Messrs. Johnson and J. Potter, the lessees, to whom much sympathy was expressed. The latter gentleman, who is highly respected in the town, has had the chief control of the theatre for many years. Before the building was purchased by the present proprietors for theatrical performances some twenty years ago it served the purposes of the Public Hall.

Mr. Louis Calvert's *Sunday* company was engaged at the theatre, and they had given their first performance on Christmas Eve. When the artists left the building about midnight everything seemed to be safe, but there is reason to believe that the fire originated underneath the stage. Many of the artists' dresses were saved, but the whole of the scenic effects and other properties were destroyed.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 24,
the Military Play, entitled
"THE INDIAN MUTINY."

This stirring drama is always welcome to a Greenwich audience, and this attraction for the holidays was wisely chosen and enthusiastically received, the acting being excellent, and the scenery and dresses and effects all that could be desired. Mr. Edward M. Hamilton played Lieutenant Manly on popular and artistic lines; Mr. Cyril Harrison as Captain Manly presented a capital impersonation; Mr. John Davidson was very good indeed as Major Ongleby; Mr. Birch gave a good account of Ensign Blake; Terry O'Brien found an amusing and capable representative in Mr. Cecil Morand; Mr. F. Anderson was good as Sergeant Thompson; Mr. Villiers Stanley gave a fine rendering of the character of Nebu Singh; Mr. J. H. Seddon was a picturesque and impressive Abul Khan; Mr. Ernest Keand's Ra Goonga was a clever and powerful impersonation; Mr. D. Matthews was good as Asfinga; the same may be said of Mr. Arrack Saumy as Ghante and Mr. F. Peters as Sved Rao. Miss Melrose Millett was a capable Ghuz-nah; Miss Lillie Grey was an amusing Mrs. Major Ingleby, and Miss Agnes Kingston an attractive and interesting Kate Ingleby.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN. — PALACE THEATRE. — Managing Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Miss Rose Elliott, an artist of unquestionable ability, has made a most successful appearance here; the American comedians, Meier and Mora, give a piquant turn; Allen and Hart are equally popular as vocalists and dancers; Mr. Jock Walker, Scotch comedian, is enthusiastically welcomed; and among others included in a first-rate company are Miss Olive Armadale, a dainty comedienne; Bugler and Carr, whose balancing feats and musical acquirements are of a high order; Mr Will Bell, a smart Irish comedian and dancer; and Mr. Jack Charman, who is as much appreciated as last week.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, has now entered on the third and last week of its successful run. During the week a large quantity of new business has been introduced, and the piece swings along with exceeding smoothness. On Monday the D'Oyly Carte Company opens a fortnight's engagement.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE. — EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Pproprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—For the Christmas holidays the company engaged includes Willie Haig, the funny man; France and Francis, expert acrobatic comedians; Chas. Lestree, juggler; Brull and Helmsley (Elsa and Arthur), as the dainty damsel and dude, in *Fun in a Music Shop*; the Bendons, in a comedy scena; Stranding, the singing mill lad; and the Five Casino Girls. The chief item on the bill is the pantomimical musical sketch, entitled *Rent, a Tragedy in Two Screams*, in which Harry Daniels and company appear. The Bioscope illustrates "Following in Father's Footsteps."

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaughten; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. A. Wordsworth.—The Imperial Animated Picture Company is providing the entertainment here this week, and presents a seasonable and interesting series of films, judiciously interspersed with illustrated songs by Mr. Baker E. Belphor.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. E. Owen.—An attractive holiday programme is submitted by the management here. The Four Charles head the bill in a unique transformation juggling and acrobatic speciality act. The Sisters Brenton find favour as vocalists and dancers; an excellent turn is provided by the Three Moxons as hand-balancers and foot equilibrists; Mr. Billy Burns, a "genuine singing Pit-Lad," is heartily received; Dick and Dorothy give a pleasing dancing scena; Mr. Charles Bu-Val is entertaining; Mr. Tom E. Odlin is a comedian with funny songs; and Mr. E. C. Clayton winds up with a goodly selection of pictures on the "Palace Attergraph."

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Miss Louie Esmond's company, under the direction of Mr. Edward Neville, opened on Monday for a three nights' engagement with *The Sorrows of Satan*. Mr. Neville appeared in the part of Prince Lucio Rimanez, and he acted the part exceedingly well; Mr. H. Evan Gibbon was the Geoffrey Tempest, and he gave a very good interpretation; Mr. Fred Cherry was exceptionally good as Morris; and the same may be said of the valet of the Prince, played by Mr. W. Langely; the Diana Chesney of Miss Loie Esmond was admirably acted; while Miss Nita Langford made the most of her part of Lady Sybil Elton; Miss Rosie Neville was entrusted with the character of Mavis Clare, and she played the part exceptionally well; the ungrateful rôle of Mrs. Grimbes was in the able hands of Miss Cecil Bryne.

BACUP. — NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is paying a welcome return visit here this week with the drama entitled *The Worst Woman in London*. Miss Florence Dalton in the title-rôle has much of the burden of the play resting on her, but comes through the ordeal excellently, and plays with convincing earnestness. Miss Elizabeth Watkins as Ruth Milford acts the part in unassuming style; Miss Polly Marsh as Matilda contributes much of the humour by her performance of the matrimonially-inclined lady; as Jane Nogood, Miss Mysie Monte is responsible for some broad humour. Mr. George Gaisford as Jack Fenton deserves commendation for a very earnest rendering of the rôle; Mr. Paul Barry-Lewers as Vincent Lyle plays the part with the necessary callous air; Mr. F. Vernon Travers as Mr. Milford represents a somewhat difficult part with success; Mr. Harvey White as Bob Goldfinch is responsible for much hearty laughter; and Mr. H. W. Monte as Hugh Drayton submits a character-study of merit. Mr. Leonard Booker as Philip Armstrong gives a fine performance; Mr. Walter Clarke is good as the detective, and Mr. Fred Smith in the small part of the sweep is entitled to a word of praise.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—For the second time the management have entrusted the production of the "Christmas annual" to Mr. Peter Davey, of the County Theatre, Kingston, who has this year chosen the favourite legend of *Sinbad* as the subject, the lines, lyrics, and concerted pieces being by Mr. Brian Daly. The music, comprising the most popular airs of the day, is selected and arranged by Mr. J. H. Russell and Mr. W. F. C. Schottler, the latter the esteemed local musical director of the theatre, occupying the conductor's chair during the run of the pantomime. The scenery, which is extremely effective, is from the brushes of such well-known artists as Henry Emden, D. G. Hall, and George Miller. The costumes, designed by Mrs. Peter Davey and Cornelli, are in excellent taste. The first performance, which took place on Christmas Eve, was attended with most gratifying success, and the smoothness with which everything passed off must be credited to the admirable stage-management of Mr. Harry Turner, jun., assisted by Mr. Donald Young. A wise choice was made in the engagement of Miss May Hart for principal boy, as the popular little lady had made hosts of friends locally in *Goody Two Shoes* two seasons ago, and now as Sinbad adds to her admirers by the score. She gives the present-day song rage, "Hello, a different girl again," with immense go. Another clever actress that quickly secured for herself a firm position in the goodwill of the audience is Miss Molly Wynne Zaneur, a lady who can both sing and dance with equal acceptance, and withal acts with confidence. Miss Neste Laurel proves a pleasing Rosee, but at the opening performance had to battle against a heavy cold. Other ladies who each enact their rôles in capital style are Miss Gertrude Beattie (Blossom), Miss Rita Ricardo (Neptune, jun.), and Miss Clodagh Brown (Boreas), the last-mentioned exhibiting talent as a toe dancer. Most important is the fun making, and here Mr. E. W. Coleman as Fitz-Gubbins is to the fore, working with a zeal that secures the hearty goodwill of the house. He has several good songs, and his dancing, as usual, is the essence of neatness and agility. One of the best burlesque actors we have seen for a long time is Mr. Percy Baverstock, whose conception of Grinbad, with its mock melo-dramatic possibilities, is excellent; Mrs. Sinbad is undertaken by Mr. Arthur Royce in truly whimsical fashion, and always with an eye to creating a laugh. If we mistake not, he is bound to be a huge favourite before these lines are in print. Mr. Leslie Digby adds to the humour of the production as MacTavish, displaying dancing skill of no mean order. A word of praise is due to Mr. H. Grey Dolby for the way he speaks the lines of the Old Man of the Sea. The ladies of the chorus are pretty, and work with animation towards the provision of a bright and entertaining pantomime. Mr. George Mallett is the general-manager for Mr. Davey, and together with Mr. Long, the resident-manager, has done all that is possible to give comfort and a kindly welcome to the crowds that have attended during the holiday season.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—A capital programme is put on for the Yuletide season, and the management are reaping a rich reward in the crowded and enthusiastic audiences that twice nightly assemble. Colby and May introduce a ventriloquial and dancing act that is highly appreciated. Les Sados presents a juggling act that is both smart and humorous; the Donnas Trio present a wonderful trapeze performance; the Czar Troupe give their national dances with the greatest success; an old favourite, W. H. Downs, the coloured ballad vocalist, is paying a welcome return visit; Lily Esplin, the youthful comedienne, is also an old favourite, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are up their usual excellence.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann. — Mr. Jarman's company opened here on Monday with *Under the Czar*, and the piece met with a capital reception. Not a little of the success was due to the clever acting of Miss Lillian Herries as Sonia Gregorovitch; Mr. Willson Howard—a fine actor—had a difficult part to sustain as Nicholas Yeroslaff, but acquitted himself with high distinction; and Mr. Gerald Smythe was a manly Captain Johnson; Mr. C. P. Smalia was all that could be desired as Count Nesseldorf; and Egor Gregorovitch was capitally played by Mr. J. Leicester; Miss Madge Clarke must be commended for her impersonation of Zara Bhura, a Kirkese gipsy; and Miss Beatrice Annersley was seen to advantage as Siomka; Mr. George H. Doyle acquitted himself well as Zakhar Kovesky; and other rôles were well portrayed by Messrs. R. Merring, Louis Weston, Carl Varener, T. H. Winter, F. Best, G. Fleming, &c.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Mr. Chas. Dare's minstrels are the leading attraction here, and provide a capital entertainment, which has been most successful. The Lyons Trio of pantomimists create much laughter with their funny act; and Miss Rosie Archer's imitations of stars are decidedly realistic; Lasma, assisted by Mlle. de Louie, executes some marvellous juggling feats; and Lee and Kingston—always welcome here—delight all with their acceptable comedy act, *Practical Joking*. Pratt and Lizette appear to great advantage in their speciality, *The Crazy Cook*; and the bill is completed by Mr. Chas. Russell, who appears in his latest song scena, "It's a wonder what music will do," and makes a big hit; Mr. Frank Harwood, actor vocalist; and the Three Panamas, in their startling acrobatic act.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs. — The Alhambra dramatic company provide a great attraction for the holidays in the favourite drama, *The Octoroon*. The rôle of Geo. Peyton was done full justice to by Mr. Cyril Grier; while not a little of the success of the piece was due to the clever assumption of Salem Scudder by Mr. Horace Denton; Miss Nina Blake-Adams presented a sympathetic impersonation of Zoe, an octoroon; while nothing but praise must be accorded Mr. H. Hesselgrave for his capital impersonation of the villainous Jacob McCloskey; Mr. Elmore Frith as Sunnyside was all that could possibly be desired; and Mr. Tom H. Solly was thoroughly successful as Pete; Mr. Percy M. Stevenson had a difficult part to sustain as Wah-na-Tee, but deserves special mention for his skilful impersonation; Miss Roma Tremayne—a new-comer, and an acquisition to the company—was delightful as Dora Sunnyside; and Miss Mattie Crawford was good as Paul; Miss Belle St. Clements furnished able support as Grace; and Miss Alice Clarke displayed marked ability as Mrs. Peyton; Mr. Tom H. Solly was responsible for the excellent stage management. The Alhambra Bioscope exhibits a fine picture this week, entitled "Fox Hunting."

ULSTER HALL.—Proprietors, Belfast Corporation.—Poole's Myriorama opened here on Monday for a short season, and judging from the opening performance, success has been assured. The wonderful trip from hemisphere to hemisphere was exhibited by a series of effective moving pictures; and in addition a fine variety company present a capital entertainment. The following take part: The Lizette Troupe, Little Edie, Le Brun and Irene, the Three Almos, Mr. George Menva, Miss Molly Lugarde, C. F. Cowner, and the Swift Trio. The animated photos exhibited in this exhibition are almost incomparable. Mr. Geo. H. Dobler is the courteous manager of this entertainment.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Pell.—With commendable judgment Mr. Kelly has secured the services of Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's company, who commenced a fortnight's engagement on Christmas Eve, in the pantomime, *Little Bo-Peep*, under the happiest auspices. The book, which is well written, is by Mr. George Burton, and, produced with a wealth of scenic effect and accessories, a successful run is assured. The title-rôle is charmingly assumed by Miss Lizzie Payne; Miss Susie Beavar brings vivacity and personal advantages to bear upon a delightful rendering of Boy Blue; Miss Katie La Blanche is an unexceptionable Margery Daw; and Mr. J. W. Groves in the Dame part, Granny Brown, acquits himself in a congenial part to the intense delight of the audience; Baron Hardup is amusingly portrayed by Mr. Fred McLean; and the comedians of the company include Messrs. Albert Kail, Harry Wren, Bert Allen, and Gilroy and Gross, who all do the fullest justice to their respective impersonations; the Fairy Queen is admirably represented by Miss Nora Beverley, who also possesses considerable vocal abilities; Mr. W. H. Gatty is a good Demon Wolf, and Miss Ida Norris as Lord de Rhino is also most efficient; the specialties include a grand tableau of living statuary, introducing the Solon Trio, the Lohrenz Quartette (in an excellent coon song and dance), and the Hammersley Ballot Troupe of lady dancers; the transformation scene is on an elaborate scale, and a smart harlequinade brings a most enjoyable performance to a fitting conclusion.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—A capital holiday programme has been arranged by Mr. Clarke. Cole and Rags, in their comic juggling entertainment; Mr. Alf Gibson, the popular comedian; the Lynches, with illustrated songs; Fred Moule and E. D. Nichols's company, in *The Battle of the Belles*; Miss Effie Stuart, Scotch comedienne; Mr. Gus Hindell, comedian; Mr. J. H. McCann, variety artist; Miss Gertie Rutherford; a promising local juvenile; a version of "Aladdin" on Howie's Royal Bioscope is also an interesting feature.

BIRMINGHAM.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Victor Turner.—A special sumptuous revival of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* has graced the festive season here. The part of Imogen is essayed by Miss Edith Turner, who gives graceful and artistic expression to the rôle. Miss Turner is young, but she is wonderfully successful and advanced in her art. Mr. Vincent Clive gives striking effect to the part of Leonatus Posthumus; Mr. Arthur Monroe acts well in the rôle of Philario; and Mr. W. Dexter as Cymbeline, Mr. Stanley Lathbury as Cloten, Miss Barbara Fenn as the Queen, and the others do creditable work in this important and well-timed revival, which is here for an extended run.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*London by Day and Night* has furnished the Christmas attraction here, being reperesented by the full Metropole company. Mr. Percy Dawsone is much applauded for his nne manly acting as Jack Hainsworth; Mr. Austin Milroy is as cordially execrated as the knavish ex-solicitor, Gideon Snake; Miss Rose Ralph adds to her laurels here with her winning style as Beatrice Thorneycroft; Miss Beatrice Western does well with the rôle of Olga Snake; Mr. Francis Everard acts skilfully as George Fleming; Messrs. F. A. Mackensie, Herbert Young, and Edward Finlay are placed to the best advantage as Richard Thorneycroft, Edgar Thorneycroft, and Major Godfrey Snake respectively; Miss Jessie Yatman secures much admiration as Richard Edgar Thorneycroft; Miss Amy Corelli is popular as Marie Pink; and Mr. Andrew Emm (Melville) lightens the plays with his clever comic sallies as Nicodemus Sneezer, assisted by Miss Daisy Marshall as Emily Ann.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Whittles.—*A Fight for Millions*, by Mr. Robert Perris's company, engages the sympathies of Aston playgoers. All the characters are well placed; Mr. John C. Carlyle acts in a manly, straightforward manner as Tom Manley; Mr. Alex E. Grant makes an excellent villain as Richard Dudley; Mr. J. Schofield does capably as Hudson Rivers; Mr. H. Belmore gives able assistance as the villain's ally, Solomon Moses; and Mr. A. Ross shines as John Loveridge. The heroine's part, Pearl Rivers, is charmingly portrayed by Miss Alwynne Ermon; Miss Norah Kingsley ably sustains the rôle of the mother, Mrs. Rivers; Miss Elma C. Turner is successful as Helen Dudley; Miss Dorothy Wilkinson plays finely as Little Madge; and Mr. Karl H. Edwards as Willie Neverwork, and Miss Rosie Kearns as Betty and Madge Brady enliven the play in a clever, humorous manner.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—A Dutch operetta, entitled *Happy Holland*, presented by Mr. Jake Friedman and company, heads the bill here. The singing is the chief feature, but a lot of genuine humour is interspersed with the songs, making the sketch a delightful one. Miss Maud Rochez strikes a novel note with her troupe of monkeys, who go through a variety performance in a miniature theatre; Tom and Mary Montramo are excellent comedy artists; and the Sebinis introduce much sensation in their cycle act. The Two Butterflies, juvenile gymnasts, are very clever; and Frances Letty's dance on electric tramrails is ingenious. Rale Walters, comedienne; Happy Tom Parker, comedian; and Beattie and Blanche, duettists, also provide interesting turns.

GAIETY.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—The chief attraction this week is provided by those excellent musicians, the Seven Savonas, whose rendering of the overture to *Tannhäuser* is admirable. An exceptionally clever performance is given by the Loma trio, who wind up with a marvellous exhibition on the double trapeze. A hair-raising turn is submitted by the Six Cycling Elliotts, who are enthusiastically received. The Eight Lancashire Lads fairly bring down the house with clog dancing, and songs in their own dialect. Interesting numbers are also given by Wyrze and Adna, Walter Emerson, Senorita Eloina, The Percys, Miss Florence and Harry Tomlinson.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Madame Lydia Yeamans-Titus gives the chief turn this week. Her singing is extremely good, and her marvellous baby impersonations secure for her unlimited applause. Mr. and Mrs. R. Royston-Dene are responsible for an original sketch entitled *His Birthday*, which is warmly received; the Britons give an eccentric dancing act; Carle and Lanton present a novel creation, *A Dream of the Sea*; Wills and Wills appear in a capital duologue; and the Kados are very funny as jugglers. A. E. Clifford, versatile vocalist, and Ada Parker, coon songstress and dancer, contribute enjoyable turns.

BORDESLEY PALACE. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The premier position of the bill is filled by Mr. Fred Eustace and company. Another good turn is the Five Bogannays, in a clever Risley act; Harold Hughman imitates animals and birds very cleverly; Marguerite Ismay and her White Coons present a sketch entitled *Kickapoo*, the children dancing very nicely. Lily Tiso has two good songs and a very neat dance; Nina Gordon is a capable mimic; and Harry Simms is a good comedian.

BLACKBURN. — THEATRE ROYAL.— Proprietor, Mr. Harry Yorke; Manager, Mr. Reginald C. Yorke.—Mr. J. Hamilton Stewart's company opened here on Saturday night with *Sherlock Holmes*, and have attracted a large holiday audience. Mr. Stewart himself is Holmes, and plays the part with the necessary cool nonchalance. Mr. W. F. Stirling again fills the rôle of Professor Moriarty, and shows his accustomed forceful acting; and Mr. Stephen T. Ewart as Larrabee is excellent. Mr. Stanley Logan is sufficiently capable as Dr. Watson, and Miss Constance Leigh makes a charming Alice Faulkner. Miss Georgina Wynter is effective as Madge Larrabee. The staging of the piece is good, and the lighting effects are well done.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—The favourite play, *Two Little Vagabonds*, is drawing crowded houses to this theatre.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—There is a capital programme at this house, the artists being Damerell and Rutland in their sketch, *House Full*; Pollo Jerome, lady athlete; the Gondolier Glee Singers; Tokio, Japanese mimic; Tom Lloyd, comedian; Gravette and Parr, in their act, *There's Going to be a Show*; Eldra and his dog Prince; and Ghita Corri, soprano vocalist.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. J. F. Elliston is giving *Mother Goose* a preliminary canter here this week, previous to submitting it to his Bolton patrons. The book is by that clever and prolific writer, Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and is thoroughly up-to-date, whilst a capital company of artists give expression to the witty sayings provided for them. Messrs. Arthur and Harry Rich play Mother Goose and her son Jack respectively, and instantly establish themselves great favourites. Mr. H. O. Wills as Lord Pudsey, Mr. Leonard Maitland as Wilsey Slack, and Mr. W. Fulbrook as the Mayor of Tapham are also great mirth-providers. Miss Isabel Dillon is a manly principal boy, with a very tuneful voice, and Miss Pauline Hague, who plays Jill, is also a good vocalist. The Gretchen of Miss Lola Patey calls for special notice by reason of the excellence of her acting, singing, and dancing. The Demon King is in the hands of Mr. Charles Homer, whose singing is a special feature of the show; whilst Miss Violet Ashcroft is responsible for the Fairy Queen. The costumes are very fine indeed and the scenery is all that could be desired.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*What the Butler Saw*, as acted by Mr. Lionel Rignold and Ada Blanche's company, is the Christmas fare provided here. Mr. Rignold scores heavily as Pink the butler, and he is ably supported by Mr. Charles Fawcett, as Jack Barrington; Mr. Reddick Anderson, as Sir Charles Foden; Mr. George Ascott, as General Dunlop; and Mr. Harry Rignold, as Abraham Weinstein. Mrs. Barrington is played by Miss Ada Blanche with her usual charm and vivacity; whilst Miss Marie Daltra contributes an exceedingly clever sketch of Miss Foden.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The bill here this week is headed by Leoni Clark, who gives a wonderful exhibition of animal training; other good turns are supplied by Minnie Fenton, a very clever Scotch comedienne; Dusty Rhodes, comedian; Harry Edson and his performing dogs; Osborn and Brookes, musical comedians; the Stack and Milton trio of gymnasts; Frank Cass, vocal comedian; and Lora, the Wansforndin parrot, in a curious calculating exposition. The Bioscope and the Chronophone also find a place in a varied and interesting programme.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager Mr. A. C. Moody.—Mr. Harry Starr and company have appeared here in his ever-popular musical comedy dramas, entitled *Carl the Clockmaker* and *Otto the Outcast*. Opening with the first-named piece, Mr. Starr repeated his inimitable impersonation of Carl, and obtained a brilliant reception. Supporting him in principal parts were Mr. Edwin Firth as Maurice Kelmore, Mr. David Beattie as Count Ivon Meiklewitch, Mr. William Miller as Narkey Nabbo, who were all entitled to the hearty applause accorded them. Miss Madge Blundell gave a charming portrayal of Madge Ryder; Miss Kate Norris and Miss Ella Crossley were satisfactory as Leon and Jerusha Jane respectively.

GAIETY.—Proprietor, Councillor J. Grantham; General-Manager, Mr. Arthur James.—For the holidays a strong programme has been provided by the energetic young manager, who has engaged as the star turn the Lillian Brothers in their refined performance as society acrobats. G. W. Macfarlane, comedian, is well received; Russell Thomas, baritone, has several good songs that find favour; Cytoza, the artists' model, introduces some graceful poses ;the Comedy Four do well, and the Bioscope displays seasonable pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Tudor.—The Edison Electric Animated Picture Co., under the management of Mr. William Johnson, is in possession for a short season, and is giving a series of pictures illustrative of "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp."

BOLTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—The Christmas holiday attraction here is G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company in *The Silver King*, with Mr. Fred D. Davies as Wilfred Denver, Miss Daisy Scudamore as Nellie Denver, and Mr. Edward J. George in his old part of Daniel Jaikes.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Klio is being presented by Mlle. Irma Lorraine at this popular hall this week. Other turns on the bill are George Brown, Yorkshire comedian; Mint and Mart, comedy sketch artists and paper manipulators; Carney Bros., comedy duettists, &c.; Mabel Bright and Co. in a vocal *mélange*; The Four Cattanoes, in an eccentric comedy act; Miss Dolly Denver, buck dancer; James Alston, comedian; Lillian Hodge, ballad vocalist; Dick Bradley, trick cyclist; Joe Reichen's Dogs; and the Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Manager, Mr. H. Pennington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The bill of fare here for the Christmas holidays is Mr. Arthur Carlton's company in the sensational drama, *The Span of Life*. Mr. R. S. Trelawney gives a manly rendering of Richard Blunt; Miss Quinevere Shinton is a pleasing Kate Heathcote; Mr. Sanderson Moffat is all that can be desired as the villainous Dunstan Leech, having a most capable assistant in Miss Phyllis Hamilton as Mrs. Jeif; the comedy is well sustained by Mr. Sam Roberts as Nutty Brown and Miss Kitty Russell as Shrove Tuesday; the Stebbing Trio give a very good acrobatic performance in Act 2.

BOSCOMBE. — HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—The artists appearing here for Christmas week are: the Tom Davies Trio in "Motoring in Mid-Air," a sensational cycling feat; Arthur Aldridge, tenor; the Gregson Trio, in their speciality, *The Dummy*; Sam Redfern, the black philosopher; the Three Macdonalds, eccentric musicians; Tom Stuart, actor and entertainer; Rose Harvey, comedienne; and the Hippodrome pictures.

BRADFORD.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—On Saturday evening last Mr. Laidler presented to a crowded and very appreciative audience his fifth annual pantomime, choosing for his subject the familiar story, *Cinderella*. The book is the work of Mr. Arthur W. Field; Mr. Walter Scott has added greatly to the charm of the production by his arrangement and composition of some pretty music, and to Mr. Harry T. Butler exceptional credit is due for his stage-management. A gorgeous motor car constitutes the heroine's equipage, and in Fairyland, a brilliant scene by Mr. Egerton, we see her surrounded by Knights in dazzling armour, and the scene closes with a scintillating shower of gold and silver. Part two opens with Mr. Egerton's pretty and effective Palace Gates scene, and here Cinderella sings a delightful melody to the man in the moon, and there is a quaint and effective guardsmen and nurses' chorus by children; Mr. Peirse's fine scenes, the reception and the ball-rooms, are devoted to the arrival of the Prince's guests clad in costumes which are costly and gorgeous, and to Cinderella's flight. In the orthodox way the Prince weds Cinderella, the owner of the lost glass slipper, and the final scene, the Royal Palace, is reached. This is a beautiful and brilliant effort, by Mr. Baruch, and here we have a March of Nations and a series of emblematic tableaux, ending with the arrival of Cinderella and the Prince, gorgeously clad; Miss Florrie Forde achieves success as the Prince, and applause greets her familiar songs; Mr. J. Monkhouse is quaint as the Baron; and very daintily Miss Alice Williams plays Cinderella; Mr. Tom Carrick and Mr. Dan Hardie are funny as her step-sisters, Gertrude Ann and Eva Jane; an instantaneous success is scored by Mr. Tom Moore as Peter the Page; brightness and animation mark Miss Nellie Sheffield's Dandini; Miss Rene Rennie as Gilbert, and Miss Edith Coolville as the Princess, act gracefully; and the dancing of the latter, together with that of Mesdames Maisie Gray, Flo Florence, Elsa Laurence, and Mayzy Osmunde, are features of the pantomime; Mr. Frank Robinson and Mr. Bert Atherton as Brokers' Men are responsible for much humour; Miss Maud Bettison is a charming Fairy Queen; and Mr. Douglas Campbell in his character as the Donkey works hard; in response to enthusiastic calls at the fall of the curtain Mr. Laidler thanked the audience in a short speech for the reception accorded the pantomime.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empire, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Under the direction of Ethel Arden and George Abel, Ltd., the amusing sketch, *Three of a Kind*, is being repeated here this week, and a good holiday programme is made up by Jessie Burnett, comedian; the Glenroy Troupe of international dancers; Petram's Marionettes; the Stavordale Quintette of clever instrumentalists; the expert Paxton Trio of hand balancers; Frank Maura, the Mexican wonder; Parker and Parr, Welsh vocal entertainers; Rapoli, the clever juggler; and pictures by the American Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. H. Foster.—Johnny Holland and Co.'s sketch (founded on a good old farce), viz., *The Millionaire*, forms one of the leading features in a good bill here; Francis and Alfred are clever comedy jugglers; and the other attractions of merit are Brilliant and Brilliant, accomplished Xylophone players; Gillin, a capital ventriloquist; George Hall, effleur; Chee-You-Say Family, clever Chinese jugglers; Chas. F. Best as Macbunker the Mountebank; Collinson's smart juvenile company in *The Topsy Turvy School*; and films shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BRIGHTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. George Edwardes's company opened a fortnight's engagement here on Monday evening with the Christmas musical fairy play, *Two Naughty Boys*. Mr. Nelson Keys and Mr. William Spray as Max and Moritz respectively gave entertaining impersonations of the two naughty boys, whose mischievous tricks appealed forcibly to the younger members of the audience; Mr. Reginald Crompton as the schoolmaster, and Mr. George Franklin as Hans, the miller, submitted capital enactments; and Mr. Lewis Grande was amusing as the farmer's boy; Mr. Richard Kavanagh added to the fun as Widow Bolt; and Miss Kate Bishop displayed finished acting as the kind-hearted Granny Bauer, whose grand-daughters, Grizel and Gretchen, had charming and winsome exponents in Miss Daisy Stratton and Miss Lydia Flop respectively, the latter finding great favour with her expressive singing; Miss Hazel Saqui made a pretty and pleasing Agnes, the village belle; while clever performances were given by Mr.

Beerbohm Tree; Mr. George Howard was well suited as the King of the Copper Castle; Mr. Dennis Bryan gave a clever impersonation of the witch; and Miss Ethel F. White, who figured as the Sea Witch and the Queen, charmed the audience with her delightful singing of "I'm the Sea Witch"; McDare Austin as a real soldier acquitted himself admirably; Mr. L. Pryce Hamer as the Prince with the magic pipe was highly successful; Mr. George Howard and Mr Grahame Herington were amusing Professors; while Messrs. Carden and Herington, as wooden soldiers, added to the fun; Mr. J. Edward Pearce did well as Ole-luk-oie; Little Hans was played by Master Harold Du Val, his father by Mr. Philip Lawton, and his mother by Miss Hilda Francks; graceful dances in each act by Misses Elsie and Mabel May won well-deserved encores.

ALHAMBRA.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. L. Graydon; General-Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—Foremost among the attractions here this week is the pantomime *Aladdin*, written, invented, and produced in nine scenes by Dan Thomas. The initial performance on Monday evening evoked enthusiastic applause; the original music, by Carl Hamlin, is bright and tuneful; the new and elaborate scenery by Messrs. Leveson, Linton, and Walter Drury, merits warm praise; and the handsome costumes are by Messrs. Clarkson, Ellis, and Daniels; Miss Daisy Yates makes a dashing Aladdin; Mr. Arthur Jenner is well suited as the Emperor; Miss Amy Bellwood is graceful and charming as the Princess Badroulbadour; Mr. Arthur Mordant gives an admirable impersonation of Abanazar; and Mr. Fred Hutchings is very effective as the Vizier, a member of the Borough Council; Messrs. Haverley and Homer are entertaining as the Chinese policemen, Slip and Slop; and Dan Thomas is very droll and humorous as Widow Twankey; able support is given by Miss Cissie Ford (Catchee), Miss Emmie Ford (Pekoe), Miss Marie J. Lewis (Genie of the Ring), and Miss Minnie Saunders (Slave of the Lamp). A word of praise is due to the Four Dandies for their excellent dances. In addition to the pantomime the programme includes a variety entertainment; Rell and Butt, eccentric comedians and dancers, are highly amusing; the Katos' Komical Kidgets, with their automatic theatre, afford much fun; Harry Walker, the talking comedian, is a great success; the Sisters Selwyn (Ruth and Lil) are excellent duettists and dancers; Victor Courtney is a capital comedian; Mollie Doon is a dainty comedienne; Gladys Williams, comedienne, is well received; and the Alhambrascope pictures are amusing.

BRISTOL.—PALACE THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. V. Welchman.—Herbert Darnley's Comedians head the bill here with the physical culture skit, entitled *Muscles*. The sketch, which is amusing, is played by about eight persons. Cissie Curlette, mimic, vocalist, etc., does an excellent turn; Tom Davis and company have a comical interlude, *Ferguson's Dog*; Miss Cordite, assisted by Wild Buffalo, obtains applause for her Mexican rope-spinning, etc.; Carl Howard amuses with a comic exposure of conjuror's tricks; Laurence Barclay, comedian, obtains applause; Mayon and Marie score with their comedy sketch *Elizabeth and the Baby*; Zaid Foy is a pleasing character comedienne. Socred concerts were given here on Christmas afternoon and evening.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Percy Henri and company head the bill here with a musical fantasy, entitled *Concordia*, which is well received; Griffin and Dubois are exceptionally clever acrobatic eccentrics; Peggy Pride is a comedienne who is always appreciated in Bristol; Pueblo and Cropp score with a coon and dancing act; Mack Olive (assisted by Daisy Baldry) obtains applause for his whistling, &c.; Letine is decidedly clever as a female impersonator; McDonald and Huntington please with a singing, mimicry, and dancing act; Hardie Palm, comedian, obtains considerable applause; and Bert Williams is a smart ventriloquist.

COLSTON HALL.—The "Charles W." Poole's Myriorama is here for a short season. The dioramic panorama is augmented with up-to-date animated pictures and an exceptionally strong variety company.

BROMLEY.—LYRIC THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Purcell; Assistant-Manager, Mr. David Watson.—For his first pantomime in Bromley Mr. Purcell has engaged Miss Rose Moncrieff's company in *Jack and the Beanstalk*, which is an unqualified success. The artists work well together, and the performance goes with a swing from start to finish. Miss Moncrieff as Jack is a great success, and is a favourite with the audience, who take up her songs with vigour, while encores are demanded for her nimble dancing. A charming and fascinating Princess is presented by Miss Grace Rosaine; her songs are received with enthusiasm, especially noticeable being "Sahara," and a duet with Miss Moncrieff, "I want no other girl but you." The fun of the pantomime is in the capable hands of Mr. Chris Baker as the Baron and the Two Dewars as the Baron's Heralds, Fanfare and Blowhard, and is fast and furious whenever they are on the stage. Mr. Harry Burton makes an acceptable Dame. The demon Discord has a good representative in Mr. Harry Willats, who makes the most of his opportunities, and with the assistance of the Fairy Queen, artistically played by Miss Marie Badrain, sweetly renders "All he wants is a girl." The remainder of the company deserve congratulation for their work, but a word of praise must be extended to Miss Maud Annesley and Miss May Alexander for a well-executed dance. The pantomime was excellently mounted, and deserves success.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—On Saturday, the 22nd inst., Baron H. Harriss (by arrangement with Mr. George Musgrove) commenced a twelve days' visit here with his No. 1 Company in the musical comedy, *The Prince of Pilsen*, which is proving an excellent holiday attraction. Mr. Harry Kilburn's performance of Hans Wagner is full of laughter-provoking business; Mr. Frank Crimp, with a fine voice and presence, is seen to advantage as Carl Otto; Miss Sophie Harriss plays the part of the New York widow, Mrs. Madison Crocker, with the requisite abandon and vivacity, and her singing is much appreciated; the dude, Arthur de Willoughby Rossmore, is a clever piece of work by Mr. Bernard Russell; Miss Connie Leon as the French maid, Sidonie, and Mr. Ernest Gifford as François do some very sprightly dancing and singing; Lieutenant Tom Wagner is smartly portrayed by Mr. Roy Sydney; Miss Ada Watson as Edith Adams also sings well; Miss Maude Scott cleverly plays Jimmie; a charming Nellie Wagner is presented by Miss Alice Nixon; Mr. Maddison Rich (as Cooks' Courier) and Mr. G. W. Hulme (as Sergeant Bric) also do well.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—*The Earl and the Girl*, played by Mr. William Greet's able company, is the fare here this week. To Mr. Alfred Donohoe as Jim Cleese falls the task of keeping the audience merry. A clever actor is Mr. Thos. Kennard in the rôle of Dick Wargrave; and Miss Gertrude Simpson as Elphin Haye contributes largely to the general enjoyment. Mr. Leslie Owen has a very good voice, which he shows to advantage as the Hon. Crewe Boodle; Miss Lena Hicks makes a very droll Liza; Miss Kathleen Garrard a good Mrs. Shimmering Black; and Miss Ida Strathern an excellent Daisy Fallowfield.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A most reasonable bill is being presented here this week. A novel and pretty turn is that of the Onetti Sisters on the trapeze; Haley's Juveniles are a smart turn, the songs and dances being very acceptable; Cleland, juggler, creates much fun; and the Two Cellos provide a very good turn. Johnson and Pelham, on the punch-ball, are clever; Edith St. Clair sings acceptable songs; the Dancing Gilberts are good; and the new Empire Theatroscope reels off some fine pictures.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. H. Dudley Bennett; Manager, Mr. John Waller.—The management have been able to secure some clever turns for the holidays. Miss Dorothy Dundas, the possessor of a sweet voice, meets with a good reception; the Two Eltons are responsible for fun in their horizontal-bar show; Miss Rita Bell is pleasing as the Little Hollander, her dancing being a feature; the Whitworth Cycling Girls, in a novel entertainment, do well; Devereux's Dogs meet with unstinted applause; Mr. Bert Weston is a good comedian; and the Seven Wulfrunas give a wonderful acrobatic specialty; the Raymond Bio-Tableaux is also in evidence.

TOWN HALL.—Messrs. Payne, Seddons, and George Robertson's company is appearing here in the ever-popular *Charley's Aunt*.

BURY (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Walter Collingwood's comic pantomime, *Blue Beard*, was produced here on Saturday, and will be presented during this week and next. Mr. C. Lockridge is capital as Blue Beard; his singing is much appreciated. Miss Millie Warde is charming as Fatima; Miss Marie Lister is a fine dashing Selim; Mr. Fred Warwick as Shackabac; and Mr. Dan Biglow as Shakaleg, the Baron's men, are highly humorous, and are well supported by Mr. Fred E. Lyndo as Ibrahim, Mr. Harry Tilbury as Sister Anne, and Messrs. Wheeler and Wilson as the donkey and his keeper. Specialities by Messrs. Wheeler and Wilson, acrobats; the Sisters Wingrove, duettists and dancers; and the Sidonias, are all very much enjoyed. The ballet and chorus are well trained, and the piece ought to have a successful run.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mlle. Ameda, novelty entertainer, performs some really clever feats of balancing; Frank Hartley is well deserving of the title of the "juvenile Cinquevalli"; Willie Hale and his assistant are capital hoop trundlers; Wild, Willie, and West, are good in a sketch; Blanche and Powell are a charming turn; Phil Herman, the actor-vocalist, sings new songs; Isa Hamilton, the Scotch contralto, sings well; a capital sketch, entitled, *The Peacemaker*, played by Miss Marian Mathey, Mr. Alfred Wellesley, and Mr. W. T. Ellwanger, completes the programme.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Sons; General-Manager, Mr. Broadhead, jun.—A fairly good programme is provided here, including two sketches. *The Galley Slave* is pathetic, and is well played by Howell, Webb, and company; and *Another Man's Wife*, acted by Hilda and Leigh, is very amusing; Cross and Cress introduce their wonderful dog Vet; the Royal Naval Quintette give a pleasing operatic scena, *Ashore in Venice*; Little Tim, comedian; Shawlene, whistler; Bert Kemble, humorist; Polo and Florence, in a speciality act; and the Allens, duettists, also contribute.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Eade Montefiore.—*The Duchess of Dantzic*, presented by Mr. Edward Marris, is an enormous attraction here, the house being packed on Boxing Night. Mr. Frank Bradley displays fine acting as Napoleon, and an excellent exponent of François Lefebvre is found in Mr. Mansell Fane. The Vicomte de Bethune of Mr. Cecil Parke is praiseworthy, and Mr. Dan Roe as Papillon causes much merriment. Miss Blanche Lynd's delineation of Sans-Gêne is a triumph of acting, which combines the purest comedy with a note of tragedy; Miss Lily Hildroe is well-suited as Renee, the same remark applying to Miss Lillie Drake as the Empress Josephine; Miss Florence Smith and Miss Sophie Allbutt are sufficiently arrogant as the Emperor's sisters; and Miss Norah Melton is a sprightly Lisette.

ATHENÆUM HALL.—Manager, Mr. E. Arnold Crack.—*The Blue Moon*, played by Mr. Morillot's company, was the attraction here on Boxing Night.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Hall Caine's play *The Christian* was the attraction here for the holidays. Mr. Wentworth Croke's company was responsible for the production with Miss Grace Chalmers as Glory Quayle. Thanks to her fine interpretation of the part this was the feature of the performance, though Mr. Frank Tennant as John Storm ran her very close, he giving a very praiseworthy rendering of a difficult part. Parson Quayle was also well played by Mr. Charles Hill, the remainder of the cast being completed by Miss Mary Weir, Miss Vashti Wellborn, Mr. Frederick Scarth, Mr. W. Briscoe Owen, and Mr. Edwin Ling.

GUILDHALL.—Messrs. Kloof and Fuld's Co., in the pantomime *Aladdin* opened here on Wednesday. Aladdin is well played by Miss Florence Lewis, while Widow Twankey (Billy Kloof), the Emperor (Harry Gold), Grand Vizier (Bert Lizoni), and Abanazar (F. C. Fields) are all satisfactory.

CARDIFF.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—Mr. Redford reopened the Theatre Royal on Monday night, the piece presented being *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. Mr. Philip Darien gained much appreciation for his strong rendering of Jack Merriman; Mr. Leyton Cancellor did extremely well as Hubert Gold; and as Antonio Luchesi Mr. Charles Barrett was most suitably placed. The title-rôle was acted by Miss Beatrice Homer in a manner which left nothing to be desired; Miss Violet Macare as Morita deserves praise; Miss Nellie Jackson could scarcely be excelled in the part of Aggie Brown; and Mr. Tubby Edlin, as Herrick, is most successful.

NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Robert Redford.—On Boxing Day Mr. Redford, in conjunction with Mr. Milton Bode, produced the first pantomime presented in this theatre entitled *Red Riding Hood*.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James.—A great holiday attraction here was Messrs. Knight and Denham's company in *The Grip of Iron*. The cast includes the brilliant impersonator of Jagon, Mr. Fred Powell, whose performance is the mainstay of the play; Mr. George Denham, as the Smiler, is as amusing as ever; Miss Maggie Stuart proves a capable actress in the part of Marie Guerin; and Miss Muriel Inglis is a most acceptable Sophie Blanchard.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—A delightful pantomime sketch, entitled *Bo-Peep*, occupies a large part of this week's programme, produced and invented by Mr. Dean Tribune. A couple of smart and witty artists are Wilson and Waring, whose performance is particularly breezy; a marvellous display of trick cycling is that of the great Alexander, who receives much applause; Carl and Mary Ohm present an interesting troop of trained animals with great success; and the Northern Troupe of International Dancers provide a capital entertainment. Winnie Derson, a charming comedienne; the Three Guitanos, eccentric acrobats; and Harry Anderson, character vocalist, complete the performance.

CARLISLE.—THE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palace Theatre, Carlisle, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—By way of novelty the management have secured Messrs. Holland and Wood's pantomime *Aladdin* for the Christmas attraction. In the title-rôle Miss Francis Hassoll acquits herself admirably, and Miss Florence Wood makes an excellent Princess; Nash and Noel as the comic policemen create much laughter; Mr. George Reeves is quaint as Widow Twankey; and Mr. Percy Currie is well placed as Abanazar. Specialities are introduced by Kendrick and Laura and the Three Trees.

H. M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thomas Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thomas Courtice.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company in *The White Chrysanthemum* opened here on Monday to a packed house. Miss Muriel George, as Sybil Cunningham, was simply perfection; Miss Dorothy Sephton appeared to advantage as Betty Kenyon; and Miss W. Harbeer was well placed as Cornelia Vanderdecken. Messrs. H. Langdon Bruce and H. C. Garden were painstaking as Reginald Armitage and Chippendale Belmont respectively; Mr. Shirley Lea made an excellent Sir Horatio Armitage; Mr. Richard Telford was eminently successful as Sin Chong; and Mr. Jamie Dallas was all that could be desired as Private Perks.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman.—This week Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company in *At Cripple Creek* are on a first visit here. As Joe Mayfield Mr. Stanley Bedwell does the character ample justice; Mr. Eric Hudson's exposition of Martin Mason is admirable; Mr. Oscar Power's Manuel Alvarez is a well-considered study; Mr. Arthur D. Leyland proves himself an able actor as Wakketah; Miss Agnes Verity shows ability as Dynamite Ann; Miss Lily Beagle both looks and acts well as Maggie Mason; as Little Tatto Miss Rosie Hopkins gives a pretty performance; and an excellent portrait of Maggie Mason is submitted by Miss Daisy Carlton.

CHATHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard; Secretary, Mr. Geo. G. Ridley.—A capital audience assembled here at Boxing Day matinée to witness the first local production of *The Spring Chicken* by Mr. George Dance's company. Of the ladies, first mention must be made of Miss Chrissie Ralland, who is quite a success as Rosalie; Miss Nellie Kavanagh comes a good second as Mrs. Girdle, her number, "Regent Street," being encored. Miss Clarice Cartner makes a pleasing Baroness Papouche; and Miss Florence Lee is an agreeable Dulcie. Mr. J. S. Durant works hard, and makes quite a hit as Gustave Babori; Mr. Fred Payne is responsible for much amusement as Mr. Girdle; Mr. Harry Averill makes a popular Boniface; Miss Lilian Erroll and Mr. C. Brierley are well suited as the young Girdles; and Mr. Edwin Dodds, in addition to stage-managing, makes the utmost fun out of the part of Felix, the head waiter at the Crimson Butterfly.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Chatham's favourite sketch combination, toured by Leonard Mortimer, tops the bill here with *Dandy Dacre*, the variety turns supporting being Fred Errick, comedian; Lady Fauntleroy, in ventriloquial act; the Two Errolls, in comedy and leaping act; Mary Glenn, Scotch vocalist; Macintosh and Royal, vocalists and clog dancers; and Clark and Glenney, in their well-known act, *The Haunted House*; while Mr. Lacey continues to find fresh pictures for his Erascope.

THE GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. Frank E. Donne.—Joe Peterman's company is paying a return visit with *The Belle of the Orient*. Other items are supplied by Ted Cowan, comedian; Queenie May, the Juvenile Prize-packet; Marie Terry and J. S. Bentley, comedy artists; Kit Keen, coloured comedian; Stacey and Williams, comedians and dancers; and Clark and Glenney, in their well-known graph.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hemingway.—*The Tyrant*, a new drama, is being played here this week by Miss Marie Dagmar and company, and is proving a great attraction. As Tisbe Miss Marie Dagmar gives an exceptionally fine performance; Mr. Fred C. Somerfield (part author) undertakes Homodei, the result being a powerfully artistic rendering; Mr. Roy Fortescue capitally sustains Angelo, the Tyrant; Mr. Lionel Atwill very successfully acquits himself as Rudolph; Miss Theresa Osborne appears as Lady Katherine most advantageously, while in the comedy characters Miss Lizzie Chambers as Reginella, Mr. Sydney Lynn (Victor), and Mr. Wilton Drury (Noble) do excellent work; Mr. Chas. E. Warne is the courteous acting-manager for Miss Dagmar.

CLACTON-ON-SEA.—OPERETTA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Macdona.—On Dec. 26 Mr. Norman Brunel Norman opened for four nights with the "Sharlotte Entertainments." Miss Freda Sharlotte, a remarkably clever actress, gave some excellent recitations, and with Mr. Stuart Willson, a clever actor, was seen to great advantage in some well-known scenes from Shakespeare. These two gave *Ella's Apology* by Sutro, and both acted with force and power. Mr. Reginald North, an able character actor, gave some good sketches, both grave and gay, and Miss Isabelle Brunel sang well.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—For a second week Mr. Ernest Stevens presents his pantomime, *Cinderella*. The piece runs with a smoothness that is remarkable, and this is largely due to the principals, who keep the fun going without any apparent exertion. Miss Madge Daly takes first honours as principal boy; a fascinating little lady is Miss Lily Eyton, who takes the title-rôle; Hercules Baron is excellently represented by Mr. Freddie French; Tiny, the Baron's wife, is capitally acted by Mr. Ted Young; and Mr. Harry Ray as Capers keeps the audience in a constant roar of laughter.

COLCHESTER.—HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot and Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Ben de Frece.—D'Arc's Marionettes top the holiday bill, and are a capital attraction to old and young alike; Mr. and Mrs. Leonard in a duologue, entitled *Coming Home* are highly diverting, and consequently well received; Primadesi scores heavily with his jugglery, his tricks being both clever and novel; the Lorrisons pay a welcome return visit, whilst Mark Leslie, with his really smart dancing, is most successful as a swell coon; Vi Raynor dances in quite a taking style; and G. W. Foster does well in song and patter.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. C. Upton.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company appeared in Mr. Sutro's play, *The Walls of Jericho*, on Boxing night, and, considering the almost impassable state of the snow-clad streets, the house was a good one; Mr. A. E. Anson as Jack Frobisher, and Miss Gladys Mason as Lady Alethea played their parts in a painstaking manner, which compelled the admiration of the audience, whilst the rôle of Hankey Bannister was capitally fitted by Mr. G. A. Bandram; the somewhat flippant Lady Lucy was naively portrayed by Miss Nona Wynne, and caused great laughter; Mr. Cyril Baleine delineated the exacting part of Lord Steventon in good style, whilst Mr. A. W. Tyrer did well as Harry Dallas; Miss Marguerite Cellier was most impressive as Lady Westerby.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Walter Maxwell's company opened a two weeks' engagement here on Boxing Day, when *Little Mary* was played. Miss Christine Silver as Moira Loney acted with much grace and charm; the part of Eleanor Gray was well played by Miss Maud Townsend; Miss Margaret Nybloe as Lady Milly and Miss Elspeth Dudgeon as Countess of Plumleigh were both good in their respective parts. As the Earl of Carlton, Mr. Rupert Lister was capital; Mr. Lewis Edgard took the part of Lord Rolfe; Mr. Douglas West was Terence Reilly; Mr. Leslie Carter Sir Jennings Pyke, and Mr. Walter Maxwell scored a distinct success as Dr. Topping; Mr. Herbert Chown as Earl Plumleigh presented a very careful study; and Mr. Dan Dyer was good as Mr. Deighton. The performance concluded with the farce *A Kiss in the Dark*. *Merely Mary Ann* is also billed for this week.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Henry Kemble.—The Elster Grime Opera Company opened here on Monday night with *Maritana*. As Don Cæsar de Bazan, Mr. Payne Clarke in the first house and Mr. A. Boyer in the second both sang in a capable manner; Mr. Frank Land as Don José scored a success; the part of Maritana was ably filled by Miss Marie Elster, and in the second house Miss Elsie Lynham played the rôle with success. Mr. Gilbert King was the King, and sang splendidly; Mr. J. Wheatley as the Captain was pleasing; Miss M. Quilliam was Lazarillo in the first house, and Miss Olive Weston in the second. Mr. C. Cook represented the part of Alcade; the marquis was acted by Mr. Tom Partridge; and the Marchioness was taken by Miss C. Russell and by Miss K. McCabe in the second house.

COVENTRY.—THE EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance.—Some clever artists are engaged here, one of the chief itms being the Abdullah Arabs, who are well received in their extraordinary performance; Howard and Harris obtain a hearty reception; Dome is an exceptionally clever clay modeller; Montague Bros. as artistic and classical athletes gain marked applause; Nellie Coleman is a comedienne who is much liked; George Young, a blind concertina soloist, is applauded; Dan Conroy is a smart comedian; the Six Primrose Girls are delightful vocalists and dancers; the Bioscope pictures are excellent.

THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Wm. Bennett.—A good holiday crowd gathered on Christmas Eve to welcome *The Little Stranger*, produced by Mr. Charles Stewart. The company includes the boy actor, Master Edward Garratt, who is quite deserving of the success he has gained; Mr. Charles Stewart is seen to advantage as Captain Dick Allenby; Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton is successful as the Hon. Alec. Howard; Mr. Athol Force (General Allenby), Mr. Hubert Bruce (Sir Geo. Peacock), Mr. George E. Bellamy (Paul Vronsky), Mr. Gus Wheatman (the Butler), Miss Mary Alestre (Mrs. Dick Allenby), Miss Daisy Atherton (Effie Peacock), Miss Mary Stuart (Mrs. Allenby), and Miss Alice C. Greene (Lady Peacock), Miss Ada Marris (the Nurse) all do well. The principal piece is preceded each evening by a one-act comedy entitled *The Second Mrs. Grundy*.

THE HIPPODROME.—Manager, T. M. Sylvester.—It was intended to open the new permanent Hippodrome on Monday, the 24th inst., but the new building was hardly ready, and the event is therefore postponed until Monday next. However, large holiday crowds are gathering this week enjoying a good programme. Bob Hutt's No. 1 company is appearing in an absurdity, *Welcome Home*, which is much enjoyed; the Bogetti troupe of head acrobats are paying a welcome visit, and are greatly appreciated; Morny Cash, comedian, is accorded a hearty welcome; Lily Pinder is a charming Irish-American comedienne; Keen and Correne are clever American specialty artists; Fred Terry (comedian), Staley and Johnstone (comedy specialty artists), and Bob Pearson (humorist) are all capable contributors. The animated pictures are also shown.

CREWE.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Taylor, J.P.—Mr. Chas. H. Phelps and Harry Tilbury's company is presenting *The Blind Foundling* for Christmas week. Mr. Chas. H. Phelps gives a strong dramatic rendering of Gerald Dalton; Mr. Alfred G. Fry is highly successful as Mark Redman; Mr. Lawrence Brien proves a capable exponent of Parson Ray; Mr. Bernard Webb makes the most of Jasper Waterford; Miss Belle Tilbury gives an able impersonation of Isabel; Miss Mabel Hall is clever as the Blind Foundling; and good fun is provided by Mr. G. A. Earle as Dick Dobbins; and Miss Kittie McPherson as Winnie Dobbins.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Lambert.—Good business is attending *The Beauty of Bath*, which is here for this and next week. Mr. George Dance has brought a company which has been admirably selected, and its reception before crowded houses on Boxing Day was most hearty. A better operatic chorus it would be hard to find, the ladies being richly dressed, and having a fascinating way. The scenery is appropriate and bright, and the augmented orchestra is creditably handled by Mr. Gordon Stamford. Mr. Leslie Holland's impersonation of Lieutenant Richard Alington, R.N., tickles the fancy of the audience immensely, and he bears the burden of the piece humorously; Miss Gladys Guy has a voice of entrancing sweetness, and she sustains the rôle of the Hon. Betty Silverthorne in a particularly bewitching and agreeable manner; Mr. Frederick Leicester is praiseworthy in the rôle of Viscount Bellingham; Mr. Alex Chantrems is commendable as Lord Quorn; Mr. Sheriff Clunes is good as Mr. Beverley; Mr. Jack Crichton is amusing as Sir Timothy Bun; Mr. Peter Grata is adequate as Lemon Goodge; and Mr. F. W. Pedgrift renders sterling service, and hits off to a nicety the character of the Earl of Orpington. Miss Edith Cruikshanks is rightly placed as Mrs. Allington; Miss Maggie White skilfully enacts the part of the Hon. Dorothy Quorn; Miss Jessie Fraser is delightful as Truly St. Cyr; Miss Florence Hylton is delicious as Lady Bun; Miss Ida Laurie is droll as Mrs. Goodge; and the remaining parts are well looked after.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Samuel James; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Herrick.—The pantomime *Babes in the Wood* is noticed in another column.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr Walter Gibbons; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—A gigantic holiday bill is drawing full houses here. Charles Raymond's living study in sculpture—*Clito*—is enjoyed; Fyne and Hurley are capital in *The Coster and the Dude*; W. H. Webb and Edna Branston are talented operatic duettists; Lowther and Hodgson win applause in their episode *Barmaids*; Harry Bancroft is an effective vocalist; Violet Carlyle is a charming burlesque actress; Allis and Casatti are a humorous pair; and Harry Tate's company are first-rate in the sketch *Fishing*.

DARWEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Robinson.—This week Mr. Junius Booth and his company are appearing here in *Monte Cristo*. As Edmond Dantes Mr. Booth is seen to great advantage; Mr. Walter Huron as M. Villefort, Mr. Augustin Bowerman as Baron Danglars, and Mr. Leonard Marshall as Lieut. Albt. de Morcerf are all exceedingly good; whilst Mr. Walter Martin as Abbé Faria, Mr. E. H. Templeton as M. Noirtier, Mr. J. W. Braithwaite as Caderousse, and Mr. C. W. Crowe as General Mondego all do well. As Mercedes Miss Clare Elstob achieves a great success; Miss Alice West gives a good rendering of the part of Sophia Danglars; and as La Carconte Miss Emma Robberds is excellent.

DERBY.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—An excellent holiday programme is submitted here this week. The star turn is provided by Clown Barker and Miss Rozsika, who win great applause for their comedy animal act, which is of a distinctly superior order; the Four Sherrys, original acrobats, perform several difficult feats in a praiseworthy manner; Eva Hope and Co., in *Scenes from Dickens*, including Jack Wayho as Bill Sikes, contribute a turn which is deserving of special mention; a talented musical act is submitted by the Sisters Transfield; and Marie Weston, vocalist and dancer, is well received. Henry Carlton and Co. cause much merriment in a comedy sketch, *The Window Cleaner*; Will Daniels, comedian, soon becomes a warm favourite; and the Bioscope concludes with that capital film, "The Night before Christmas."

DONCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*The Assassin* was the special Christmas attraction, and proved a great draw. Mr. Augustine Knight, the well-known Le Loup, of *The Face at the Window*, was at his best as Prince Demetri, and revived pleasant associations; Mr. Edward E. Ashby was clever in his presentation of Ivan Ipanoff, a young soldier; and Mr. Theo Balfour creates a good impression as Duke Karl. As Captain O'Neil, one of Ireland's best, Mr. Edwin Jenner shows delightful loyalty; Miss Frances Waring is effective in her adaptation of Nita, the Prince's victim; Miss Edith Woodward is especially engaging as Olga Stadt; Miss Ada Douglas's interpretation as Nadine Farina, the assassin's sister, is a fine conception; and the title-rôle is a marvel of daintiness and superb acting carried out with amazing skill by Miss Ella Vane.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. M. Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—The pantomime of *Sinbad the Sailor* is being played here this week.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The Moody-Manners Opera company is appearing here. At the Boxing Day matinée *Cinderella* was played, and the *Lily of Killarney* in the evening.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Whitbread; Acting-Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson.—Mr. J. W. Whitbread's new play, *The French Hussar*, is the attraction here.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—There was a packed enthusiastic audience on Monday night to welcome the new-comers, headed by Wal Pink's company of comedians, in the amusing act, entitled *Repairs*, which was received with great applause. Another notable contribution to the programme was a smart sketch, entitled *The Order of the Bath*, presented by Miss Lilieth Leyton and Mr. John Spurling. Mr. Denis Drew in a stirring soldier song was successful, and George Adams, baritone vocalist, sang most effectively. Edwards and Espinosa, versatile artists, were heartily cheered, and Bernardo was an amusing comedy juggler. Pat Carey, Irish comedian, proved as popular as ever, and Leverto, the dancing masterpiece, was well received. The Empire pictures were, as usual, interesting.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—A capital holiday programme is provided here this week. The Mannon Troupe, in their pantomime sketch, *Uncle Yank*, cause continuous laughter from start to finish. Theo Bouwmeester, protean actor, in *Who Is Guilty?* proves himself an artist of exceptional ability, and the Goldings contribute a skilful and smart carpet spinning act. Lord, Murray, and Lord, in a gymnastic mélange, entitled *The Intruder*, are highly amusing, and Nada Moret, dramatic vocalist and ranconteuse, merits applause. The Brothers Lawrence excel as comedians and dancers, and Dan Ashton, vocal comedian, sings his songs in good style. The Carls, in *Fun in a Café*, are well received, and D. Cornell, comedian, and the Bioscope, showing some new films, complete the bill.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA.—The Irish Animated Photo Co. is paying a return visit here, and is well appreciated by large audiences daily. The programme is both instructive and amusing, and is interspersed with several vocal items, humorous and sentimental.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—Fanning's Excelsior Marionettes, in the pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, is the attraction here, and drawing full houses daily.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Christmas fare is supplied here under the ever-popular title of *Dick Whittington*. Mlle. Lucretia is an ideal Dick, with charming figure and good voice, and she is a clever top-boot dancer; the Cat of Mons. Pauletti is one she may well be proud of; Mr. Tom Lewis shines conspicuously as the Demon Rat; Mr. Will Sandes supplies some smart foolery as Idle Jack; and Mr. Clarence Turner is sufficiently breezy as Captain Bunting; Little Hatch, described as the 3ft. 10in. wonder, displays much skill in the long boots; Alice Fitzwarren is daintily portrayed by Miss Helena Barton; Miss May Vincent scores as the Viscount Piccadilly; and the Sisters Dunville act and sing remarkably well together as Algy and Pollie. Specialities are supplied by Victor's Musical Dogs, the Palais Royal Quartette of dancers, Pauletti (the Cat), in a marvellous bicycle act, all of which are well received. The pantomime is well mounted and dressed, and goes with a swing.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—The D'Oyley Carte Opera Co. on Monday began their second and concluding week's visit, the opera presented being *The Gondoliers*. Miss Theresa Rassam has now happily recovered from her illness, and played the part of the Duchess in her own delightful way. Owing to Miss Hope Hastings being indisposed, Miss Edith Gledhill appeared for the first time as Gianetta, and did remarkably well. Miss Lulu Evans made a vivacious Tessa, singing delightfully; Miss Mabel Graham was charming as Casilda; Mr. Charles R. Walenn was excellent as the Duke of Plaza-Toro, and Mr. Billington as Don Alhambra was at his best. Mr. Stafford Moss as Marco and Mr. Albert Kavanagh as Guiseppe sang and acted vigorously. Mr. Leicester Tunks as Luiz was excellent.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Manager, Mr. E. J. Dexter.—An attractive programme is presented here this week, the topliners being James Willard and Co., who are responsible for a capital sketch, in which the grave and gay blend harmonously; Charles Collette and Joan Derry are successful in a couple of sketches; the Lannons are capable dancers, the male member being a very fine exponent with the clogs; Adelina, a facial impersonator, provides capital fare, as does also Jack Crawley, in a novel act, *The Regimental Concert*. Mabelle May, a dainty vocalist; the Sisters Tinsley, pleasing duettists and dancers; and Vernon's Bioscope complete.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—On Monday evening Mr. Williams produced his pantomime, *Mother Goose*, a detailed

power which characterise all her performances. The smaller parts were capitally filled, the choruses were excellently sung, and the dancing of Miss Vivian Talleur was exceedingly graceful and spirited. Mr. Harold Vicars, leader of the orchestra, had his forces well under control, and wielded his *bâton* with much effect. The opera is produced under the direction of Mr. J. A. E. Malone, who may be congratulated upon the great success of the piece.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—A programme of more than average merit is presented here this week. Wizard Stone and Irene Stone, in their marvellous feats on cycles, arouse the enthusiasm of their audiences; the Meymottes, in their musical farce, *Semi-Detached*, evoke the heartiest laughter; and Mr. Sam Elton adds to the hilarity by his clever fooling with plates and pies. Two Japanese illusionists, Morimura and Myako, perform several very clever and novel tricks; and Baker and Balfe are admirable xylophone players and neat dancers. The Brothers Hayes in their sketch, *The Porter and the Professional*, are distinctly funny, and introduce some good patter; Mr. Albert Christian's fine voice is heard to advantage in his songs, and he now spices his sketches with a touch of comedy; Miss Kate Cohen is a capital vocalist; while other admirable turns are given by Messrs. Cairns and Lynch, dancers; Mr. Tom Woottwell, comedian, and Mr. Charles Stevens.

COOKE'S CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke.—Mr. Cooke's holiday spectacle, *Ally Sloper's Water Carnival*, is a tremendous success, and the audiences are larger than ever at this popular place of entertainment. The water carnival furnishes abundance of fun and stirring episodes, while the scenes in the arena are full of variety. The Humels still delight with their graceful and daring equestrian turn; Les Uniques are extremely good in a wonderful series of feats on the double ladder; and the clowning of the large staff of jesters is clever and amusing.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Chairman and Managing-Director, Dr. E. J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—*Aladdin is* the pantomime for this year, and its first production at a matinée on Boxing Day augurs well for a successful run. The house was crowded, as it was again at the evening performance. The part of Aladdin was capably and artistically portrayed by Miss Rose Helene. Miss Lulu Lowden as the Princess Badroulbadour and Mme. Ebba Darcier as her maid of honour were both exceptionally good. Miss Blanche Browne, and her sister, Miss Daisy Browne, respectfully and successfully portray Pekoe and Electra. The comic element is well up-to-date, the Widow Twankey being personified by Mr. G. W. Avery, Abanazar by Mr. F. Fowler, and the Emperor by Mr. J. H. Booth. Mr. Chas. Ross as the Vizier, and Mr. H. Emeric as Wishee-Washee, the Chinese laundryman, are both smart and amusing. The dances, dresses, and music are fascinating features, and the scenery is exceedingly pretty. Mr. Chas. Le Grand personally conducts the orchestra with much ability, and the dances arranged by Miss Pauline Rivers add to the popularity of the pantomime.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—*Jack the Giant Killer* continues to attract good houses during the second week of its run. The pantomime goes with a much better swing than on the first night or two of its production. Some alterations have been made in the "patter" and book generally.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—This week Messrs. E. A'Dell and F. Chabot's company is appearing in *The Romany's Revenge*. Mr. Evelyn A'Dell gives an excellent portrayal of John Hope; and Mr. Fred Green makes a good Archibald Heath. David Renard is ably represented by Mr. Harry C. Robinson. Mr. Fred Rose as Bobbie Bloom and Miss M. Corri as Pollie Pluck supply some good humour and singing. Miss Kathleen Eckart takes the parts of Lillian Hope and Elspie the Gipsy, in both of which rôles she scores a success. Miss Ethel Ashleigh makes a good Zamet.

GATESHEAD.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting - Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—*Honour Thy Father* is being presented here by Mr. T. Morton Powell's company. Mr. Walter M. Cameron as Gabriel Garth is seen to great advantage, and Mr. Bertram H. Ross capably impersonates Jack Halyard. The despicable Duncan Bly has a clever exponent in Mr. W. R. Winning; the comedy element is well looked after by Messrs. W. H. Melrose (Ned) and Fred Rolls (Copplestone); Mr. Claude Merton fills the rôles of Job Merry and George Bloggs with considerable success; Miss Mabel Coleman's Lillian Garth is artistic; and Miss Muriel Dean makes a charming Mercy Merry. Miss Lizzie Morley is successful as Poppy Cornleigh; and Miss Kate Newton supplies a praiseworthy Gertrude Garth.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bolam and Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stephen Smith.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's talented company, in *The Love that Women Desire*, occupies the boards here. Mr. Jerrold Heather plays Philip Carnably in a manner which stamps him a sterling actor; Mr. J. O. Stewart delineates Squire Abingdon capitally; Mr. Alfred Brandon fills the part of Richard Abingdon with credit; Mr. Leonard Montgomery does well as Frank Hardy; laughter-makers are found in Messrs. John Hignett (Dennis) and J. W. Wilkinson (Sowerberry); Miss Lalla Stanhope as Sybil Thorburn achieves a success; Miss Cicely Desmond is an excellent Madge Abingdon; Miss Nita Imeson is seen to advantage as Pattie Swift; and Miss N. Griffiths shines refulgently as Mariquinha.

GLASGOW.—KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—A crowded house evinced the greatest interest in the fare provided for the holiday season, when Mr. George Edwardes' company opened on Monday evening a month's run of *See-See*, the new Chinese musical comedy. Mr. Frank Danby as the artful Hang-Kee provides most of the fun, and when later on he is joined by Mr. W. H. Rawlins as Cheoo, the hilarity is continuous. Both comedians work well for the success of the play, and when it is considered that the performance was practically a *première*, the play having come direct from London, their share is all the more meritorious; Miss Lily Elsie makes a dainty See-See, and acted and sang with much vivacity; Mr. Leonard Mackey is an ardent lover as Yen, and sang his various songs with excellent effect; Miss Amy Augarde in her original part of Mai-Yai, the fortune-teller, had an enthusiastic reception on her entrance, and amply justified it by her singing and acting in the part; Miss Alice Hatton is a pretty Lee, and in the humorous scenes with Mr. Frank Danby she ably shared the honours; Miss Topsy Sinden as So-Hie danced with wonderful grace and ability, and deserved the many encores she received; Miss Daisy Wallace as Humming Bird, Misses Sybil Grey, Octavia Barry, and Lilian Hewetson as Cheeo's wives, Mr. John Byon as Hoang-Wang, and Miss Adeline Lester as his spouse, all lend able assistance, and the chorus singing was above the average; Mr. Frank E. Tours conducted with much ability, and the new comedy was mounted in first-rate style.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—*Dick Whittington* has now got into splendid working order. The company is in each individual instance more than capable, and all the members play together with a quickness and liveliness that make a dull or dragging moment impossible. In the part of Idle Jack Mr. Will Evans acts with much energy. His merry little touches of side-play all tend to make the character highly diverting; Mr. Bransby Williams presents a skilful impersonation of Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. William Downes is responsible for great fun as Captain Jack, and in conjunction with Mr. E. J. Langford (Rupert Ruffles), introduces a variety of amusing business; in Mr. W. F. Frame's Elizabeth there is much to please, and Mr. Albert Felino makes a good cat; Miss Madoline Rees in the part of Dick Whittington has made herself a great favourite, her songs meeting with approval; Miss Lena Vere is a pleasing Alice Fitzwarren, and acts and sings in a finished manner; the Prince of Morocco has a good exponent in Miss Edna Morgan, and Miss Aimee Gray does good work as Fairy Bluebell; Miss Mena Brea shines conspicuously as Zoe, the "Zuyder Zee" song being most successful.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. George Dance's company in *The Catch of the Season* provides a strong attraction at this house for the Christmas and New Year holidays. The engagement ought to have commenced on Monday, but owing to the scenery and dresses going astray on the railway it was Tuesday before a start was made. The first performance, however, was none the worse for the unfortunate hitch, everything going exceedingly well from start to finish. In the part of the Duke of St. Jermyns Mr. Frank Lincoln acts with considerable dash and spirit, an effective contrast being seen in the languid airs of Mr. E. H. Kelly's Lord Dundreary; the gentlemanly parts of Lord Yatton, Higham Montague, Captain Rushpool, and Almerie Montpellier, are very well filled indeed by Messrs. Vivian Willis, Hugh Henson, Herbert Franklyn, and Frank Dillon; two able character studies are given by Mr. H. V. Surrey as Sir John Crystal, and Mr. Alfred Lloyd as Gibson; in Miss Moya Mannering the company possesses a young and charming exponent of the part of Angela; Miss Ida Mann gives an admirable portrayal of Lady Crystal, whose daughters Sophia and Honoria are handsomely represented by Miss Isobel Dickens and Miss Florence Lee respectively; Miss Emily Mellon makes an impressive Duchess of St. Jermyns; the Lady Caterham of Miss Belle Napier is a spirited creation; and quite a hit is made by Master Grata, who fills the role of the page, Bucket, in first-class style.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. D. Macfarlane.—Mr. Fred Karno's picturesque and amusing pantomime, *The House that Jack Built*, is now in its fourth week, and continues to attract large and appreciated audiences. This production has in addition to beautiful scenery and dresses several other attractive features that make for popularity, such as the stirring musical specialty of the 14th Black Hussars, the comic interludes of the Harmony Four, and the graceful flights of Kirby's Flying Ballet. Furthermore, the leading comedian, Mr. Fred Kitchen (Dame Trot), is a particular favourite in Glasgow, and has quite a following of his own; the principal boy, Miss May Mars, has likewise many admirers here, and her spirited acting and singing as Prince Veritas is sure to add to their number; Miss Luna Love is also proving popular in the rôle of Jack; the parts of the Princess and the Fairy Enchantress are attractively filled by the Sisters Hopkins; the company possesses two accomplished children in Little Maudie Francis (Tommy Tucker) and Wee Mona (Marjory Daw); Mr. Fred Whittaker's cat is an outstanding feature, and as Dame Trot's henpecked husband, Mr. Harry Lappo is very good, other well-filled parts being the Jill of Miss Frances Kapstowne, and the Squire of Mr. Helier le Maistre.

PRINCESS'S.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Hugh Murdoch.—*Mother Goose* is a pantomime which bids fair to lay golden eggs of artistic and financial excellence for the popular producer of holiday entertainment at this well-known house. The festive season began on Monday evening, and a crowded and delighted audience was there to enjoy the splendid fare Mr. Waldon provides. The entire performance is carried through with great spirit, and is compassed into fine time limits, even for distance going patrons.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—A very large and very enthusiastic audience gave a hearty send-off to Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's pantomimes, *Babes in the Wood*, on Saturday last. Lots of fun is provided in every scene, and this was just what the audience wanted. As a result laughter was continuous throughout the evening, and one and all of the principals were accorded the most hearty applause at the conclusion. The book is written by Mr. Joseph L. Barry, and he tells the story well, the action being divided over eleven scenes. Mr. T. D. Tandy as Sir Brokah de Pawn made a first-rate baron, full of quiet touches of humour, and fertile in resource; Mr. Harry Albery is an amusing Araminta, and made a success with "Waiting at the Church," while his dancing was extremely smart; Mr. Dawson Dewick as Soft Sammy was another favourite, and helped the fun along at a brisk rate with his clever business, in addition to which he combines the arduous duties of stage-manager; Miss Amy Allnutt is a brisk and lively Robin Hood, with plenty of animation and a taking style; Miss Belle Travers made an attractive Maid Marian, but was unfortunately hindered by a bad cold from giving full justice to her various songs; a merry second boy and girl were found in Miss Kathleen Emmett as Will Scarlet, and Miss Nellie Dyson as Mavis. Both scored well in song and dance; two extremely smart little girls played the babes, Miss Lilybelle and La Belle Sylvia being just suited to the parts, and catching the fancy of the audience with their respective songs and dances; Messrs. Grapho and Jackson were first-rate as the two ruffians, and in their own songs and business were specially happy; another good couple were Messrs. Farr and Farland as two pages, and they made a valuable addition to the list of funny men; Miss N. Prendergast as Fairy Sylvania, and Mr. Leonard Charles as Infernalito, the Demon King, represented the opposing forces of good and evil, and so ably helped the elucidation of the plot; the Lohrenz Troupe of dancers, and an able chorus and ballet, gave picturesque effect to many of the best scenes; Mr. Ernest Wolfe conducted the augmented orchestra with skill, and kept his forces well in hand.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. Mussett.—Fred Karno's company in *The Early Birds* is one of the special favourites of this house, and their appearance was greeted with a roar of welcome; Leo Stormont sang songs in fine style; Charles Pastor and Fred Frampton are clever comedians; the Lavails, trapeze artists; Sarnthaler Troupe; Dora Barington, comedienne; Marlow Dorran Trio; Kerr and Koe, comedians; Frank Darwin, vocalist; and the racing sketch, *100 to 1 Chance*, by the France and Stewart Combination, make up an attractive programme.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd., and Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—A first-class company is booked here this week, the item of special interest being the engagement of Strassberger's Lilliputian Sextette, who claim to be the smallest performers in the world; W. J. Ashcroft, the original "solid man," fairly captivated the audience, his singinig and dancing being as good as ever. Other items include: Gertrude Bradshaw, soprano; Romer, baritone vocalist; Charles Kay, comedian; Arthur Lloyd Trio, in comedy sketch; Chas. Prelle's Performing Dogs; Schwarz Bros., Continental parodists; Godfrey James, pit singer; and the Hippodrome Bioscope, with "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp."

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—The Pavilion continues to supply companies well above the average. This week the head of the bill is taken by Miss Bonnie Goodwin's Troupe, described as "The Virginians." This turn is well known to local audiences, and the singing and dancing are highly appreciated; another turn of a like character is the Kentucky Four, whose vocal abilities are excellent; the dancing of Topsy is also of a high standard; the musical eccentricities of Bromley and Fontein are exceptionally clever and amusing; Addie Dorina in her "quick change" sketch, entitled *How it was done*, is exceedingly smart, and receives well-merited applause; Diamond and Miss Beatrice provide an entertaining musical act; an unusually smart acrobatic performance is served up by the Athos Troupe; Charlie Williams, in his negro work, is also responsible for much amusement; James Dunn, who is a local tenor, is well received; while Spencer and Marks as specialty comedians are good.

COLISEUM. — Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Herbert Darnley's company in a new sketch, *The Freaks*, tops the bill here, and the turns include some clever artists. Another sketch, entitled *Smash and Dash* is given by Arnold Bell and Co.; Techow's Cats display a remarkable degree of intelligence; Roma and Romani appear in their clever musical act; Charles Coverdale sings several songs of his own composition with good effect; and Amy Russell, comedienne, completes a varied bill.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—An excellent holiday programme is submitted here this week. The principal attraction comprises a dramatic sketch, entitled *The Club Raid*, presented by the Collinson Combination. Another outstanding is that provided by the Smart Set, a company of vocal entertainers. Other members of the company include Bert Lytton, swell comique; Fred Keeton, comedian; Nelly Farrell, comedienne and dancer; Conway and Garland, burlesque artists; Dave McNeil, comedian; Anthony, comedy juggler; and the Biograph, with a select series of films.

GAIETY.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Howard.—On Monday the new proprietors re-opened the doors of this cosy hall, and Mr. Howard had the pleasure of welcoming a large audience, which augured well for the new venture. Miss Marie Collins is the star this week, and her catchy songs are very popular; Fred W. Millis, the well-known ventriloquist, renews acquaintance with Glasgow audiences, and receives the welcome of an old friend; Little Don is a quaint and eccentric little comedian, with a catchy style; the Smolleys, in a gymnastic pot-pourri, take well; Ivy Kildare's illustrated songs are well rendered and popular; Nellie Duval sings her songs with much expression; the Scottish Troubadours are a clever combination; and good turns are given by Kerr and Shaw, Ena Richards, and the Bioscope. Mr. Harry Bowerman resumes his duties as assistant-manager here, and Mr. W. Milne, formerly of the Britannia, conducts the orchestra.

HARMONIC CONCERTS.—Musical-Sec., Mr. Wm. Biggam.—J. B. Preston and Bessie Arthur were the stars here this week, and good turns were given by Cliff and Kean, Lindsay and Harte, Mitzi (the Japanese juggler), Mlle. Melita (international dancer), Dave Dunlop (ventriloquist); The Haunted *House*, a lively sketch, by the Stuart Trio, and songs by Esther Hood and James Preston complete an attractive programme.

GLOSSOP. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—This week Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Spenser's company, in *My Sweetheart*, is drawing capital houses. A number of local children, trained by Mrs Spenser, are a feature of the performance. Miss Lizzie Hall (Mrs. Sydney Spenser), as Lina, is a success, her singing and dancing being highly appreciated; Mr. E. Rawlinson as Tony Faust receives plaudits for his efforts; Mr. Sydney Spenser gives a careful reading of the part of Dr. Oliver; and Mr. Ed. Raymond is well placed as Joe Shotwell; Mr. Harold Finlayson as Harold Bartlett and Miss Gertrude Vickers as Mrs. Fleeter deserve praise; Mr. Neuton Turner as Farmer Hatzell and Miss Emily Helsey as Mrs. Hatzell are responsible for much humour; Mr. L. Jones as the dude receives a good share of applause.

GLOUCESTER. — THE PALACE.—The Dayton troupe of acrobats are topping a capital bill this week, and their efforts meet with approval. Frederica's clever toy terriers and Dot, the cake-walking pony, are well received; Dene and Dawson, in a comedy sketch, are extremely funny; Ryde and Beeman, acrobatic posturing eccentrics, are good; Mike Cray and dog add variety to the programme with some clever comedy juggling, as also do the Four Cecilians, instrumentalists and entertainers. Phinas and Aida, revolving equilibrists, contribute a novel turn, and the Nettas find favour with the audience by their excellent vocal efforts. Cora Niagda, Continental gymnast, gives a graceful and daring performance; the Bodey Brothers (also gymnasts) are accorded a good reception; and the Palace Bioscope is showing some good films, including the pantomime *Aladdin*.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—On Monday Mr. J. W. Nightingale and Mr. E. Graham Falcon produced *Aladdin*. The "book" is up to date, and good songs, merry dances, plenty of jokes, acrobatic and gymnastic turns, and knockabout business make up a capitally varied entertainment. In the title-rôle Miss Blanche Marion plays brightly and winsomely, and scores a big success; Miss Nina Moore as the Princess is admirable, and soon wins favour; the Slave of the Ring, Miss Edith Broad, sings and acts effectively; and Mr. L. Cadwaldr as the Geni of the Lamp uses a good tenor voice to the best advantage. Mr. Harry Kirk is exceedingly amusing; and the Widow Twankey of Mr. Claude Damper is a very comic and mirthful creation. Mr. Jack Waller causes plenty of laughter as Abanazar; Mr. Hyland Shea is quaint as the Vizier; Miss Beatrice Witham is a capital Pekoe; and Miss Evie Hamilton an attractive Alassin. The choruses are rendered with spirit, the scenery and dresses are bright, and the colour effects excellent.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert.—The Christmas spectacle, *A Fête in Tokio*, is full of light, beauty, and quaintness. Japanese idols with electrically-lighted eyes look down upon the scenes, and Princess Nayona and her brilliant train of followers, in rich Japanese costumes, are seated watching Kyoto, a wonderful contortionist, go through a marvellous show. Then the Santoi company of singers give a realistic representation of what a Japanese tea-garden is like at night. These are followed by the Lukushima troupe of acrobats, who are responsible for a fine display. In the first part of the programme the Boy Doodles supplies the fun; Almero provides a capital wire performance; Miss May Geraldine sings well; and Natalia and Diana, aerial gymnasts; and the Pasquali Bros., acrobats and equilibrists, give excellent turns. The special bioscopic picture, "The Rajah's Casket of Pearls," is loudly applauded.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Greenock Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's principal company opened a fortnight's engagement on Monday in *La Poupée*. Mr. Fred Seymour excels himself in his humorous delineation of Hilarius; Mr. Arthur Cozens as Lancelot gives a capital study of the part, and his vocalism is pleasing; Mr. Walter Balfour's fine voice is heard to advantage in the rôle of Father Maxime; and the parts of Loremois and Baron Chanterelle are ably represented by Messrs. Arthur Dennis and Fuller Allen. Miss Mysie Devine is a winsome Alesia, and sings throughout with charm. Miss Edith Hunter is particularly well suited as Mme. Hilarius, and Miss Doris Dickens is a pleasing Henri. Miss Dora Dickens and Miss Netta Cree personate the first and second dolls very cleverly. The chorus is strong and tuneful, and the augmented orchestra is ably conducted by Mr. H. H. Shaw.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. H. L. Skivington.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. Harry Cove, baritone vocalist, assisted by thirty local lads, presents an attractive military scena, entitled *The Young Recruit*. A big hit has been made by Terry and Lambert, American character duo; Shavo gives a creditable juggling performance; Cliff and Kean contribute an appreciative item with their songs and dances; Benson and Moss are established favourites, and give a smart show; Kerr and Kempton, vocalists, are also good; and the Empire pictures are entertaining.

PAVILION THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. A. White.—A good all-round programme includes the Seven Zerbinis in a magnificent spectacular scena entitled *The Enchanted Glen*; the introduction of some good instrumental music lends additional attractiveness to the turn. Miss Lottie Collins, comedienne, has proved a big draw; Collins and Rice are a smart comedy couple; Jolly Harry Nation, comedian, has had quite a flattering reception; Hettie Lee is much applauded for her charming singing and exquisite dancing; Irene Meldon, soubrette, gains approval for her efforts to please; and the Paviscope pictures are up-to-date.

HANLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Mr. Chas. Elphinstone presented his annual pantomime on Monday, and Mr. J. F. Elliston has a first class company for the performances of *Sleeping Beauty*.

GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Alfred Edwardes.—The Tankwai Troupe of Chinese magicians and jugglers head the bill; Edwin Barwick, as an actor-vocalist, is most successful; Otto Menotti scores admirably; the Revell Troupe, in their absurdity, *Mischief*, are excellent; Cissie Cross is an attractive comedienne and dancer; the Sisters Carina, in their musical mélange, are capital; Chas. Banks with his dog Woof, provides a most interesting turn; and the pictures as usual are good.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Fielding Smith.—Mr. John Tiller produced here his pantomime *Dick Whittington* on Christmas Eve. Miss Jessie Templeton makes a handsome Dick, and Miss Dorothy Gould appears as Alice; Mr. George Elliston plays the Dame; and Mr. Will Lytton is the best of comedians as Tolle Jack; Mr. Teddy Gibbs, as Sanny Saltpetre, and Mr. Barney Dixon, as Marlinspike, both work hard. The Tiller Quartette of Dancers were greatly admired, and their dancing appreciated by a large audience.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Everton and Cragg; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. C. Ferrier.—The Risley act of the Pichel Troupe is worked very smartly, and is considered by the audience the finest act of the kind that has been seen here. The Deva quartette of male voices are a decided draw; their delightfully harmonised selections are rapturously applauded. Barney Noble, the novel raconteur, is listed with old favourites, and the welcome he receives is most gratifying. George Martinengo, solo 'cellist and baritone, and Olive Veno, a remarkably clever clog dancer, are also old favourites. Capital male impersonations are given by Lillian Victoria; a rapturous encore is accorded Barton and Franklin, the Scottish princes of music, in a versatile act; the burlesque pictures on popular songs introduced by De Vere and Kenwick are decidedly amusing, as also is the patter; and the bioscope pictures are an attraction.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—This house reopened on Boxing Day with Mr. E. Lockwood's principal company on a return visit, in the tuneful musical comedy *Sergeant Brue*, which retains all its old attractiveness, and drew a crowded house.

PIER PAVILION. — Pier - Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The manager's twenty-eighth annual Christmas pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*, was produced here on Wednesday. It proves, as usual, to be a bright and entertaining production. The nursery legend has been turned to the best account, and Mr. J. D. Hunter and his talented staff met with a very appreciative reception.

HIPPODROME, THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman. — A good holiday programme is attracting large audiences. Miss Mabel Leroy is an attractive comedian and singer; a pathetic incident is introduced by King and Hoffman entitled *The Sleeping Car*; Miss Marie Jones is a remarkable quick-change artist; some novel and interesting films are shown by the Hippodrome Bioscope; Messrs. Clifton and Gibson highly amuse the audience as patterers and dancers; Mr. George Duval creates great amusement as a burlesque temperance lecturer; a clever entertainer and mimic is seen in Mr. Frank Wood; and an interesting and well-acted scene from *The Sorrows of Satan* is acted by Miss Ethel King and Mr. Horace Hoffman.

ST. LEONARDS PAVILION THEATRE.—Piermaster and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Lawrence Brough and a good all-round company are appearing here in the farcical comedy *The Lady of Ostend*. The piece is played with great spirit throughout. Mr. Henry Hampson is capital as Dick Whortles, whose father-in-law could hardly be in better hands than in those of Mr. Percy Marshall. Le Baron de Longueville is well represented by Mr. Lawrence Brough; a characteristic sketch of the prize-fighter is given by Mr. Tom Mowbray. The title-rôle is well interpreted by Miss Marian Ripley; Miss Bessie Harrison makes a spirited mother-in-law; and Miss Kate Milford quite realises the part of Whortles' wife.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. J. Andrews.—Mr. Milton Bode's principal company opened here on Monday afternoon with *The Belle of Mayfair*. The principal characters are in the thoroughly capable hands of Miss May Yates as Julia; Mr. Edward Hugounet as Raymond; Mr. Harry Parker delightfully quaint as Sir John Chaldicott; Mr. Gwyn Alywn debonair as Meredith; Miss Daisie Irving an unaffected Princess; Miss Aurelie de Loriere as Countess Mount-Highgate, and quite a success in her Gibson Girl impersonation; Miss Mabel Dent a smart maid Pincott; and Mr. Haddon Cave as Mount Highgate. Miss Emily Stevens played most naturally as Lady Chaldicott.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—A novel and attractive turn heads the bill in the form of Macdonald's melody-makers in their scena, *The Burglar's Dream*, introducing Daniel Llewelly, the Welsh baritone, and Hilton St. Just. Other turns are Herrotto's clever little troupe of dogs; Miss Effie White in her pretty kaleidoscopic dances; Arthur Goodman, eccentric; Fred Slippère, the clever blind pianist and vocalist; Miss Alice Maple, comedienne and dancer; Sterling and Cashan, dancers; Ben Hur, the fine athlete, in a striking series of tableaux illustrating the doom of Pompeii; also a change of picture on the Biograph.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Resident-Director, Mr. W. F. Morton.—On Boxing Day Mr. Morton, by arrangement with Mr. J. F. Elliston, presented his Christmas pantomime, which this year is entitled *Cinderella Sit-by-the-Fire*. The production consists of twelve scenes, many of them excellent examples of the scenic art. The musical items chosen are of the latest, and include "Au Revoir, My Little Hyacinth," and the extremely popular "Zuyder Zee" and "The Man from Manitoba." A grand aerial ballet adds to the attraction. In the first cursory glance one may single out Miss Mora Hersee (Cinderella), Miss Barbara Babington (Prince Florizel), Mr. Shaun Glenville (Baron). An innovation is the introduction of a lady, Miss Jennie Gregson, as the second sister, Mr. Herbert Wade playing the elder one. Mention should be made of Mlle. de Velin, singing fairy.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Mr. Hart is making a very bold bid with his Christmas pantomime, produced also on Boxing afternoon, under the personal supervision of the Brothers Renad. The subject chosen is *Puss in Boots*, and in the telling nothing is lost in grouping and scenic effects. The musical items have been also excellently chosen, and include "Zuyder Zee," "I Want no other Little Girl," "Sailing in a Balloon." The flying ballet is one of the attractions, and the Raymond Bio-tableaux Company introduce a novel feature into the production. One is bound to place on a high pedestal Miss Rita Everard, who gives us a pleasing, refined picture of what a principal boy should be in a children's pantomime. As leading girl Miss Winifred La Barte achieves a good position. Mr. Fred Lyne, the King, and Cribb and Cribb are the most noteworthy in the first view.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—Mr. Morton wisely is providing drama as his Christmas fare, and *A Warning to Women*, which Mr. C. Watson Hill

TO THEATRICAL MANAGERS, ARTISTES, & OTHERS.

LEVER BROTHERS LTD.,

of PORT SUNLIGHT,

SOAP MANUFACTURERS,

intimate that they have issued Writs for Libel against the "Daily Mail," "Daily Mirror," and "Evening News," and they hereby give notice that any statements or representations on the Stage defamatory of them or their Business will render the responsible persons liable to be proceeded against.

Port Sunlight, Dec. 15, 1906.

presented on Monday, has met with a very favourable reception. Despite a big matinée house on Boxing Day, money had to be refused at night.

HYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Crowded houses have testified their hearty appreciation of Mr. Fred Granville's production of *The Babes in the Wood* this week. The book, which is by Mr. Joseph L. Barry, is bright, bristling, and brimful of fun and diversity, the scenery is tasteful, the dresses gorgeous and appropriate, and the music is bright, tuneful, and catchy. As the principal boy, Robin Hood, Miss Beatrice Cousins throws plenty of dash into her work, and sings her numbers with telling effect; she has a charming consort in Miss Hettie Lind, who captivates all hearts by her naïveté in the portrayal of the rôle of Maid Marion; Miss Lind possesses a sweet voice, which is heard to advantage in several tuneful items. Miss May Cornish looks smart, and does good service as Little John; Miss Queenie West is a fascinating Merrie Mavis; and Miss Cissie Bodina looks bewitching as the fairy Sylvania, and warbles very tunefully. The Babes are intelligently played by Master Harry Boden and Edie Bell, who score with song and dance. The Kimberley Boys are a mirth-provoking couple of individuals, and the merriment is also ably contributed to by Mr. Norman Hall as the wicked Uncle, Mr. Joe English as the Eccentric Dame, Mr. Eric Strange as the Page, and Mr. Dan Mining as Friar Tuck. Mr. H. Val Morgan makes a capital Demon, and sings with musicianly feeling. The Classical Tableaux by the Three Graces are a great success; and included in the variety turns are the Clancy Girls, clever dancers and acrobats, and the Three Bodinas, in a musical act.

OHMY'S CIRCUS.—The large, commodious, and well-lighted building which was opened here on Monday has been extensively patronised this week. Mlle. Yvette, with her troupe of performing ponies, dogs, and monkeys, is a great success; the Sisters Ohmy are nightly applauded for their graceful equestrian feats; and Claude Ohmy's dashing performances on horseback are vociferously cheered; as also is Irvin Sanger's juggling act. The Roman Alberto troupe of lady and gentleman acrobats and gymnasts go through a clever performance, and the Zolas Trio are also good in a similar line. The Alpine Brothers score in their perch performance, and Mons. Irvin is a dexterous foot equilibrist. Heading a list of clowns are August and September, who create roars of laughter.

ILKESTON.—QUEEN'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. T. Knightall.—Yank Murphy gives a good show of Japanese and other styles of wrestling; Billy McKeever and Ada McGovern excel as ball punchers; J. Kavanagh, comedian, is an old favourite; and Hilda Rich, serio and dancer, R. Jones, character comedian, and Bessie Willow, comedienne, are deserving of commendation.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*Cinderella* has been produced here under the supervision of Mr. W. Pardoe. The story is depicted in nine scenes, the scenic artist, Mr. J. R. Horracks, deserving complimentary mention. Mr. J. A. Lowe writes and directs the music, which is bright and full of tune. Cinderella is impressively rendered by Miss Beatrice Shamrock; Miss Lottie Holland's Prince Charming has a good voice and appearance; Miss Nellie Rose wins many admirers as Princess Rosalla; and Miss Ada Stelling as Dandini makes the most of her opportunities. The Ugly Sisters Eva and Maud are cleverly represented by the Misses Violet Rivers and Suie Bright; Mr. Tom Griffitt as Father Time makes a special hit with his singing; the Brothers Hannaway are capital in the parts of Blobbs and Blabbs; Mr. Tom Hulme works assiduously as the Baron; and Mr. George Hyam causes no end of laughter as Scoot. The Pardoes are smart acrobats; the Brothers Hannaway are clever clog dancers; Miss Nellie Rose also dances with agility; Zenieth as Jacko, the monkey, scores; the Four Desmond Girls are to the front as coon dancers; and three unnamed gentlemen give a unique Continental speciality.

INVERNESS. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Burgess.—Miss Grace Warner and company played on Monday *My Artful Valet*. Miss Warner had a hearty reception as Mrs. Lovering, an attractive widow; Miss Kathleen Cranston made a good waiting maid; and Miss Hilda Herne did well as Jessie Chadwick. Mr. George Gordon took the part of Mr. Leopold Fitz Jocelyn in an able manner; the part of the valet was capably presented by Mr. F. Heyward; Mr. A. Page submitted a good performance of Timothy Chadwick; and Mr. Leighton Leigh in the part of Count Evitoff was well suited. On Thursday *East Lynne* was to be given.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Leonard Grey.—Mr. Peter Davey's pantomime of *The Babes in the Wood* was played here on Boxing Day, each performance being crowded. A strong all-round company has been secured; the scenery and appointments are very satisfactory, and the piece goes with great dash and spirit.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. H. H. Bostock.—Several novel attractions are engaged here for the holiday week. The company includes Florrie Gallimore, star comedienne; Dick Kendal, comedian; the Three Romas in a classical act; Ruby Dalb and her mannikins; Josie Delain, singer and dancer; Rezene and Robini, in a sketch; and Frank Greenar and company, in a piece called *Hello!*

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jerold E. Reed.—This week's attraction is Messrs. Mathew H. Glenville's and Fred Osmond's company, in the drama entitled *The Still Alarm*. Mr. M. H. Glenville gives a first-class rendering of the part of Jack Manley, while Mr. George Arthur submits a powerful embodiment of John Bird; Mr. Tom Beasley is quite at home in the part of Willie Manley; Mr. Fred Osmond is excellent as Doc Wilber; and Mr. J. Sutton Pateman is very fine as Joe Jones. Miss M. Warburton is charming as Elinor Fordham; and Miss Gertie Reid scores as Carrie Wilber; and Miss Mabel Veriton is well placed as Mrs. Manley. In the third act the specially-trained horses, "Pegasus" and "Bucephalus," and the greyhound "Laddie," are introduced. Some excellent singing is rendered by the Lyric Comedy Four, who are well received.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Miss Rose Moncrieff's company produced the Christmas pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood* here on Boxing night. Miss Ethel Maries gave a charming rendering of the *title-rôle*, and Miss Blanche St. Marie made a vivacious Robin Hood. The comic element was admirably sustained by Mr. Jack Heath, as Granny; Mr. Fred McGorman, as the Lawyer; Mr. Harry McGorman, as the Baron; and Messrs. Burns and Bentley, as Pen and Ink.

LANCASTER. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Martin.—An excellent bill of fare is provided at this bijou opera house for the holidays. At the head are the Schiavonis, in a smart acrobatic act; Carl Lynn, animal imitator, has a great reception; the Kurios in a comic sketch win rounds of applause; and Sam Redfern is exceedingly funny; Frank Comminger is a sand dancer of the first water; Miss Nellie Cotter sings nicely; and Miss Alice May and company do well in the farce, *Tranquillity*. The Hippograph, with new pictures, is an attraction.

ATHENÆUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Hook.—*Claudian* is proving a big attraction here. Mr. William Maclaren appears in the title-rôle with marked success; the part of Almida is cleverly portrayed by Lily C. Bandmann (Mrs. Maclaren); Mr. F. Owen Chambers as the Tetrarch is well placed; Mr. Douglas Earle does well as the blacksmith; and the comic element is successfully supplied by Mr. Chas. T. Chaloner; as the African slave Mr. George F. Floyd works hard, and Miss Violet Barclay sings nicely. The earthquake is most realistic.

LEEDS. — QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden; General Manager, Mr. Chas. Longden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—A season of Shakespeare is somewhat of a departure at this theatre, but success may be confidently anticipated for Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson's commendable venture, judging by the crowded houses and the great enthusiasm manifested at the opening performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which was presented on Wednesday. There is nothing new to be said of Mr. Benson's accomplished portrait of Lysander; it is the usual high-water mark of excellence. The same remark applies to Mrs. Benson's Titania, her graceful and blithsome presence lending the indispensable lightness to the Queen of the Fairies. Miss Leah Hanman makes a delightful Puck; and Mr. George Buchanan also takes high honours as Oberon; Peter Quince is a traditional and satisfactory effort by Mr. E. A. Warburton; the Duke of Athens is a personation of rare strength and conviction by Mr. Murray Carrington; and that sterling actor Mr. George R. Weir is admirably suited in the part of Bottom; Miss Tita Brand's portrayal of Hermia is an ideal one, and well worthy this actress's high reputation. Other familiar parts are faithfully played by Mr. J. Plumpton Wilson, Mr. Clarence Derwent, Mr. F. G. Worlock, Mr. P. D. Owen, Miss Mary Price-Owen, and Miss Violet King. An augmented chorus and orchestra fulfil their duties admirably, under the direction of Mr. S. Herbert Smith.

EMPIRE PALACE. — Moss Empires, Limited; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—Miss Madge Lessing is the big favourite in this week's bill, her clever vocal contributions being much enjoyed. That expert troupe of Risley acrobats, The Kellinos, are again appearing, and are a solid success, a remark which also applies to George Newburn, a mimic of proved ability. The Three Chester Sisters continue to be popular in song and dance; whilst Alexandra Edwin, De Breans, Zanfretta and Napio, Viviana, and Walter King are all turns well to the liking of big holiday crowds.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; General-Managers, Mr. Claude Shayler and Mr. Chas. Weldon.—The Six Bros. Luck are the holiday attraction at this hall, their diverting pantomime keeping the place in a continual roar. At the bottom of the bill that popular favourite Horace Wheatley is entertaining in song, story, and dance; a mystifying speciality by Mahatma arouses considerable interest; Otto and Olga are doing well with burlesque business; eccentric comedy is also the speciality of Allsopp and Beckwith; Charles Ulrick is well named the Barrel King; the Sisters May are pleasing vocalists and dancers. Further good entertainment is subscribed by Jenny Hartley, soubrette and dancer; and Mamie Cannon, a clever coon comedienne.

CITY VARIETIES. — Proprietor, Mr. Fred W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sam Jones.—F. V. St. Clair, the popular composer and vocalist, is starring here, and with clever topical songs arouses such a show of enthusiasm as makes the welkin ring. The Saxonias contribute an entertaining musical speciality; The Sivronis, with burlesque comedy business, arouse uproarious merriment; and notable success is also achieved by May and Theresa, a pleasing vocal pair. Geo. Collins, eccentric comedian; Taylor, ventriloquist and mimic.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; General and Business-Manager, Mr. Henry Dundas.—A full house and a hearty reception awaited the members of Mr. Charles Macdona's principal company here on Boxing Day, when they presented for the first time in Leicester the funny musical play *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)*. For the present tour, which is being started here, a versatile and clever combination of artists have been secured, and the extreme care with which the play is dressed and mounted is another noteworthy feature. Miss Millie Hylton, already a popular favourite with Leicester audiences, makes her first appearance in the part of La Bolero, the actress, and made an instantaneous success, her vivacious acting and singing meeting with the heartiest appreciation. In the rôle of Freddy Popple Mr. Arthur Longley created much merriment, his embodiment deserving much praise; and as Platt Mr. Tom May is also to be singled out for a successful delineation. Mr. L. Bullock Webster as Norman Popple made an excellent impression; Miss Alice Rene as Mrs. Doring and Mr. James Stevenson as Henry Doring played well. Miss Florence Plunkett both sang and acted capitally as Louise, the maid; Miss Stella St. Audrie was good as Mrs. Hennay; and Mr. Sydney Courtenay was also a success as George Hennay. Mr. Robert MacLachlan as Jacques Kenyon merits praise.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertram G. Iles.—Huge audiences here testify their hearty appreciation of the holiday programme, which is led off by "Songs of the Season," specially arranged by Mr. John W. Lowe, the musical-director. The Aurora troupe of cyclists are the chief attraction, and provide a turn that is full of remarkably clever and smartly-executed feats. At the other end are The Dandies, whose delightful singing and dancing is worthy of the highest praise. The marvellous lightning drills of the Gordon Highlanders elicit rounds of applause; the Amoros-Werner troupe of jugglers and pantomimists cause the greatest merriment; Jas. Stewart, the tramp at the piano, is both amusing and clever; Cliff Ryland, with extremely funny patter and songs, keeps the audience in continual laughter; Johnny and Charlie are smart comedy acrobats; Ray Maskell, comedienne and first-class dancer, is entertaining. A feature of the bill is the Bioscope, the franternal greeting, "A Merry Christmas to all our patrons," being acknowledged by spontaneous applause.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Lapworth.—The chief attraction here is Miss Josephine Colona and company, who are presenting in a most successful manner the historical episode *Jane Shore*, in which Miss Colona in the title-rôle and Mr. Arthur St. John as the Duke of Gloucester and Matthew Shore are conspicuous with portrayals of merit, the other parts being also well played. Friscari is a juggler whose neatly-executed tricks are always appreciated here; Walter H. Palister's Bioscope is again making a big hit with the usual excellent films; the Cardiffs are entertaining comedians and speciality artists; Violet Francis is a capital comedienne; Florrie Beck, vocalist, also entertains; Vi Rayner, vocalist, did not appear on the night of our visit.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—The pantomime of *The Fair One with the Golden Locks* is now in full swing, everything running smoothly with such changes and improvements as the first week's performances suggested. All the artists concerned in the production having become familiar with the book and the business, play with increased spirit and resource. Songs, dances, and incidental turns go with great effect, and the management may be congratulated on the success of their holiday entertainment; Miss Beatrice Bonnie and Miss Gertrude Branscombe as principal boy and girl are exceedingly popular; Mr. James Chippendale, Mr. Barry Lupino, and Mr. Will Letters, the leading comedians, keep the fun going untiringly; and the brilliant interlude, *Electra's Bower*, introduced by Alma, Abdullah, and La Superbe, is a most attractive piece of work; while Leith's Sixteen Little Lasses contribute a delightful scene.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank King.—*The Fatal Wedding*, presented by Mr. Bert Coote, is being played to delighted houses. Mr. Ernest Owttrim is an excellent Wilson; and Miss Katherine Clarke wins sympathy as the wife. In the arduous rôle of Cora, Miss Leah Marlborough spares no effort and achieves high results, while Mr. Guy Hastings ably fills the part of Curtis. Mr. C. H. Hughes as Toto, and Mr. Cyril Melton are useful in the comedy parts; Mr. J. Waring makes the policeman an outstanding figure; and Miss Julia Temple is an eminently amusing Bridget; while the success of the evening is attained by Miss Marie Wilson as Jessie, the "Little Mother." The children's scene is an emphatic success.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Sydney Arthur.—A capital holiday bill attracted big audiences on Christmas Eve. Fanny Wentworth, paying a first visit here, is extremely well received with her musical sketches; and Lovell and company are great in their comedy, *Mlle. Pom Pom*. Amurat presents a novel turn as a musical athlete; Carl Rosine is a master of magic; Ida Kathrena exploits a charming idea in her "Carnival of Toys"; while Florence Schuberth, Tom Yorke, and the Raymond Bio-Tableaux all appear with success.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*The Power of the Cross*, produced by Mr. Lingford Carson's well-selected company, has been the attraction here during the week. Mr. George A. De Gray, the author, played very skilfully the rôle of the Baron Curzola; a performance of Gerald Fairfax was given by Mr. Charles E. Linney; Mr. Alexander J. Haviland made an excellent Dr. Leslie Fairfax; Miss Stanley Burt, as the heroine, Margaret Seaton, won the sympathy of her audience; Mr. Richard E. Nugent was a humorous Timothy O'Dowd; and Miss Etta Turner, in the character of Dolly Gray, assisted in the comedy. The staging was excellent.

QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Lingford Carson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—A capital rendering of *A Modern Adventuress* has been given here this week by Mr. Lingford Carson's principal company. As Pietro Donelli, Mr. Charles Draycott played with much dramatic power; Miss Muriel Thompson showed to great advantage in the part of the notorious Violet Meredith; a manly Harry Delby came from Mr. Sydney C. Cranston; Mr. Ernest J. Fare was an excellent Wallace Danton; Mr. J. Dobson Clyde made the most of Walter Beale, the detective; and Miss Marie Robson was very effective as Vivette Delby.

LYRIC THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold; Directors of Entertainments, Messrs. T. Barrasford and F. Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Coles.—A really capital programme is billed here for the holiday week, headed by the Canary Troupe in their funny sketch, *Fun in the Kitchen*; Tennyson and Wallis are as good as ever; the Valveros are exceedingly clever in their original turn. Others who add to the evening's enjoyment are Sylvia Martin, W. B. Ruby, Kitty Glover and company, and Wyndham and Waters.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—John Tiller's pantomime *Aladdin* occupied the stage here this week. The production is remarkable, not only for its beautiful scenic effects, but for the large amount of capital fun it contains. The book is a joint work of Messrs. Charles Fletcher and John Tiller; and the music, which is bright and catchy, from the pens of Messrs. John Weaver and Peter Flitcroft. There are eight scenes, those of the Emperor's Cave and Widow Twankey's Laundry being particularly attractive. In the *title-rôle* Miss Jessie Wilton looked exceedingly nice, and, possessed of a capital contralto voice, rendered several well received songs. "Zuyder Zee" being encored; as the Princess, Miss Clara Beck acted and sang with taste, her song of "The Sunshade Girl" earning for her loud applause; Fred Dark was an ideal Widow Twankey, and caused endless laughter; Harry Elliston distinguished himself as Abanazar; Miss Maud St. John was a sweet Ting Ling; Miss May Sharples looked well as Pekoe; and strong support came from Messrs. Harry Morgan and Little Britton, who represented I-Ke-Mo and Schnapps. A number of specialities were introduced into the palace scene, the artists including T. W. Royal, comedian and clog dancer; Cartos Bros., hand balancers; and Ross and Grayson, comedians.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Manager, Mr. M Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole—An attractive military drama, *The Soldiers of the Queen*, has held the stage here this week, the "Royal" stock company presenting it in good style. Mr. Percy Boucher was an amusing Solomon Levi; a manly Jack Willoughby came from Mr Harry Tresham; Mr. Sydney Grant undertook the dual rôles of Captain Forrester and Ralph Forsyth; Miss Florence Palmer was Grace and Dick Forrester; and other well-held parts were Tom Pinch (Mr. Robert Wilton), Rueben Brown (Mr. Cecil Ravenswood), Susie Brown (Miss Beryl Ravenswood), and Mary Ann (Miss Florence Cameron).

PADDINGTON PALACE, LTD.—Lessee, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Here this week the "Royal" stock company are giving the dramatic sketch, *A London Actress*, which has proved very popular. Mr. Albert Sember made an excellent Ned Kingston; the heavy *rôle* of Clive Crawford was done justice to by Mr. Frank A. Strickland; Mr. H. G. Brandon caused a deal of laughter with his Moses Mendoza; Miss Lina Naseby was effective as Hilda Langley; and other well-handled parts were Captain Mannering (Mr. Vincent A. Biscoe), Rosie Blythe (Miss Florence Barnes), and Biddy Maloney (Miss Sara Blumenthal). Some capital films were shown by the "Royal" bioscope.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Welsker; Acting Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Foremost here this week is Lizette Kitchen's company with the smart sketch, *Donnybrook*, which is well put on; Martinett and Wallace, coloured musical comedy artists, have a good turn; the dancing and singing of Arthur Woodville are much appreciated; and Dan Robins, vocal comedian, also appears.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime of *Puss in Boots* occupies the whole of the programme here this week. The production is a thoroughly good all-round one, and has several very beautiful scenes, while there is a large sprinkling of humour. The hero, Colin, finds in Miss Minnie Jeffs a worthy exponent; Miss Jennie Johns sings and acts delightfully as Princess Ivy; and as the Prince and the Miller's Daughter, Miss Edith Goodall and Miss Minnie Crest are particularly well placed. The comedians are all strong men, who kept the ball rolling right merrily. Mr. George Hester bears the burden of the fun, his King Grabbus II. raising endless laughter; as Dame Shortly, Mr. Harry Levaine acquits himself most creditably, and helps considerably with the humour; while valuable assistance in the same line comes from Mr. Sammy Shields (Muggles), Mr. George Avon (Baron Rumpling), Mr. Barry Gilmore (Slyboots), Mr. Ben Corder (the Ogre), and Mr. Harry Rogerson (Dozey), the latter introducing some very grotesque dancing. The "book" is by Mr. John Hickory Wood, and the pantomime was produced under the direction of Mr. J. F. Elliston and Mr. Harry Rogerson. Four matinées were given during the week.

HAYMARKET.—Licensee, Mr. J. S. Childs.—Top of the bill here this week are the Fantoches, which go through a short pantomime; Spangeletti's circus is particularly interesting; Master W. Hughes sings several pleasing songs; Miss Cissie La Mont's illustrated songs are much enjoyed; and Sam Finlay is an eccentric negro comedian and dancer.

OLYMPIA, LTD.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Young.—Top of the bill here this week is Daredevil Schreyer, whose remarkable cycling feats have caused a deal of wonder; *La Vivandiere*, presented by Miss Isabel Derry's company, was loudly applauded; Selina Braatz "the Lady Cinquevalli," gave a pleasing and clever juggling performance; Browning and Wally are smart gymnasis and athletes; Marie Duma rendered several pleasing ballads; a deal of laughter followed the antics of Jordan and Harvey, Hebrew comedians; and other turns were Gaumont's chrono-megaphone; Russell Brandon, acrobatic dancer; Clarice Netta, soprano; and W. H. Clemart, ventriloquist.

TIVOLI. — Proprietors, Liverpool Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. James Marks.—Public appreciation of this new place of amusement continues great Heading the list this week is Marie Loftus, a favourite in this city, who has had a cordial greeting for her songs, especially "Singers, past and present"; the Richards Trio have a clever acrobatic sketch, *Giddy Golfers*; the Marconis provided a remarkable turn with their electrical wonders; Barney Armstrong, a popular comedian, had a good reception; as a double-voiced mimic, Herbert Clifton gave a very interesting entertainment by impersonating leading actresses; Maxford and O'Neill showed themselves to be a pair of smart comedians; and the programme also contained the names of Linton, with a wonderful acrobatic cable act; and Rita Resdan, character comedienne.

ROSCOMMON. — Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot. — Will Vay's Juveniles are here this week with their comedy sketch, *Life in the Slums*; the Esdale Bros. are a smart couple of comedians, and cause much laughter; Reno performs some excellent tricks; Fanny Humber sings and dances well; Le Wist is a humorous ventriloquist; a very funny turn comes from the Naval Jester, whose solos on strange-looking instruments are appreciated; and Charles Waterfield, vocal comedian, also appears.

LONDONDERRY. — OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Proprietor, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Ian Maclaren's company is here this week, staging *Othello*, *The School for Scandal*, *Hamlet*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Julius Cæsar*, and *As You Like It*. In *Othello* the part of the Moor is finely played by Mr. Whitford Kane. Mr. Godfrey Tearle is a clever Iago; and Cassio is capitally played by Mr. Bernard Grahame. Miss Lillian Herries acts Desdemona with great power and spirit; and Miss Gertrude Gilbert is a fine Emilia.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne-Seddon and George Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lindsey Edwards—A complimentary benefit performance was given on Saturday to the proprietors by the members of Mr. George Robertson's *Charley's Aunt* company before a large and fashionable audience. Mr. Henry Swinerd's company in *Dare-Devil Dorothy* is the Christmas attraction, and opened to a good house on Monday night. In the title-rôle Miss Dorothy Desmond acts and sings with sparkling vivacity; Mr. H. C. Barry as Silas Crump provides plenty of humour, and keeps the house in roars of laughter. The two Sisters Blake give a clever exhibition of acrobatic dancing; and Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith sings and dances well. A speciality turn is that of Stylo, whose wonderful manipulation of the hoops is bewildering.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA — Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—For the Christmas holidays we have the first appearance locally of the drama *Two Little Drummer Boys*, presented in capital style by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company. The selections by the bugle and fife band of the company add much to the play from a military point of view. Mr. Frank Fuller plays admirably the part of General Kingsley; Capt. Carsdale and Capt. Darrell have efficient representatives in Mr. Fred Emery and Archie Helsby. The drummer boys, Eric Carsdale and Jack Smith, have capital exponents in the Misses Lily Beverley and Maggie English. Miss Kathleen Magee scores with a clever study as Margaret Rivers; and Miss Mildred Eversleigh acts with much charm as Alma Kingsley. Miss Edie Macklin is a merry, captivating Molly Meadows; and Mr. J. Magrath and Mr. Harry Lyndon add much to the general enjoyment in their respective rôles.

MAIDSTONE.—CORN EXCHANGE.—Manager, Mr. J. Beelee.—The popular drama, *At Duty's Call*, is the Christmas attraction here, and is drawing crowded houses. Mr. John Gerant's company is very carefully selected, and the piece is well staged. The scenery and effects are well above the average, and the company work up to the many thrilling scenes with enthusiasm.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—The Brothers Webb, clever musical clowns, are an excellent holiday turn, and are well received. The Moet Chandon Trio are clever gymnasts; Marlow and Manton, in *Other People's Babies*, are the cause of hearty laughter; Cyrus Dare is a clever mimic; Marlo gives some smart jugging feats. Others appearing are Montagu Biggs, impersonator; Bayne and Hope, in *Hamlet Up to Date*; and Miss Sadie Simpson, comedienne, together with the Bioscope.

MANCHESTER.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Flanagan; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Berry.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in *A Royal Divorce* forms the attraction here this week. The well-known play is once more proving its drawing powers, which are certainly enhanced by the inclusion of Mr. Frederick Victor and Miss Edith Cole in the cast. As Napoleon and Josephine their joint work is truly admirable, and, indeed, the performance throughout is as good as could be wished. Miss Maggie Cardiff gives a distinctly clever rendering of the little King of Rome, and distinguished impersonations are offered by Miss Helen Richmond as Stephanie, Miss Agnes Imlay as Marie Louise, Mr. Claude Agnew as Talleyrand, Mr. Alfred Grenville as General Augercau, and Miss Gertrude Entwistle as Blanche d'Hervas, while the many other parts are rendered with discretion and effect. The scenery is excellent, and the battle tableaux add force and dignity to the theme.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A thrilling and mystic melodrama, entitled *Dearer than Life*, is the attraction here this week, excellently presented by Miss Winifred Chalmers and company. As Mona Brayton, a female detective, Miss Chalmers scores a big success; and as Dubois, Mr. Henry L. Osmond acts with great skill. Other prominent parts are well played by Messrs. Leonard Williams, Victor R. C. Moors, and the Misses Nellie de Lacy and Mabel Ronald; whilst plenty of laughter is caused by Miss Mabel Tremere and Messrs. Harry Cooke and Wal Kent.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Here this week is Claude Ginnett and his capable company in *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, after successful weeks at other Manchester halls. The Paolias are prominent in an extraordinary act of muscular perfection; Reid and Powell are capital sketch artists; Raglus manipulates tennis balls in a clever and eccentric manner; the Vekeys are entertaining banjoists; and good turns are also those of the Three Donans, in an act of skill and training; Little Tichbourne, comedian; and Ellis and Watts, comedians and dancers. "The Wrong Clue" is shown on the Bioscope.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—At the top of the bill here this week appears Mme. Alice Esty, in a specially-composed operatic scena, *Betta the Gipsy*, which provides good scope for her singing. She is supported by an accomplished cast and a trained chorus, and the piece and its chief exponent are a fine acquisition to the halls. Lottie Lennox, comedienne, is also a highly popular turn; while good business is added by Amy Sullivan, comedienne; the Six Imri Girls, in a clever display of racquet and club juggling; Woodward and Walton, smart American dancers; Arthur Reece, a bright vocal comedian; Vansart, the man with the iron grip; Laurie Clare, a smart comedian and dancer; and Harry Leybourne, an excellent comedian, who scored a big success in place of Mezzetti and Mora who are indisposed. The Bioscope shows seasonable pictures.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—In addition to Fred Karno's latest production, *The Football Match*, we have here this week an excellent turn by the Sutcliffe Family of seven Scottish pipers, drummers, dancers, and acrobats; and Florence Leonard, an accomplished Scotch vocalist. This popular hall has been entirely redecorated, and presents a very fine appearance.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—A sensational dramatic and aquatic spectacle, *The Flood*, is put on here this week. The scene is the village of Ripplemere, and the action comprises the bursting of the tarn, a rush of 300,000 gallons of water, cattle, houses and horses swept away by the flood. Incidentally, a wrestling match takes place between Tom MacInerney and Fred Neiman—two of the cast—and the general business is of a highly entertaining character. Other strong items are Barton and Ashley, in an unconventional comedy act; Harry Leybourne, a versatile character-comedian; Barrington, in a freak performance at the piano; the Stein-Eretto Troupe of wonderful hand-jumping acrobats; Elsie Bernard, a chic American comedienne; Charles Berte's sensational detective sketch, *The Mysterious Mrs.*; two items by the choir, and an exciting series of pictures on the Bioscope.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The Countess Olga Romanow remains here another week in her artistic poses. Harriett Vernon, the popular burlesque actress, meets with a deservedly good reception; Mark Merry is an excellent comedian, and Cissie Hall delights with a pretty scena, *Only a Way*. Smart items are offered by Blanco White, comedian and dancer; Leslie Race, swell comedian; Garden's Royal Quintette, in dancing and singing; Adeline Montagu and Herbert Boyle, in comedy sketch, *Three Lines for a Shilling*; The Sisters Lylle, duettists and dancers; and Burke and McVoy, comedy acrobats. Raymond's Vivagraph completes a most enjoyable programme.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—A sensational novelty presented here this week is the horse v. cyclist racing act of Kraemar and Braun, with Tom Williams, the Welsh professional ex-champion cyclist. Corman's Youngsters sing and dance well in a neat and effective scena; and no end of amusement is caused by Fred and Lillie Monckton in a capital sketch, entitled *Are Wives Dummies?* Diana Hope and company present a weird episode, *Her Good Name*, in good style; Farrimond and Roberts are pleasing in a vocal scena; Leon and Leoni are expert banjoists; and good turns are also contributed by Ridgwell, character comedian, and Lily Watson, comedy patter artist. An amusing film is shown on the Bioscope.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—The top star attraction here this week is Henry Herne and company in a sensational sketch, entitled *Blackmail*, introducing a startling real water incident. The acting is good, and the scenery and general mounting excellent throughout. Signor Francia, that wonderful mandolinist, delights with several pleasing selections; Henry Hallam and Josephine Stanton score in a neat musical comedy sketch, entitled *A Broken Journey*, the singing being very good; and Johnson and D'Evene give an expert bicycle act. Little Ruth is a wonderful child vocalist; Auto offers a smart musical entertainment; Monty Walker, comedian, is good; and enjoyable items are those of Wisper, comedy juggler, and Beattie Bloom, comedienne.

HIPPODROME, HULME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Broadhead.—Bert Bernard and company, in a pantomime sketch in three scenes, entitled *The Brewery*, hold the premier position here this week, and are greatly appreciated. Max Duffek, a marvellous Continental musical contortionist, is very clever, and well received; and Oscar Luck and company, with Mary Vaughan, Rose Briar, and Heaton Grey in the cast, are seen to advantage in a dramatic episode entitled *Kismet*. Good turns are also offered by George Rae, Scotch comedian and dancer; Evelyn Taylor, male impersonator; Russell Carr, ventriloquist; the Edgertons, in a novelty act; and the Leotard Brothers, comical clowns and clever staircase performers and hand balancers. The animated pictures are good.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield Theatre Company; General-Manager, Captain Cecil Clayton.—Mr. Herbert Barrs produced his pantomime of *Aladdin* on Boxing Day. Miss Lora Lyndon, a charming Princess, sang her numbers in good style; Duncan and Morton gave amusing interpretations of Chinese policemen; Mr. Carl Fredericks as the Emperor was good; Widow Twankey was in the capable hands of Mr. David Phillips; and a capital Abanazar is found in Mr. Will Sherlock. Miss Maudie Vincent as Aladdin is most vivacious, and her song "Sailing in my balloon" is decidedly catchy. A fine spectacle is the Jewel Ballet.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Herbert Darnley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Tom Jennings.—The Woellhafs top the bill here; Queenie Lolo is daring and gains applause; Little May gives a good dancing turn; and Hyam causes amusement. The Bioscope gives a good series of pictures.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Exclusive Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Business-Manager, Mr. A. Austin-Leigh.—The holiday attraction at this house has been the always popular play, *Trilby*. Miss Katherine Harrington has been a success in the title-rôle; and Mr. A. Austin-Leigh has been seen to advantage as Svengali; Mr. J. B. Fox has done well as Taffy; and Mr. Edwin Millins has been excellent as the Laird; Mr. Arthur Hare as Little Billee has also been very successful. Other parts have been well sustained by Mr. Charles Phillips, as Gecko; Mr. E. Stapleton, Zou-Zou; Mr. E. Stilwell, Dodor; Mr. Frank Stone, the Rev. John Bagot; Mrs. Culling, Mrs. Bagot; Miss Emmie O'Reilly, Madame Vinard; and others.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—On Boxing night the spectacular, musical, and funny pantomime, *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp*, was produced for a ten nights' run. The pantomime, played by Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company, is a short one, as there are two shows nightly, but it is full of go and animation, and quite up to date in topical allusions. The book and lyrics are by Mr. F. Leslie Moreton, the music arranged and composed by Mr. Francis Knowles, and the pantomime produced under the stage direction of Mr. A. J. Nicholls. The scenery includes the market place, Pekin, the enchanted cave, and Aladdin's Moorish palace, with a grand ent

PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"WHITTINGTON" AT ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

Mr. Revill, of the Royal, has entrusted with the preparation of his Christmas annual Mr. Frank Denman Wood, who is also part author of the book with Mr. Martin Byan; the incidental music is by Mr. Geo. Burton, and special numbers by Mr. H. Lawrence. The opening performance on Christmas Eve was well attended, and while there were occasional hitches, which are inseparable from a first night, we can prognosticate a successful run for *Dick Whittington and His Cat*. Some of the cleverest work is done by Miss Daisy Morell as Dick. Her captivating style and admirable vocal contributions combine to make her appearance throughout the pantomime eagerly looked for and warmly applauded. Miss Millie Doris as Alice, Dick's sweetheart, is pretty and pert, piquant and gay, and her singing and dancing are greatly enjoyed. Miss Clairette Florence is a neat, dapper little Fairy Queen, with abilities vocal and otherwise which fully entitle her to the ovations she receives, and to her name of Fairy Sunshine. Mr. Jack Simpson as the Cat is frolicsome, and behaves generally after the manner of the feline kind. Mr. Fred Acton is very comical as Alderman Fitzwarren, and Mr. Frank Royal Dallens is amusing as Martha Muggins, the Cook. Mr. Will Dennis as Idle Jack is also one of the chief fun-makers, and he keeps his "end up" well throughout. The Demon Rat, Mr. Ernest Brookes, and King Rat, Mr. Edward Stream, employ an abundance of weird methods intended to strike terror into the hearts of their victims. Mr. Arthur Schaller as Captain Scuttle, Miss Winnie Acton as Dolly Dimple, Miss Pam Schaller as Tommy Bowline, Messrs. Juan and McQue as Larboard and Starboard (two immensely amusing knockabout comedians), Miss Annie Charnley as Lucy Larks, Miss Edie Charnley as Marjorie, Miss Marian Mayne as the Prince of Abyssinia, Miss Alice Raynor as Baroness Shortcash, Mr. B. S. Edwards as the Emperor of Morocco, and a bevy of ladies as London belles, apprentices, shop-girls, etc., one and all contribute of their individual skill and talent to the success of the "show." "Specialities" are introduced by the Charnleys, the Schallers, the Estos, Messrs. Juan and McQuee, and Correze and Keith, in their astounding electrical equilibristic act. The dresses are pretty and picturesque, and in the Grand Palace scene and procession there is the usual gorgeousness of apparel. The gorgeous lights and the magnificence of the architecture of the interior of the Court and Harem of the Emperor of Morocco, and the final "set," "Whittington's Grand Palace," must also be included in the scenic grandeurs.

"MOTHER GOOSE" AT BELFAST.

On Christmas Eve Mr. Fred W. Warden presented his Palace patrons with another of those successful pantomimes with which his name has always been associated. It is practically certain that *Mother Goose*, under his able direction, will prove an undoubted success. The book is by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and the well-known story is clearly presented in thirteen scenes, enhanced by some clever local allusions by "S. A. P." The catchy music has been composed and arranged by the talented resident musical conductor, Mr. Samuel P. Swanton, and many of the popular songs, especially "Borneo," will soon be heard all over the city. The handsome costumes were designed by Comelli and J. Howell Russell, and were executed by Mrs. P. Lucy and assistants. The scenery is magnificent, and reflects the utmost credit on Messrs. George A. Jackson, E. H. Ryan, Philip Howden, and G. Jansen. The various scenes represented were The Ruined Abbey, Mother Goose's Cottage, Exterior of the Gold Palace, The Hall of Gold, The Old Curiosity Shop, The Meet at the Model Farm, The Path to the Magic Well, The Wishing Gate, On the Road, By 'Bus, Gooseland, and Heartsease, the last-mentioned scene being admittedly one of the most magnificent stage pictures ever presented to a Belfast audience. The ballets and incidental dances, arranged by Miss Dollie Bell, were decidedly graceful, and formed no unimportant feature of the production. Mr. Warden has been fortunate in securing a brilliant company, comprising some of the most talented artists in the profession. Miss Carlotta Levey at once established herself a firm favourite with her dashing impersonation of Colin, singing some of the most captivating songs with the happiest results. "Don't tell the world your troubles," "Jennie Lee," and "Cheyenne," as rendered by Miss Levey, are sure to become vastly popular. A tremendous success has been achieved by Miss May Moore Duprez, whose performance entitles her to the highest possible commendation. She appears as Gretchen, and had not been long on the stage before she had everybody laughing at her quaint witticisms. She sang "Louisa Schmidt" and "On the Rhine with Stein" inimitably, and her dancing was the very acme of excellence. Mr. Martin Adeson is a host in himself, and in the title-rôle, Mother Goose, he achieved very high honours. Mr. Adeson has the happy knack of keeping the fun going merrily, and he sang several comic songs in capital style. A sweet and bewitching interpretation of the principal girl's part (Jill) was furnished by Miss Molly McIntyre, who cut a dainty figure. Her delightful songs were rapturously received. Miss Elsie Roby must also be congratulated on her success as Lady Biddy, a more charming representative of whom could hardly be found. Miss Roby has one of the song hits of the pantomime in "Borneo," with its swinging chorus, which she renders in capital style. Mr. William Cromwell assists materially by his clever assumption of Jack. He sang "Seaweed," which was heard with much pleasure. Mr. J. P. Marsden, as the Mayor of Tapham, delivers his lines in a Scotch dialect, and introduces some jokes, which take well. Messrs. Harrigan and Holt assist in the humour by their impersonations of The O'Rourke, an Irish nobleman, and Patsy, his younger brother. They sing and dance acceptably. Miss Anna Kenwick has not many opportunities as Lord Shamus, but manages to score decisively in her American song, while her dancing undoubtedly delighted the crowded house on Monday. It is not often we are treated to such a fine impersonation of the Demon as that furnished by Mr. John Donald. He is a capable actor, while his artistic singing of "Let me love thee" (Arditi) fairly brought down the house. Miss May Rawlinson presented a pretty picture as Heartsease (a fairy), and possessed as she is of a cultured voice, rendered the charming song "Will you love me in December as you do in May?" so captivatingly that an encore was inevitable. An animal impersonation of exceeding merit is that of the Golden Goose by Mr. Robert Graham. The well-known Saker-Harlows created roars of laughter as the Donkeys. Minor rôles were well filled by Misses Olive Astor, Mamie Joyce, Nora Elliott, Flo Cooper, Suzanne Graham, L. G. Jones, Lillie Williams, and Rose Capell. Tiller's Superba Troupe of Dancers furnished a skilful exposition of the terpsichorean art; while adequate assistance was also furnished by the Eight Palace Mites. Mr. James Mayall is responsible for the important duties of stage-management. It should be added that the "'Bus" scene is one of the funniest ever presented here, and Messrs. Martin Adeson and the other comedians vie with each other in keeping the audience in perfect shrieks of merriment. This scene would undoubtedly make the fortune of any pantomime. In *Mother Goose*, Belfast has a pantomime to be proud of, and the warmest thanks are due to Mr. Warden for his enterprise.

"CRUSOE'S ADVENTURES" AT BIRMINGHAM.

Crusoe's Adventures, produced on Christmas Eve at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, met with the heartiest of receptions, and is obviously marked out for a long career. Mr. J. F. Graham apparently possesses an inexhaustible fund of resource, and in his ninth annual Birmingham pantomime he has completely outshadowed and overtopped his previous productions, great as they have always been. The scenic and sartorial effects argue a tremendous outlay, everything in these departments being of a most ornate and dazzling description. Part I. opens in The Depths of the Ocean, by Conrad Tritschler. Next we are transported to Blackpool Sands, an exceedingly fine set by Henry Emden and W. R. Young. The finale to this, with its comic golf scene and rain and umbrella chorus, being very fine and effective. Here Miss Georgina Delmar as Crusoe took the audience in splendid style with her buoyant and graceful acting, and with her songs, "Hullo" and "Sports," made herself favourite Number One. Miss Lulu Valli exercised her vivacious spirit and charming presence in the rôle of Polly Perkins; Mr. Fred Wright, jun., was going strong as Billy Crusoe; Mr. George Miller was getting on well as the Widow; while Mr. J. F. McArdle was bearing himself well as Will Atkins. Thus we find ourselves On the Pier (F. Le Maistre), where first Mr. Miller delivered himself as the Widow in the rôle of a lady suffragette, an effort which duly told. Polly Perkins, dressed as a boy, is next seen, and here Miss Valli made a decisive hit with the song "The light of the honeymoon," which has a pretty embellishment in the background. The subsequent scene, Aboard the Hurry-Up, where Crusoe sings with much success "On the Banks of the Zuyder Zee," is made richly diverting throughout, and the duet, "Tooral Looral," by Messrs. McArdle and Wright, was encored vociferously. A succession of tableaux follow The Wreck, which, with its tremendous realism, evoked tempestuous applause; and The Realms of Coral, in which a grand ballet takes place, which, with its varied delights, brought down the house, concludes Part I. The second part reveals Mr. Colin Coop as the Cannibal King, with pretty Miss Nell Emerald as his daughter, the Princess Apollinaris, who, it was easy to see, was already a favourite with the audience. Miss Emerald went through her part in her well-known merry style, and at once proceeded to make violent love to Billy Crusoe, with whom she showed all her graces and fascinations in the duet, "Waltz me again, Willie." Mr. Colin Coop established the popularity of King Koko with "My Bungalow in Borneo"; and the Haytors, who make their appearance in this scene as Friday and Saturday, received a welcome in the duet, "The Slippery Crocodile" and "Crusoe's Island Home," by Conrad Tritschler, affords opportunities for the Haytors to shine in their speciality, which is certainly better than ever; and a humorous dialogue between Will Atkins (disguised as a woman) and Mrs. Crusoe was richly enjoyed. In the Heart of the Island, where Billy Crusoe establishes a cigar divan, is succeeded by the last scene of all, The King's Palace, which is a veritable blaze of light and colour, all harmoniously arranged, and which, with its gorgeous procession of Amazon Guards and other interminable features, filled the audience with enthusiasm, till Mr. Graham was compelled to acknowledge the compliment in company with his principals.

As is indicated above, all the artists shape well. Miss Georgina Delmar acts well and sings charmingly as Crusoe, while her fine figure is shown to advantage in the several costumes she adorns. In addition to the songs mentioned above she contributes several others, including "Firefly," which, as is the case with most of the songs here, is pleasantly illustrated by scenic and other costly effects. Miss Lulu Valli imbues her rôle of Polly Perkins with an artless manner and a light-hearted vivacity which brings the audience to her feet, and all her songs are rendered with melodic charm. Miss Clara Stanton is a dashing Captain; and Miss Louie Collier's fine voice is heard with considerable pleasure and enthusiasm, both in solos and in conjunction with Mr. Frederick Hobbs as Davy Jones. Miss Nell Emerald, also previously mentioned, is an undoubted strong factor in the success with her pretty talents and looks. Mr. J. F. McArdle contributes a rich infusion of humour in his own inimitable manner as Will Atkins, his subtlety and power being conspicuous throughout. Mr. George Miller's humour as Mrs. Crusoe is as expansive and liberal as is his girth, and his singing of "My wife won't let me," which is prefaced by the Wedding March, which he humorously calls the Maiden's Prayer, is marked with much humour, as are all his essays. Mr. Fred Wright, junior, wins much favour with his blithesome acting of the light-hearted Billy Crusoe, and our old friends the Haytors seem really better than ever, as is pointed out above. Mr. W. Southworth's musicianly and also taking style in orchestration is again exemplified, Miss Rose Tyrell's genious in the work of the ballet has borne excellent fruit, and it may be said that her forces are more than ever charming and apt in their gyrations; and the whole production is redolent of charm and humour, which is sure to have its effect in large houses for many weeks to come, for which Mr. Henry Johnstone is doubtless prepared to cope with in that happy business-like style that has always characterised his methods.

"CINDERELLA" AT BIRMINGHAM.

Mr. Lester Collingwood has added indubitably and incalculably to the gaiety of the festive season with his fourth Birmingham annual pantomime, which he produced under the above title on Boxing Night at the Alexandra Theatre. Mr. Collingwood's patrons have an emphatic way of expressing their satisfaction, and on Wednesday satisfaction was rife, the debonair producer and proprietor at the end being summoned with many huzzas to receive the favourable verdict of his well-pleased clientèle. To account for this it must be readily granted that Mr. Collingwood has put on this most delightful of fairy stories in the very best style, and strikes the key-note of success at the opening, "The Forest Glade," a scene of real artistic beauty. Here we see a stage-full of graceful chorus ladies, joined by the Prince's retinue, all of whom are conspicuous for their pretty looks and smart dresses. The characters are wisely and well apportioned, Miss Minnie D'Auban is the Prince, Miss Bessie Butt, a young lady endowed with many graces and talents, plays Cinderella, and the Sisters Lunelle are cast as Dandini and Rosini. The Brothers Obo disport as the Ugly Sisters, and Mr. Harry Talbot appears as the Baron. An invitation to the ball ensues, and at Baron's Library we see preparations which in their diversity and diversion make for much mirth. The Baron's Kitchen is the scene of further fun, and later, the Ball Room captivates the audience with its elegant setting, the glitter of which and the gaiety of the artists filled the audience with the greatest delight. The reception of Cinderella in a fairy coach drawn by four miniature ponies is most effective, and the story proceeds to the end in a satisfactory manner. The scenery is by Alfred Whyatt and Son, and is most excellent throughout, and the always well-designed and ornate dresses are by Mrs. Maxwell Payne, costumier to this theatre, Mr. John Gill being responsible for the arrangement of the music.

As Cinderella, Miss Bessie Butt at once caught on most emphatically, her efforts being greeted with repeated applause. She acts with delightful naïveté, and her singing and dancing are marked by many little tricks and graces. Miss Minnie D'Auban as the Prince possesses a fine figure and a capital singing voice, which will make its mark in the production, and bring this clever artist much popularity here. The Sisters Lunelle vouchsafe several taking duets and dances in the characters of Dandini and Rosini, to which rôles they do excellent justice, and the Misses Vera Guedes and Gladys Clare are meritorious as the Demon and the Fairy Godmother respectively; while Miss Marie Le Frane is sure to become popular by reason of her smart dancing. The Brothers Obo do an immense amount of work, all of which is of a clever order, and their impersonations of the Ugly Sisters is entirely without offence, and much appreciated by their following, which their present engagement is certain to largely increase. Mr. Harry Talbot proves a capable and amusing Baron, Mr. J. G. Aitken contributes many amusing moments as Buttons, Messrs. D'Arcy Kelway and Syd Sylvester indubitably add to the score as the two disreputable broker's men, their business being of a most comical order; and Mr. Fred Barnes as the Duke of Solihull dresses immaculately, and sings and walks the stage in the most perfect manner. The specialities include the accomplished and charming Florence and Lillian, who in the Ball Room scene are enthusiastically applauded for their artistic vocal and instrumental efforts, while Jackson's Eight Lancashire Lads are another popular feature of the programme. Another most acceptable item is the harlequinade, which is represented on the Bioscope, and for which Mr. Collingwood has secured the sole local rights.

"THE QUEEN OF HEARTS" AT BIRMINGHAM.

Twenty-three years have passed since *The Queen of Hearts* was previously performed in Birmingham. The present version, which is Mr. Tom B. Davis's third Birmingham pantomime, was produced on Boxing Day at the Theatre Royal by Mr. Robert Arthur on a scale of magnificence never before attempted here, much less excelled. Act 1 opens at the City of Kardallah, a rich setting, with an opening chorus of peasants, guards, &c., which, with the natural grace of the gayly-dressed participants, made a visible impression at once. Here, to the inspiring strains of chorus and orchestra, Miss Millie Lindon made her appearance as Prince Florizel, and it was not long ere her refined and restful manner proved its acceptability. Estrella, the witch's daughter (Miss Valli-Valli), follows, pursued by the crowd, but finds a champion and a lover in Florizel. Diversion is created by the appearance of Mr. George Robey as the Queen of Hearts, supported by Mr. T. A. Shale as the King. Next arrives the Knave of Hearts, represented by the slyly-humorous Mr. Edward Lewis, and who, aided and egged on by Armida, the witch (Miss Helen Cecile), seeks to usurp the throne of the King. Scene 2, A Boarding-house on Borderland, shows Mr. Tom Hearn as the Grand Slam, amusing the audience with his cleverly-quaint juggling act. How Florizel follows the maid and slays the dragon is shown in a variety of scenes, remarkable for their impressive beauty and grandeur. Mr. George Robey, it is certain, never worked better in his life than he does now as the Queen of Hearts, and it is a treat to see him in such fine fettle. His comic business is always effective, there is humour in his eye, and his songs, which include "The Dresser," "Solid and Substantial," "Oh, oh!" &c., are accented with all his accustomed ability. Mr. Edward Lewis bears out the character of the Knave with inexpressibly sly drollery, and his share towards the success cannot be over-estimated. His songs are redolent of humour, and his popularity is unbounded. Mr. T. A. Shale as the King is also very successful, his comic encounters with the Queen being capitally sustained, and his vocal ability is proven in "Dandy Pete," in which he receives valuable assistance from the chorus. Mr. Tom Hearn, both in his part as the Grand Slam, and also in his popular speciality, is taken into great favour. Miss Millie Lindon's handsome presence in the rôle of Prince Florizel is admired on all sides, while her taste in imparting due point to her songs, including "Barcelona," is not without its reward, the plaudits of the house being liberally bestowed on this lady. Miss Valli-Valli plays Estrella with a dainty charm, and sings the songs allotted the rôle with clever distinction, and speedily gets home in the affections of the audience. As Fortuna, Miss Ethel Haydon acts as the good genius of the piece, and displays a voice of exquisite purity and tone which is heard often, and with the utmost pleasure; and Miss Helen Cecile in the contrary part, Armida, acted her vengeful rôle in a most thorough manner. The scenery, which is by W. T. Hemsley, G. E. W. McKie, and Stafford Hall, fills the mind with amazement at its luxurious and dazzling proportions; while the ballets are remarkable for their graceful intricacies. Mr. Michael Ring is the stage-manager, and is responsible for the work of production; and Mr. Guy Jones again shows his sterling worth as conductor of the orchestra. The book is by Mr. Frank Dix.

"SINDBAD" AT BRIDLINGTON.

The first production of a pantomime in Bridlington took place on Monday evening, Mr. Chas. Palmer having engaged Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Joseph to present at the Grand Pavilion Theatre their "annual," which this year is entitled *Sindbad the Sailor*, and reflects the greatest credit on the producers. The book follows fairly closely the story of Sinbad, the lyrics being by Mr. Joseph, and the special and incidental music by Mr. Charles Ambler. The scenery by Francis Bull is splendidly done, and the costumes are very choice and effective. There are eleven scenes, the most effective of which are Scene IV., a capital represenation of the deck of the Blathermaskite, with mechanical change to the open sea, with Sinbad's raft, the hero clinging to the mast; the Diamond Valley is also a beautiful picture, remarkable for its beautiful variety of colouring and jewel effects. Mr. Joseph has gathered a good array of talent to assist, the principal, of course, being Miss Stanton, who as Sinbad finds plenty of scope for her talent, which is of a very high order, her beautiful stage presence and excellent singing and dancing winning for her quite an ovation. Miss Marie Santley gave a good rendering of the part of the Princess Zazora; Miss Ethel Errol was a fine, dashing Captain Selim. Miss Lillie Richardson, the Princess Fatima, and Miss Jennie Bradbury, the Queen, were good in their parts. Mr. Will Terry as Shipwrecker gave a capital show as "the bold bad pirate." Messrs. Farrell and Gorman did well as Bizdad and Luizdad, and Mr. George Raper was an excellent King Crusty. As Sinbad the Sailor the great Little Keeno was constantly in evidence with his fire and dash, his clever humour and remarkable display of both singing and dancing stamping him as one of the cleverest boy comedians on the stage. Mr. Bruce Green as Mrs. Sinbad had every opportunity of showing off his particular talent for displaying the character of the old lady, all his songs and dances being embellished with capital "business." The other characters were in capable hands, Mr. B. N. George being a good Old Man of the Sea; Mr. Fred Durley as Captain Cuttle; Mr. Adrian Romer as the Caliph; Mr. Chas. Leamington as the Grand Vizier; and Mr. S. D. Southey as the Storm King all doing well. Fairy Good Fortune was nicely played by Miss Dolly Richardson, and as Adventure, Industry, and Energy Misses Ella Streatley, Marie Murey, and Elsie Streatley scored. The chorus was well trained, and gave a very good account of the various numbers they sang, and the lighting effects showed the great capabilities of the new theatre to advantage, Mr. Palmer having given special attention to this department. The variety turns included the Alhambra Girls, charming vocalists and dancers; Wyman, a clever trick skater; Mr. P. J. Durney, an expert globe roller; the Deroneys, wire walkers and smart tumblers, &c.; Farrell and Gorman, musical eccentrics; and "J," the Ventriloquial Josser, in his scena "The Don and the Dance."

"CINDERELLA" AT BRIGHTON.

Mr. Ernest Carpenter may be warmly and deservedly congratulated upon the great success he achieved at the Grand last Monday evening, when his fairy pantomime, *Cinderella*, was produced, and met with a very enthusiastic reception. Written and invented by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Carpenter, with topical and local "hits" by Mr. Low Warren, the pantomime possesses all those essentials which combine to make the success of a Christmas entertainment. It is refined in character, and yet highly amusing; it is rich in spectacular display; it is replete with charming singing and dancing; and the members of the company entrusted with its representation work together with such enthusiasm that it will be surprising if *Cinderella* does not prove the best of the series of pantomimes produced at the Grand. The new and elaborate scenery, painted by Mr. David Young, merits unstinted praise; many of the scenes are highly picturesque; and while The Enchanted Wood, The Crystal Cave, and The Gardens of the Palace are beautiful stage pictures, it must be acknowledged that in The Fairy Boudoir and The Prince's Ball Room, with their pretty and charming groupings, Mr. Young has achieved his greatest successes. The music, tuneful and bright, is composed and arranged by Signor G. D. La Camera, who may be congratulated upon his sparkling and melodious numbers. The children are trained and the ballets are arranged by Miss Maud Percy; the costumes are designed by Miss Ada Clarence, and executed under her personal direction; the mechanical and electrical effects are by Mr. W. Blades and Mr. Arthur Hart respectively; the fairy coach and elaborate properties are by Mr. J. Darby; and the whole is produced by Mr. Ernest Carpenter, assisted by Mr. J. D. Newton. The book is admirably written, and provides an excellent version of the old and familiar fairy story. The characters are all admirably portrayed. Miss Gracie delighted the audience with her dashing and artistic representation of Prince Aureole. She carried off the highest vocal honours of the performance, and achieved conspicuous success by her very expressive renderings of "Little Snow White," "The Rose of My Heart," and "The Zuyder Zee." She also proved herself an excellent dancer. Miss Kitty Clinton was vivacious as Dandini, the Prince's valet, and was warmly applauded for her admirable treatment of the song "It's a different girl again." No small share of the success of the performance was due to Mr. Jack O'Connor, whose humorous portrayal of the Page will doubtless make him a great favourite. While he occupied the stage the house rippled with laughter evoked by his quaint and droll eccentricities. Miss Evelyn O'Connor also deserves warm commendation for her enactment of Cinderella, and with Mr. Jack O'Connor submitted two very entertaining burlesque interludes. Mr. F. Hulme Sharp gave a capital representation of Baron FitzNeedy and assisted greatly as a provider of fun. Mr. Syd Walker as Buttercup and Mr. Cliff Lake as Daisy—the ugly sisters—were a diverting pair, and raised many a laugh with their cross-patter and smart gags. Their travesty of "In the shade of the old apple tree" was a capital piece of nonsense. Miss Winnie Chapman was completely successful as the Fairy Godmother, and gave her lines with clear enunciation and artistic emphasis. Miss Mary Clifford as Sir Roger de Coverley and Miss Florence Martyn as Sir Geoffrey Plantagenet—leaders of the "smart set"—looked their parts to perfection; and Mr. Edgar Budden, in addition to acting cleverly as the famous cat, Thomas, won great applause as a skate dancer. Minor characters were satisfactorily sustained by Miss Connie Rimington (Robin), Miss Eileen Terence (Dorcas), and Mr. Billy Sivane (Nailem). The Imperial Glee Quartette, who figured as the Prince's Men-at-Arms, contributed several glees with artistic finish; and Miss Maud Percy as the principal dancer deserves a special word of praise. The pantomime was lavishly mounted, and, judging from its very hearty reception, will enjoy a long and prosperous career.

"CINDERELLA" AT BRISTOL.

Cinderella is the subject of the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bristol, it being successfully produced on the 22nd instant. The book is by Mr. H. B. Maxwell; the music is composed and arranged by Mr. Edwin Jacobs and Mr. Surtees Corne; the costumes by Miss B. Raye and assistants; wigs by Fox and Company; mechanical effects by Mr. H. Blake; electric lighting by George Brummell; and properties by W. Sullivan and assistants. The pantomime is produced by Messrs. J. D. Hunter and Sidney Cooper, it being stage-managed by Mr. Ernest Marsh. Mr. Maxwell's book is a good example of pantomime-writing; the accepted story of *Cinderella* is followed on customary lines, permitting good scope for comic interludes and other specialities. The scenes have been painted in truly artistic style by Mr. William D. Hobbs, of Bristol. The mounting of the pantomime generally is quite up to the standard expected at the Royal, the costumes being exceptionally rich and tasteful; the chorus is effective and harmonious; the ballets and incidental dances are well performed, both by adults and children, and the extra ladies are improving in appearance and dress. Popular songs are allotted to the various principals, there being every reason to believe that the pantomime will be one of the most successful produced at this old and historic theatre. Miss Mimi Fisher makes a bright and imposing principal boy, doing full justice to the elegant dresses of the Prince, and singing her various songs well; perhaps the success of the evening was Miss Fisher's song and dance, "The Zuyder Zee," assisted by two little girls in Dutch costumes and sabots. Miss Dolly Denton is pleasing as Cinderella, her style is pretty, and she sings and dances well; Miss Cissy Hilton is decidedly smart as Dandini, obtaining applause for her songs; Cordelia and Camelia (the Ugly Sisters) are cleverly impersonated by the Misses Cherrie Wardroper and Blanche Bayley, they both sing effectively, and are really amusing both in style and make-up; Miss May Lawrence is well placed as Cherry, a superior domestic at the Baron's, and she dances well; Miss Alys Eden is a pleasing vocalist, quite realising the idea of the Fairy Godmother; and Lord Veriwise, King of Periotts, Earl of Brislington, and Lord Clifton have capable exponents in the Misses Aggie Fenton, Marie Vincent, Alex. Ross, and Ella Deane. The comedians all work very hard, their united efforts doing much for the success of the pantomime. These are Messrs. Walter Kooney (Grabem), Harry Carr (Ceesem), Allan Wye (Baron Doonaught), and A. G. Spry (Spritely). They all have amusing songs, and take part in comic specialities. In the ball-room scene a pretty solo character dance is effectively given by Miss Marie Vincent.

"HUMPTY DUMPTY" AT BRISTOL.

On Saturday *Humpty Dumpty* was produced at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol. The pantomime went with remarkable smoothness for a first performance, it evidently suiting the popular taste. The several scenes are magnificent examples of the well-known work of Mr. George Jackson, with the exception of "Outside the Palace," which is a good specimen of artistic brush work by Mr. E. H. Ryan. The costumes are rich and tasteful, being designed by Comelli, and executed in the theatre by Miss Shapcott, Mrs. Bristowe, and assistants, and Messrs. Aliss, of London and Paris. Mr. G. B. Chapman has composed and arranged suitable music; the ballets and incidental dances are arranged by Miss Minnie Smith, the machinery and mechanical effects are by Mr. H. Wilson, properties and paraphernalia by Mr. H. Momber, electric lighting and dioramic effects are by Mr. Arthur Bawn, and the wigs are supplied by Gustave, London, and Mr. H. J. Webb, Bristol. The pantomime is produced and stage-managed by Mr. Henry Turner, to whose taste and skill much credit must be given, assisted by Mr. David Fisher, junior; and the entire production is under the personal supervision of Mr. James Macready Chute. The ancient legend of *Humpty Dumpty* is well told by Mr. J. Hickory Wood in his clever "Book of the Words."

Miss Sybil Arundale's pleasing personality well suits her for Rudolph, the principal boy; she is always graceful and vivacious, and when necessary can put a lot of pathos into her voice. Miss Arundale has some pleasing numbers, and does full justice to them. Miss Maud Darling plays Princess Aurora in excellent style, she sings well and might with advantage have more scope for her smart dancing; Prince Spriteley and Cherry (a pierrette) have capital exponents in Miss Olive Crellin and Miss Winnie Volt; Gentle Julia (of the circus) is well represented by Miss Lutie Griffiths; and Miss Hebe Bliss is graceful as Claribel (the Spirit of Generosity), speaks her lines well, and sings in approved style. The comedians are well up to the mark:—Mr. Bert Gilbert does all that is possible with the part of King Sollumm, and is very amusing; Mr. Fred Conquest has evidently made a good study of Humpty Dumpty; it is a difficult part to play, there being no scope for anything approaching comic business, but Mr. Conquest, in a semi-pathetic and serious style, renders the peculiar character interesting from many points of view. Mr. Horace Mills makes a capital Dame, his Martha (a widow, subsequently Queen Martha) is quaint and amusing in a quiet and effective style; his songs all go well and will no doubt become popular. Bison Bob is played by "Carlton" in an effective manner; he gives his clever exposition of card manipulation and some neat conjuring tricks, obtaining considerable applause for his efforts. Messrs. Griffiths Brothers are successful as Brick and Brack; they have an amusing act as a ferocious lion and its trainer, and also with Miss Lutie Griffiths do a funny camel act. Mr. Charles Wakeman makes the most of his opportunities as the King's Jester; and Mr. Cyril Thompson sings well, and acts effectively as Soaro, the Spirit of Ambition.

Tiller's "Superba" Quartette appears successfully in speciality dances; the ballet is well trained, costumed to perfection, and highly effective; the chorus is strong and tuneful; and a large contingent of extra ladies and gentlemen, all dressed in approved style, add much to the effect of some of the stage pictures.

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD" AT CHESTER.

This pantomime was produced at the Royalty Theatre, Chester, at a matinée given on Boxing Day. The book by Victor Stevens follows the traditional lines, and is written in the old rhyming style. Mr. Fred Maple as the Squire is responsible for much humorous business. The wolf is suitably enacted by Mr. J. W. Brighten. Mr. Maitland Marler as the Dame has two capital songs in "Let me sing," and "Riding on top of a car," the chorus of the latter being quickly taken up by the "gods." Mr. Billie Taylor in an eccentric make-up appears to great advantage as Simple Simon. Mr. Henry De Solla gives an admirable character study of the rascally old lawyer, Slyfox. Mr. Dennis Curzon makes the most of the small part of Johnny Stout. Miss Lily Palmer does well as Jack, whilst Jill, in the person of Miss Amy Maple, is quickly a favourite. A stately Prince is found in Miss Kitty Malone, who is possessed of a fine presence and a taking style. Miss Marie Beaufort as Fairy Gossamer is well placed, and tastefully renders the song, "A dear old sweetheart." Mr. Reuben Kitchen causes much amusement as Rover the dog. Miss Mamie Iris is a dainty Little Red Riding Hood, her acting being all that could be desired, and she receives a well-deserved encore for her song, "Bamboo Bungalow," in which she is assisted by a little girl in the dress-circle. In addition to the vocal numbers already mentioned we must not forget a tuneful effort, "The Zuyder Zee," sung by Miss Amy Maple, which goes with a swing right through. The pantomime, which is splendidly dressed and mounted, is under the stage-direction of Mr. Henry De Solla. Specialities are contributed by Mlle. Onra on the slack wire, the Alhambra Trio, a troupe of graceful dancers, and the Maples, whose turn is one of the principal attractions of the show.

"BABES IN THE WOOD" AT CROYDON.

An excellent new fairy version of *Babes in the Wood* was produced, under the direction of Mr. Harry Carmen, at the Theatre Royal, Croydon, on Boxing Day, and we can at once compliment Mr. Samuel James upon a pantomime which is admirable alike both for fun and splendour. The story has been cleverly pieced together by Mr. Newman Maurice, and is told in a breezy and entertaining manner—in fact, the whole book shows genuine work and is worthy of unstinted praise. Mr. John Reillie is a perfect masterpiece at pantomime music, and this year's efforts confirm the surmise that he would be hard to beat in this particular line. Throughout the whole of the piece his tuneful melodies and catchy airs are a prominent and pleasing feature. Many beautiful scenes have been painted for the annual, and special mention must be made of the artistic sets, Nottingham Market Place on Fair Day, Sherwood Forest, and The Grand Hall in Nottingham Castle. A good deal of attention has been paid to the dresses and ballets, and this department reflects credit on those concerned. A smart all-round company has been engaged, and their reception at the opening performance proved that their efforts were rightly directed. Miss Beatie Benson makes a charming and dainty Bertie, and quickly establishes herself a general favourite. She has a nice partner to work with in Miss Lily Farrer as Gertie, who has a neat style with her which wins all hearts. Miss Flo Varley possesses a handsome stage presence and pleasing voice, and she imparts the necessary spirit and go to the rôle of Robin Hood; and Miss Daisy Lane makes a palpable hit as Maid Marion, sustaining the part with unceasing animation and singing with taste and expression. Miss Marie Dare makes the most of her opportunities in the character of Will Scarlett, and Miss Rosie Lewin pushes her part to the front as Lucrettia. Messrs. Blarney and Kennard are comically villainous and work with a will as Rob and Plunder, the house being kept in a roar the whole time they occupy the stage. Mr. Allan Dale acts and speaks in the best spirit of burlesque as Baron Snatchall, and his frivolities cause many a laugh; Mr. Harry Carmen is delightfully fresh and racy as Baroness Snatchall, enacting the rôle with a tinge of unctuous humour, which is hugely appreciated; Mr. Edwin Bell just touches the right note as Santa Claus; Mr. Herbert Hall gives a graphic performance as the Demon Malice; Mr. Edward Benson is quite up to his work as the Sheriff of Nottingham; Mr. Jack Binns contributes his full quota in the part of Friar Tuck; and Miss Dorothy Oswald presents a cheerful front as Fairy Diamonde. Mr. Harry Montague as clown is responsible for the harlequinade, and he receives able assistance from Mr. Fred Austin as harlequin, Mr. Phil. Maurice (always reliable) as pantaloon, Mr. Thomas Edwin as policeman, and Miss Rosie Lewin as columbine. Mr. Charles Herrick looks after the front of the house in a satisfactory manner.

"THE FORTY THIEVES" AT DERBY.

Mr. Edwardes has arranged with Mr. Fred Granville for the production of the pantomime at the Grand Theatre and Opera House on the familiar story of *The Forty Thieves*, the first performance taking place on Christmas Eve. The book has

been specially written by Mr. Joseph L. Barry. Costumes are by Mrs. Howarth, and the scenery has been specially painted by Messrs. E. Egerton. The properties are by Messrs. James Thomas, and the electric effects are by Messrs F. Crawley. Miss Emmie Milsted, who enacts Morgiana, is a lady of considerable versatility and vivacity. She throws the whole resources of her art into her performance, and works with commendable energy all through. Combined with an attractive personality, albeit she plays the part "coloured," she has a pleasing voice, is a clever dancer, and there is a refreshing vein of originality running through all she does. Miss Flo Warner, who plays Ganem, is another thoroughly experienced pantomime artist, and contributes largely to the success of the production. Of her singing and dancing it is impossible to speak in terms too commendatory, and she introduces several excellent songs, which are warmly encored. Miss Edna Cragge, who is a popular pantomime boy, presents a dashing Abdullah, and her abilities secure her a cordial reception. The Sisters Poole, who play second boy and girl, are dainty dancers, and are in every way satisfactory. Mr. Sid Cotterell, the Hassarac of the piece, is diverting, and extracts the utmost that is to be got out of his part. A number of good songs are allotted to him, and he bids fair to become one of the prime favourites of the pantomime. As Ali Baba Mr. Allan Carruthers is deserving, and acquits himself of his songs and general business with acceptation. He receives very efficient assistance from Mr. Dan Agar, who appears as Cogia Baba. The two have a laughable duet, and introduce some smart patter. Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh as Cassim submits a new and novel interpretation of that character, is a gifted actor, and is to be heartily congratulated. Mr. Joe Bell is thoroughly good as Mustapha; and the Moketta of Mr. Wattie Griffin is a very funny performance. The specialities are of a high grade character, Messrs. Burley and Burley are wonderfully clever knockabout artists; the Sisters Poole, who are mentioned above, are pleasing features of the programme; Mr. Wattie Griffin is responsible for some marvellous contortionist work; and the special turn of the Achmed Ibrahim troupe of real Bedouin Arabs, ten in number, is of a truly remarkable character. The pantomime is very effectively mounted, and the arrangements generally leave little if anything to be desired. Mr. Granville is assisted by Mr. J. L. Berry as general manager, Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh is stage manager, and Mr. Arthur W. Parry is musical director.

"MOTHER GOOSE" AT DUNDEE.

Mr. R. A. P. Williams produced his pantomime, *Mother Goose*, on Monday evening at the Gaiety Theatre, Dundee, before a packed and very appreciative house. The book, by Mr. Arthur Lee Todd, is exceptionally well written; the music selected and arranged by Mrs. R. A. P. Williams and Mr. Wm. Hartley is sparkling, and the dresses are dreams of loveliness. The seven scenes into which the pantomime is divided are all painted by Mr. R. W. Miller, and right well has he done his work. Scene II., Mother Goose's Poultry Farm, is a really charming picture. Scene IV., The Grounds of De Goose Hall," is also another beautiful bit of stage setting, but words fail to describe the gorgeousness and dazzling beauty of the palace scene, in which some wonderful and elaborate electric devices are introduced with happy results. When the splendour and magnificence of this scene were at their height an extraordinary scene of enthusiasm was witnessed, the vast audience cheering and shouting themselves hoarse with delight. Mr. Williams then appeared on the stage and spoke a few words of thanks for the brilliant reception of the pantomime. He then introduced Mr. Miller, the scenic artist, who had a perfect ovation. The production does not, however, depend for success upon its spectacular effects. There is no lack of comedians, foremost among whom is Mr. Sam Thomson (Sandy), whose energy is only equalled by his supreme ability to keep his audience amused. Mr. J. Telly Dillsen, as Mother Goose, displays his undoubted powers as a comedian, and Mr. Tom Packer has a capital part as the Bold Bad Squire, singing a really clever medley song with great success. Mr. Tom Nearney scores as the lawyer, and to Mr. Arthur Lee Todd and Mr. James Chartres, who, as policemen, supply the knockabout business, nothing but praise can be given. Mr. Michael Kemble plays the demon dramatically, and his fine voice is heard to much advantage in the songs which fall to his share. Miss Gertie Douglas (Colin) made a dashing principal boy, singing and acting throughout delightfully. Several pretty numbers fall to her share, including that catchy ditty "A different girl again," which was encored over and over again. Miss Winnie Darrell, who plays "His Sweetheart," has also an excellent voice, and her dances are remarkably neat and graceful. The songs in which she is most successful are "Good-night, Mr. Brown," and the tuneful "Zuyder Zee." Miss Nan Dowling and Miss Kitty Hildrew, the second boy and girl respectively, are another very popular couple. No pantomime would be complete without the fairy queen, and no daintier representative could be desired than Miss Catherine May, whose tasteful singing and sweet voice made her a warm favourite. Quite a feature of the pantomime is the specialities introduced by the Stuart Quartette of vocalists and dancers, and a special word of praise should be accorded to Master Jones for his clever representation of the Goose. The fall of the curtain was the signal for a further outburst of prolonged applause, and Mr. Williams is to be congratulated on the brilliant success of the pantomime, on which no pains and expense have been spared to make it what it is—the very best ever produced at this theatre.

"SINDBAD" AT GATESHEAD.

On Boxing Day Mr. Samuel James produced the second King's pantomime, *Sindbad the Sailor*. Mr. Newman Maurice has written the book in rhyme and has done his work well. The scenery, by Mr. Harry Drury and assistants, is of the best, and the music by Mr. W. T. Gliddon and Mr. Arthur Meredyth (who controls the augmented orchestra) is a strong feature. The dresses are by Clarkson, the mechanical effects by Mr. A. George, electrical arrangements by Mr. A. Bryan, and the properties by Mr. G. Wilson, the whole being under the supervision of Mr. Thos. Barrie. Chief amongst the ladies we have Miss Fifi Gordon, who supplies an impersonation of Sindbad which earns for her unstinted praise. In charming style she renders "It's a different girl again" and "Zuyder Zee," the latter of which is a great success. Miss Gordon also excels in dancing, her effort in the cave scene being rewarded with hearty applause. All the dresses worn by Miss Gordon have been made by the lady herself. Next in favour comes Miss Beaty Kent, who as Sadie becomes a favourite early on. Her vocal contributions include a duet with Sindbad entitled "I want no other little girl," and "Sailing in my balloon." Mr. James is to be complimented upon his selection of an artist for the Dame part, Mr. Tom Collins being a comedian well suited for the part. At no time does his humour approach the vulgar, and his topical ditties are rendered in an appreciably easy style. Time will prove Mr. Collins one of the stoutest pillars of the show. Mr. Herbert Fuller (the company manager) works hard in the rôle of Vanderdecken, his mock dramatic business proving a huge hit. As Tinbad Mr. Tod Squires does well. The Misses Tennis and Lawn as Selim and Yosan are to the front, and Miss Agnes Fancheux as Fairy Coralie sings acceptably. Mr. George H. Keith is deserving of praise for his Old Man of the Sea, whilst Messrs. Bishop and Vale provide abundant amusement with their knock-about business. Messrs. Salida and Vone, a couple of coloured performers, fill the rôles of the King and Queen and delight everybody with their ragtime dancing. Miss Lilian Morris as the Prince, Miss Agness Collier as the Princess, Mr. Stanley Blake as Caliph, and Mr. Archie Herbert as the monkey lend useful assistance. The dancing of Miss Idalia May is one of the principal features.

"BABES IN THE WOOD" AT GLASGOW.

Mr. Arthur Jefferson is to be congratulated on the success of his production of *The Babes in the Wood* at the Metropole Theatre on Saturday evening, in presence of a house crowded in every part. The alternative title is *The Tale of the Two Robbers and the Wicked King Wow-Wow*, and it is carried through in two parts of seven and five scenes, the libretto by Charles Wilmot and the music by Carl Hamlin. Mr. Edmund Edmunds is responsible for the entire production, in which he also takes a very large share of the work. The vocal and dance music has been well chosen, and a number of airs popular throughout the country in pantomime this year are included. The scenery, dresses and appointments are on a very lavish scale, and the splendour of everything is best seen in the two brilliant scenes, Nos. 5 and 12 respectively, The Grand Hall of the Palace and The Rose Garden of a Thousand Lights. Another scene, No. 7, The Allchange Junction, is the venue where much rollicking fun and mischief are engaged in. Miss Rose Hamilton, as Prince Radiant, is not forgotten as a principal boy. Her reception was flattering on her first entrance, and her performance throughout was distinctly clever and engaging. Despite a cold, she sang charmingly, and in many dances was no less successful, encores falling repeatedly to her admired efforts. Miss Lucy Lynch, as Princess Dainty, looked the part ideally, having a refined manner and a style and grace quite in keeping with such a leading rôle. She has some capital songs, and made a very fine appearance in several dances, both solo and concerted. Miss Hamilton and she have plenty of concerted work to do, and, to their credit, it is exquisitely performed. Miss Cecilia Maude, as Sunshine, the Fairy Queen, is tall and handsome, and her singing is a feature of a performance of sterling excellence. She is also an elocutionist of ability, and was quite deserving of the success she made. Mr. Reginald Hamilton, as Malignant, has a fine presence, and sings well, in a voice of capital baritone quality, and he proved a formidable demon. Mr. Jas Dunlop, as the Spirit of Pantomime, does well in a part a little more of which would not have been amiss. Messrs. Bernard and Weston, two clever comedians, are in fine parts as King Wow and Pip, his attendant. They most heartily enter into their work, and combine splendidly, are much in evidence, and the moments are never dull while they are on. Two delightful Babes have been found in Miss Blanche Albert and Miss Ada Merry. They sing in tuneful style, and sweetness and expression are notable, while they please greatly with their dances. Mr. Mark Tapley is a first-rate dame. As Widow Trumble he is responsible for much of the fun, notably in the Schoolroom scene, where he is exceedingly droll. He has a fine supporter in Mr. Ernie Sparks, as Tommy, and both come in for much applause for their very hearty laughter-making. A gay and bright artist is Miss Patti Bella as Sir Bertie Boulevard, and she lends admirable help in all she does, as does Miss Amy Martine as Dolly Daydream. This lady, also, has capital chances as a singer and dancer, and makes the most of these in a vivacious manner. Miss Vinnie Edmunds, in the rôle of Mollie Mildred, and Mr. Patrick Playfair do all that falls to them in capital style. The latter as Fanfare, the King's paper-bearer, is a resourceful artist, and is particularly successful. Too much praise cannot be given to Mr. Jas. Albert and Mr. Edmund Edmunds, who are about as hard-working a couple of comedians as have graced a Glasgow pantomime for a long time. As Horatio Hardface and Sammy Softun, the broker's men, they prove irresistibly funny, and are responsible for many amusing situations. In the railway-station, airship, and other scenes they simply revel in their parts, and to them a large share of the entire success is due. The part taken by the London and other choristers is one deserving recognition, and a large part of the success achieved is due to the Ten Dixie Girls. They look, dress, sing, and dance in bewitching fashion. The production closed amid a scene of enthusiasm, and Mr. Edmunds was called upon to say a few words of thanks. Mr. Arthur Jefferson contented himself with a smiling bow in acknowledgment; but he was busy all the evening seeing to his patrons' comfort, in which he was ably seconded by Mr. W. Gillespy, the courteous acting-manager.

"THE BABES" AT KEIGHLEY.

When on Saturday night the curtain fell upon *The Babes in the Wood* at the Queen's Theatre there could be no sort of doubt as to the popular verdict upon Messrs. Carson and Kendall's first pantomime. It was an instant success. *The Babes in the Wood*, however, is, indeed, the most entertaining pantomime seen in Keighley for many years.

Mr. Lingford Carson's libretto follows, in outline at least, the fable of "The Babes in the Wood." The eight scenes into which the pantomime is divided are all by Mr. J. R. Horrocks, and great credit is due to him for the beautiful pictures presented. Mr. Horrocks is also stage-managing the production, and brings ripe experience to bear, with happy results.

Mr. Hugh Brady's Baron Shortmoney is a fine comic creation. He scores a big success with his song "There's no songs like the old ones," and "There's a man in Manitoba" never fails to win applause. Mr. J. McGrath and Mr. Harwood Roberts as the villains have parts in which they revel. Their comic business in the Wood scene evokes roars of laughter.

Miss Rose Tilley is a charming principal boy; her performance is a dashing one, and her rendering of the song, "It's a different girl again," is one of the hits of the evening. Miss May Grayce, the Maid Marion, has a dainty, attractive personality; her song, "Colombo," is sure to be popular. The duet rendered by Miss Tilley and Miss Grayce is a delightful number. Miss Nell Renie as Will Scarlet caught the fancy of the audience from the start; she has an attractive manner, and her songs were well received, especially "All that glitters is not gold." The Babes are in the capable hands of Little Dott Moss and Miss Doris Middleton. Little Dott Moss gives a very good performance, singing sweetly and dancing gracefully; her song, "Bungalow in Borneo," is a fine effort, and the business worked with Mr. Hugh Brady wins repeated encores. In the Palace scene she introduces a banjo speciality with success. Mr. Oliver Conroy helps considerably as Dame Maggie. Miss Beattie is a captivating Little John, and her song, "Starlight," is a very popular number.

Miss Clara Moore is an ideal Molly, good-looking, beautifully dressed, and sings "My Sugar Plum" very sweetly. Mr. Felix Rimmington employs a good voice effectively in his song, "Crocodile Isle." Mr. J. Gagan is a humorous Friar Tuck. The opposing forces of good and evil are represented by Miss Dolly Marsden as Crystal and Miss Mabel Fare as Davolo. Miss Fare speaks her lines with excellent effect. Miss Ada Noel, Miss Dare, and Miss Annie Love render good support. Much credit is due to Miss Lillie Leicester for her training of the local children, who appear in two pretty dances, a statue ballet, and a bird ballet, and win rounds of applause. Miss Lillie Leicester's Ariel Quartette brought down the house with their remarkably clever dancing. The mounting of the pantomime has received lavish treatment, and the dresses are beautiful. The speciality turn of The Cumberlands is without doubt one of the finest cycle turns ever seen here. Messrs. Carson and Kendall, Mr. Joe Horrocks, and all concerned are to be congratulated upon the production.

"THE FORTY THIEVES" AT LEEDS.

Mr. John Tiller has again been entrusted with the important task of providing the Theatre Royal, Leeds, Christmas annual, and, to judge by the extravagant welcome accorded by a full house on Saturday last to the opening performance of *The Forty Thieves*, the high standard of excellence achieved for many years past will be easily maintained. Under the watchful eye of Mr. Macnaghten, a special effort has been made at scenic display, and some exquisite stage pictures are the result—notably the gorgeous feast of colour, the City of Ispahan, by Mr. T. C. Ryan, with which the piece opens, and the final scene, Ali Baba's Palace, a magnificent canvas by Mr. T. F. Dunn. In the matter of dressing no expense has been spared. Notwithstanding this special effort for the spectacular side of the production, the humorous element looms large, for a merrier crowd of funmakers have not been seen here. Mr. Bob Selvidge is a vastly amusing Ali Baba, his antics being perpetrated with a quaint drollery that is irresistible. A big hit is made by Mr. Harry Dent, who has a generous part as a mock lieutenant of the thieves, and his every appearance on the stage is the signal for general merriment. Mr. Gus Le Clerq is throughout spontaneously funny as a comic policeman; and Mr. Russell Wallett as the much-tried Cogia is provocative of many hearty outbursts of laughter. Miss Bessie Cohen invests her part of Ganem with commendable enthusiasm and vivacity, and scores well with some taking vocal numbers. Good taste and expression characterise the work of Miss Elsie Cooke, an altogether charming Morgiana. As the Captain of the forty Miss Maisie Ellinger brings an attractive presence and a good voice. Special mention must be made of Mr. Sam Poluski, jun.'s clever work as the donkey; and Messrs. Doyle and Massey are no less effective as the camel. Mr. Charles Hampden, Mr. Frank Woodville, Miss Hettie Russell, and Miss Fanny Harris also present prominent parts in commendable style.

"THE SLEEPING BEAUTY" AT LEEDS.

Mr. John Hart's annual pantomime at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, opened on Saturday, and the result of many weeks' arduous labour was received with demonstrative and continuous show of appreciation by a house full to overflowing. In choosing the theme of *The Sleeping Beauty* opportunity is given for unlimited scenic display, and it would indeed be difficult to imagine more gorgeous examples of the scene-painter's art than are here displayed, notably the transformation "Night to Morning" at the end of the first act. The rise of the curtain discloses the Royal nursery, with Beauty in the cradle, the subject of some humorous dialogue, in which the Dame of the pantomime, in the character of Beauty's nurse, figures prominently. A beautiful garden scene is next apparent, and here Beauty (now celebrating her eighteenth birthday) meets her Prince lover, and the customary love-scene follows. The scene changes to Beauty's reception-room, where a galaxy of beaus come to woo that young lady, and opportunity is given for more entertaining encounters between the King and his wrathful spouse. Next we find Beauty exploring the haunted tower, and lured by the bad Fairy to the fatal spinning-wheel, pricks her finger, thus qualifying for her hundred years' sleep according to tradition. The next scene is the Royal kitchen, with an effective ballet of cooks, and the beautiful transformation scene "Night to morning" brings the first act to a close. The second act sees the Court awaken from its wondrous sleep. Good fairies dispel the evil threats of the wicked witch, and the Prince claims, and is awarded, his beautiful bride. The remaining scenes follow the story in the orthodox way, affording all concerned plenty of opportunity for showing their abilities, the curtain falling on the Butterflies' Ball, a delightful feast of colouring by Mr. E. H. Ryan.

Miss Julia James is an engaging Beauty—dainty, winsome, and girlish—and she renders her vocal numbers with rare expression. As the Prince, Miss Katie Vesey will be a big success, her acting being full of vivacity and well calculated to please. Mr. W. H. Powell has an established reputation here as a pantomime dame, and his spontaneous humour in a "fat" part has much to do with the success. Mr. Albert Le Fre is a tower of strength as Alfonso, the page, having a big share in all the most comic encounters, whilst his songs are amongst the best hits in the show, his clever speciality dancing being also much enjoyed. That excellent comedian Mr. T. W. Volt is in the part of the King, and commands the laughter of his audience at will. Mr. Arthur Sutcliffe is effective as Lord Everyman, his rendering of the tuneful ditty "It's a different girl again" being received with acclamation. The part of Queen is drawn on somewhat novel lines, and Miss Florence Parfrey makes it effective in every phase, the vocal side being of exceptional merit. Miss Edith Adeson promises to be an emphatic success as the second girl, Trixie, her song, "Rosie's cosy bungalow," followed by a tricky dance, going particularly well. As Rudolph, Miss Rosie Wren looks attractive, and acts with vivacity a somewhat slender part. Messrs. Sanford and Lyons are in the cast as a couple of fun-providers—Ping and Pong—and succeed admirably their clever patter and cross-talk scenes, along with some marvellous simultaneous dancing, evoking a great show of appreciation. For the part of the Good Fairy that fine vocalist Miss Vera Schlesinger has been secured, and her numbers are rendered with considerable ability; whilst the Bad Fairy, a decrepit old witch, is depicted with rare fidelity by Mr. Colin Campbell. That clever diminutive comedian Mr. John Dixon is in the cast as Prince Spritely, and will doubtless, ere the run is far advanced, find opportunity for more generous exploitation of the low comedy ability we know him to possess.

The dresses are on the sumptuous and costly scale which has been the standard at this premier theatre for many years past, and, as already indicated, Mr. R. C. Oldham has given of his best in the gorgeous sets which conclude the respective acts; whilst there is many another effective canvas by Mr. D. G. Hall and Mr. George Jackson. All the best of the popular new tunes are included in the score arranged by the popular resident musical director, Signor Romilli.

"ALADDIN" AT LEICESTER.

Very pleasant memories were revived at the Theatre Royal on Boxing Day, when Mr. Milton Bode produced his pantomime of *Aladdin*. This old theatre at one time was noted for its many successful Christmas annuals, but of late years the presentation of a pantomime at the festive season has been lacking, and the enterprise displayed by Mr. Milton Bode who, in conjunction with Mr. Edward Compton, is one of the lessees of the theatre, will no doubt meet with the reward which it so richly deserves. Mr. J. Hickory Wood is responsible for the book, which deals with the fortunes of the hero in the usual interesting manner, and is brought well up to date.

The pantomime is divided into two parts, and is shown in ten scenes, the scenery being by Mr. Fred Storey, Mr. S. King Alexander, and Mr. Arthur R. Betts, upon which they are to be complimented, the scenes calling for special notice being the Market-place at Pekin, the Magic Cave, Aladdin's Garden, and the Palace of the Emperor, the latter being probably the best seen at the Royal, the delightful blending of the colours of the dresses, &c., evoking the warmest commendation. We have nothing but the highest praise to bestow upon Mr. E. R. Beaumont, the business manager of the theatre, who produced the pantomime under the direction of Mr. Milton Bode. On its initial production on Boxing Day it went through without a single hitch in any department. The music is specially written and composed by Mr. Henry W. May, whose charming melodies, &c., in this direction are also a feature calling for special praise. Additional numbers are by Mr. B. J. Paterson the musical director, who has a specially largely-increased orchestra under his direction. The dresses are always tasteful and artistic, and in many instances are of a most costly nature.

An excellent company of artists have been secured, the whole company working together with a swing that redounds greatly to their credit. There is also a very fine chorus; in fact, it is impossible to speak in too complimentary a manner in this direction. The members of the company possess good voices, which they use to the greatest advantage. The Royal Welsh Meister Singers are vocalists who secured an immediate success, and the appearance of Leo Sterling, a clever and amusing musician, is very popular. In the principal part of Aladdin Miss May Marton, a dainty and charming lady, is to be highly complimented on a delineation that was always fascinating and clever, and she is rapturously applauded for her songs, "Hello! Hello! It's a different girl again," "Manitoba," and "Bluebell's Wedding," which she rendered in a dashing style. She has an excellent sweetheart in Miss Janet Reynolds, who is always refined and artistic, her song, entitled "In the shadow of the Pyramids" being rendered in a delightful manner. Miss Lovell is a pretty and captivating Nicee, and Miss Ethel Wilson is smart as Pekoe, her song, "Save your pennies," being given in capital style. Miss Maude Dale does well as the Geni of the Ring, and both Miss Annie Watkins as Ruby and Miss Addie Love merit praise as the Slaves of the Lamp. The comedians are without exception good. Mr. Tom Owen, the Welsh comedian, who is the Widow Twankey, is a thorough success, his funny patter and songs meeting with well-deserved appreciation. As Abanazar Mr. Clifford Morgan is heard to considerable advantage, his fine singing calling forth great applause. As the Chinese policemen, Chew Chew and Chop Chop, Mr. Leo Sterling and Mr. Happy Attwood create endless merriment, their gags, "Shut up" and "I've got another stripe," being very popular. Mr. Frank Couch makes a hit as the Grand Vizier. Besides giving a very humorous performance, his local allusions promise to become extremely popular, and his saying of "Shall we do it?" at once caught on. Mr. Tommy Nelldon helped the merriment along in good style as Lip Tung Tee. The Emperor finds an excellent impersonator in Mr. Walter Cranch. At the termination of the "show" the delighted audience showed their hearty appreciation of the performance, which must be voted as in every respect a most enjoyable one, upon which we cannot refrain from cordially congratulating Mr. Milton Bode, Mr. E. R. Beaumont (who has worked so hard for its success), and the artists engaged.

"ALADDIN" AT LIVERPOOL.

Mr. Robert Arthur's eleventh Christmas annual at the Court Theatre has an abundance of fun and frolic, and the story of *Aladdin*, which is described as an operatic pantomime in two acts, has been ably treated by Mr. Frank Dix, while Mr. J. O. Shepherd (leader of the Court orchestra) and Mr. Jullien H. Wilson are responsible for the charming and appropriate music. Some of the scenes are especially beautiful, the Home of Jewels, which concludes the first part of the work, being as charming a picture as could possibly be placed upon the stage. Throughout the pantomime the scenic artists (Messrs. Stafford Hall and J. F. Hogg) seem to have aimed at producing pretty and artistic effects with tints of a somewhat subdued character. In this effort they have succeeded admirably. The costumes are superb, and looked well on the vast army of pretty girls and women who crowd the stage.

Fun predominates throughout the whole of the pantomime. Mr. Malcolm Scott as the Widow Twankey found many opportunities for exhibiting his humour, and his patter and his assumption of the Gibson Girl *à la* Miss Clifford proved a capital caricature. His song relative to a coon tune raised many a broad smile. Regan and Ryan, attired as Chinese policemen, went through their work with great gusto, their rendering of the ditty, "The Ragtime Milionaires," earning an encore; Happy Fanny Fields, as Gretchen, a Dutch laundry maid, was highly amusing, her special style of dancing gaining for her much favour; Miss Hetty King threw a deal of spirit into the part of Aladdin, and among her songs were "It's a different girl again," "I want to be a Gibson Girl," and "Back to Piccadilly"; Miss Fanny Dango looked a beautiful and stately Princess, and rendered with much taste "Will you be my butterfly?"; as the Grand Vizier Mr. M. R. Morand added greatly to the fun, and his ditty, "The never, never land," made a hit; Mr. Harrison Brockbank presented an amusing and witty Emperor, giving in good style "Monte Carlo"; Miss Doris Dean did the most with Chee-Ki; Miss Poppy Wilkinson looked well as Pekoe, the Emperor's son; Mr. W. R. Percival held the small part of Slave of the Lamp; and Miss Cissie Astbury was the Genie of the Ring. A deal of capital sport emanated from the efforts of Mr. Harry Tate, who introduced his funny music-hall sketches *Motoring* and *Golfing*. For the first time in Liverpool the cinematograph, worked by Mr. Anthony Brown, was made use of in pantomime, and with excellent effect. On Abanazar (Mr. Tate) and Aladdin escaping from the wrath of the Emperor by means of the motor-car, the theatre was suddenly plunged into darkness, and on a front cloth was shown a continuation of the fugitives' flight. Up hill and down dale raced the car, careering over mountains and peaks, reaching to the moon with the utmost ease, leaping from crag to crag, and even turning somersaults, until when the lights go up again the motorists are discovered sprawling on the ground in front of a Chinese laundry.

"MOTHER GOOSE" AT LIVERPOOL.

On Saturday night the audience in the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, did not take long to settle down to the pantomime *Mother Goose*. The production is certainly the most gorgeous that has been placed on the Shakespeare stage during the eighteen years the theatre has existed, and no praise is too great for the scenic artists, Messrs. T. Holmes and T. E. Ryan, and for the loveliness of the costumes made by Alias, from designs by Comelli. The whole of the pantomime was produced by Mr. Herbert Cottesmore, who is to be congratulated upon the smoothness with which the vast enterprise is conducted. Mr. J. Hickory Wood's "book" is written in an agreeable and interesting style. He places Mother Goose in monetary difficulties with her landlord, who, on being unable to get his rent, evicts her from the cottage, whereupon she and her family in the most comical manner spread out their beds on the ground, keeping the rain off with umbrellas. The incident causes much mirth. The most charming of the several spectacles put upon the stage are those conjured up by the demon in order to tempt Mother Goose—Childhood, represented by little ones in nightdresses, youth showing a bevy of damsels skipping in a glen; and the triumph of love, showing happy old age in the persons of Darby and Joan. There is an abundance of fun, and a constant stream of excellent, witty dialogue. Mr. Tom E. Murray in the title part is the heart and soul of the pantomime. His very presence on the stage starts the laughter, and on his appearance in finery, when wealth had poured in upon the family, the audience went into convulsions of mirth. Mr. Johnny Danvers, as Jack, the son, is his right-hand man, and a deal of help is also given by Messrs. J. T. Macmillan (the laird), Fred O'Malley (his brother), and Billy Brown (a widow hunter). Mr. R. Pender exhibits a deal of natural movement as the Goose; Messrs. T. and B. and A. and W. Pender are funny as the horse and the motor men; the Demon is capitally impersonated by Mr. Harry Claff, whose fine baritone voice is heard to advantage, especially in duets with the fairy Heartsease (Miss Annie Braddan), to whom praise is also due. Miss Ray Wallace won the appreciation of her audience, who gave her a grand reception, for the character of Bridget, the servant to Mother Goose. Her singing and dancing were delightful, and for her imitations of music-hall stars he was rapturously applauded. Miss Ruth Lytton, as the principal boy, Colin, was dashing and full of spirit; the principal girl, Jill, daughter of Mother Goose, was capably impersonated by Miss Mabel Russell; Miss Jane Eyre was a bewitching Eric; and Miss Imra de Langlois, as Lady Ida, played intelligently, and sang sweetly. Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers were received with much favour, and in the course of the pantomime all the latest songs were given with great gusto, while the music supplied by Mr. George M. Saker was extremely appropriate.

"THE BABES IN THE WOOD" AT MANCHESTER.

Mr. Peter Thompson produced at the St. James's Theatre, Manchester, on Saturday, an up-to-date version of *The Babes in the Wood*, written expressly for the theatre by Mr. Peter O'Dicks. The story runs on popular lines, following a method whereby the main features of the plot are made to stand out with just that occasional brevity and boldness which gives coherence to the action without interfering with its freedom. It is also lucidly confined to eight scenes, each sufficiently crowded with progressive interest, and including among them the Village, the Schoolroom, the Forest, and a final Palace scene, in which Robin Hood is acclaimed the Earl of Huntingdon. The four scenes mentioned are as pleasing as anything need be in pantomime, which, designed for travelling purposes, does not aspire to the highest degree of elaboration. Incidental music as pleasing in its way has been specially composed and arranged by Messrs. Harry Vernon and Percy Woodruff; and ballets, arranged and invented by Miss Rosa Walmsley, add further grace and charm. Miss Maude Beaumont makes a capital Robin Hood, being in every way well suited to the rôle of principal boy. Her clear and powerful voice was heard to great advantage in her opening song, "Nelson from his monument," which brought a well-deserved encore. She was equally successful in "Zuyder Zee," a song "featured" (to employ the word appropriately) by the introduction of a comic masked chorus of various characters, among them the unlovely Nurse of the cast. Miss Beaumont's duet with Maid Marian, "It's a lovely day for a walk," was also well received. As Maid Marian, Miss Lou Langley gave a very agreeable performance, embellishing her vocal efforts with several neat and appropriate dances. Miss Minnie Moran, as Will Scarlet, moved briskly, and made a success of her song, "My Colombo beau," following it by a smart dance. Scarlet's sweetheart, Dorothy Dimple, is played by Miss Rosa Walmsley, whose dancing is one of the best things of the pantomime. Other clever ladies are employed, among them Miss Maudie Grayson as the Fairy Blue Bell, and the Misses Renee Grahame and Babs Lloyd as a pair of Babes who have obviously seen much of the stage world and are likely to become more widely known. Humour is a strong point of the production. The Danbys, as Tim Tired and Willie Wearied, upon whom devolves the task of murdering the babes in the forest, made a pair of amusing villains. A good comic performance was given also by Mr. T. G. Vane as the nurse, Evelean, who sang "Waiting at the church" with considerable success; this comedian, in fact, might attain an even more conspicuous personal success with a somewhat bolder enunciation. As Simple Pimple, the Baron's Page, Mr. Willie Barrett added to the fun, as did also Mr. Fred Pagét in a quiet way as Friar Tuck. Mr. Wilton Marsh's impersonation of Sir Scoun de Rel, the wicked uncle, would be improved by his entire relinquishment of a deep, stagey utterance, that spoiled all his efforts to amuse—which seemed to be the object of the lines—but he will no doubt remedy this mistaken interpretation of the part; and when that is done, no fault need be found with the production as a whole, upon which the mark of success was unhesitatingly conferred by a big and responsive audience. Besides the business already mentioned, specialities are added by N. T. Kioto, the daring and sensational Japanese equilibrist; Miss Babs Lloyd, a clever mimic and coon dancer; Miss Rosa Walmsley, expert acrobatic skipping-rope dancer; the Danbys, in Hungarian and other dances; Miss Renee Grahame, a particularly smart young male impersonator; the Yankee Quartet of speciality dancers (occasionally strengthened by the addition of Miss Rosa Walmsley), a very neat and pleasing combination; and Miss Minnie Moran, also an accomplished dancer.

Mr. John Hart's pantomime of *The Babes in the Wood* was produced on Monday at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, before a packed house. Mr. Hart's enterprise in respect of cast and staging is once more exemplified by this fine achievement, which, though hardly in smooth working order on the opening night, contains all the elements of a success in keeping with the splendid traditions of the theatre. The book is a new and original one by J. Hickory Wood, and contains threads of interest which go far to justify the description of the text. In it we have the Earl of Chester alternating with the character of Robin Hood, and incidentally adopting sundry other personalities which are complimentary to the talents and the charms of Miss Carrie Moore, whose impersonation of this rather unconventional principal boy, if not exactly "dashing" in the old-time sense of the word, is distinguished by a nice individuality and a refinement which made an instant and successful appeal. We have also Ruth Tapp, the baron's housekeeper, a masculine creature, with many feminine traits, who, having suddenly inherited a fortune of mysteriously large proportions, furnishes a potent attraction to the Baron (among others), who would barter his name and poverty for her wealth. The lady, Mr. Arthur Stigant, has, however, the whim to refuse all offers, and goes her way in a very pleasant, eccentric humour. The Baron, in the person of Mr. Wilkie Bard, has also many little peculiarities, which differentiate him from the usual pantomime plotter, as well in the lines as in the methods of this gifted and popular comedian. Scope and development are here far transcending the limits of music-hall successes, and the first five minutes of Mr. Wilkie Bard as Baron Bounce, accompanied by two of his bloodhounds (!) and a lifeless hare, proved his tremendous value in the cast. The impression of immense comic resource suggested at once by his make-up, his style, and his vocal delivery was constantly reinforced by a hundred and one amusing details of his appearance in the affairs of the village and the prospects of his wards. The latter are well impersonated by Miss Maudi Ray and Miss Ida Valli, of whom the last-named has an opportunity of displaying a precocious gift of mimicking some well-known stars. A favourite is seen in Miss Iris Hoey, who plays Marian in very dainty style, and imparts to the rôle a quiet charm and naturalness that show conspicuously against the busier constituents of pantomime. Messrs. Arthur Powell

and W. T. Thompson are well placed as Gentle James and Melancholy Mike, a pair of rogues who work well together, and develop into the Baron's hirelings, having to themselves the usual sanguinary burlesque scene in the depths of the forest—a capital piece of fun. As second boy (Norman), a part more prominent than usual, Miss Jennie Armstrong makes a bold show with her good presence and freedom of style; while Miss Nellie Stratton's impersonation of Phœbe, a waiting maid, is distinguished by a welcome refinement. Miss Annie Schubert figures agreeably as the Fairy Queen; and minor parts are quite acceptably filled by Mr. Harry Gardner, Mr. Bert Monks, Miss Emily Pritchard, and Miss Madge Quest. Mr. G. H. Elliott, as Pete, the Baron's page, has a part which is largely in the nature of a speciality, and it needs only to be said that his performance on the opening night was in his best style for it to be understood that his contributions to the entertainment were among the most successful features of the evening. Mr. Elliott has two "featured" songs, "I've built a bamboo bungalow for you" and "Under an umbrella," both of which were vociferously encored. Mr. Wilkie Bard's vocal offerings were equally successful, and comprised a clever and satirical ditty about "Playthings," "Le me sing," and "You, you, you," all given in his well-known manner. Rivalling these, Miss Carrie Moore sang "There's a man in Manitoba," "Zuyder Zee," "My Firefly," and shone also in a duet, "Prophecies," with Mr. Wilkie Bard. The scenic effects in Miss Moore's songs were pretty and well arranged. Miss Iris Hoey scored particularly in a song about "Rosie"; and other notable vocal items were Mr. Arthur Stigant's "Waiting at the church," Miss Jenny Armstrong's "Suffragettes," Miss Annie Schubert's "Snowflakes," and "The sailor and the mermaid," by Miss Nellie Stratton. By way of speciality, Les Trombetta have a scene to themselves, and provide an amusing interlude in vocalism and mimicry. Of the scenery, The Village, A Dream of Roseland (R. C. Oldham), The Beginning of the Journey—a fine lakeland set—In the Forest (D. G. Hall), and The Carnival scene at the end (Henry Emden) must be singled out as magnificent. The music has been selected, composed, and arranged by Mr. Chas. W. Chambers; and the entire production is under the stage direction of Mr. Victor Stevens, assisted by Mr. Arthur Lenville. All the materials for a big success are evident, and a big success will doubtless be attained.

"ALADDIN" AT NEWCASTLE.

To a well-filled house the tenth annual pantomime during the Arthurian reign at the Theatre Royal was unfolded on Saturday evening. *Aladdin* is the chosen title of the show, and the task of production has been placed in the experienced hands of Mr. Robert Courtneidge, who, it may be recalled, was associated last year with the very successful *Cinderella* pantomime at the Grey-street house. The story of Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp has been treated on familiar lines by the joint authors, Mr. A. M. Thompson and Mr. Courtneidge, the lyrics are by Mr. Chas. H. Taylor, and the music by Messrs. Alfred and E. Haines. While many of the attributes of the old-fashioned extravaganza are retained, the entertainment, for a pantomime, is more than ever on the lines of musical comedy, and with the reputation of the house for scenic splendour in its annual productions fully maintained, the music really delightful and catching, and a large amount of irresistible fun, a long and successful run, especially after so enthusiastic a reception on its first night, may safely be predicted for *Aladdin* at the Royal. The present Christmas annuals in Newcastle will long be remembered as the Scottish comedians' year, and not readily forgotten will be Mr. Neil Kenyon's impersonation of the Widow Twankey. It is a quaint, whimsical reading of the character, a stamp quite its own in the way of pantomime. There is a "canniness"—to use a Tyneside phrase—and sincerity that renders the widow a really lovable character. Mr. Kenyon has a capital song, "Tra la la," which proved very popular. A capable performance is Mr. Charles Harvey's Abanazar, and his medley of smart topical sayings in his "Doomsday Book" song is one of the hits of the evening. The part of Pekoe is usually played by a lady, but on this occasion it is entrusted, and with highly satisfactory results, to Mr. Fred Allandale, whose excellent voice is heard to advantage in such catchy songs as "Arrah Wanna" and "Loverly Overly." An interesting study is Mr. Alfred Clark's Emperor, who has quite an infectious laugh. In vocal talent the company is far, far above the average combination at a pantomime. Miss Florence Smithson, who makes a dainty and charming Princess, has several delightful numbers, and "Light of the honeymoon," "For you," and "The sweet singing maid" were most enthusiastically received. With a fine presence, and with all the requisite dash and vivacity needed for the part is Aladdin played by Miss Lily Morris, who bids fair to be one of the most popular "principal boys" of recent years in pantomime on Tyneside. She is, too, a most pleasing vocalist, and scored heavily in "The cherry blossom," "Waltz me around,' and "Zuyder Zee," the last-mentioned song, with chorus and dance by Dutch boys and girls, really being one of the best and prettiest items in the entertainment. A lively impersonation of the Irish slave Biddy, strong in its contrast as it is to the Scottish dialect of Mr. Kenyon, is given by Miss Kitty Cavendish, and another feature is the dancing of Miss Rosie Begarnie, who takes the part of Ah Sing. Other members of the strong and well-balanced company are Miss Olive Wade, Miss Minna Moore, Miss Dorothy Foster, Miss Gertrude Sinclair, Mr. Alfred Majilton, Mr. J. Foster, Mr. Arthur Wyndham, Mr. James Duval, Mr. Theodore Clark, Mr. J. H. Bernard, and Mr. J. Edwardes. The chorus do their work exceptionally well. A splendid and well-set scene is the second, a Street in Chang Li Hang, by Tritschler; Aladdin's Palace, by McCleery, is a magnificent spectacle; and the Chrysanthemum Fête, by Tritschler, is also an extremely fine scene.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT NOTTINGHAM.

On Boxing night Mr. Robert Arthur produced his tenth original pantomime of *Dick Whittington* at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, on a scale of magnificence to which his Nottingham patrons have by this time become accustomed. Mr. Arthur is fortunate in again having Mr. Frank Dix as the author of the book, and there is a delightful succession of picturesque scenes, for which those experienced artists, Messrs. Stafford Hall and J. Fowler Hogg, have been again requisitioned. In an effectively painted set of Covent Garden, the principal characters are introduced, and the fun becomes fast and furious. The inevitable motor-car is used, and a skilfully arranged flower, costor, and vegetable ballet gives a touch of novelty that is greatly appreciated. The Interior of Fitzwarren's Stores is a charmingly executed scheme in green and terra cotta, and the smartly costumed shop girls form an exceedingly pretty picture. After Dick has arrived at Hampstead Heath, accompanied by his faithful feline, a pretty ballet of fairies is given, and the Hotel Mogadore, besides serving to introduce the Princess Morocco, provides more opportunities for the comedians. The final set, the King's Garden, is a truly gorgeous product of the brush, and proves a brilliant climax. The glittering dresses of the principals and the exquisitely harmonious colouring of the chorus and dancers form a fitting complement to the ornate surroundings. The rôle of Dick has been entrusted to Miss Madelaine du Val for the second time at this house, and she plays the part with artistic grace and refinement, her pleasant voice rendering the music in a highly finished manner. Specially worthy of mention is a dainty song, "Snowflakes," with a haunting refrain given by an invisible chorus, in which Miss du Val scores heavily. Miss Gladys Huxley makes a decidedly vivacious and spirited Alice, dancing smartly and singing with considerable fervour, one of her best efforts being a charming ballad entitled "Zuyder Zee." Miss Maud Lake possesses a clear, melodious voice, which she uses with care and ability in the music of the Princess. Miss Maud Holland makes an attractive Spirit of the Chimes, and displays her artistic vocalism in the song, "The Land of Sunset Glow." The Demon Rat has an exceptionally able exponent in Mr. Fred Maguire, who brings a dramatic personality and well-cultured voice to bear on his rendering of a stirring song entitled "The Rat." Mr. Bert Danson is an excellent comedian, who thoroughly grasps the humour of the part of Fitzwarren, and makes much capital out of the song "Girls." Mr. Harry Brayne's amusing episodes as the Cook never fail to create roars of laughter, and his topical song, "Mrs. Simpson," is heartily received. Mr. Bert Lloyd plays the eccentric part of Idle Jack with comic effect; and Mr. Fred Solo adds to the fun as the Emperor. Mr. Johnny Fuller submits a clever performance of the Cat; Messrs. Bishop and Hanlon as the Captain and Bo'sun offer some smart fooling. The music of Messrs. J. O. Shepherd, Jullien H. Wilson, and John Armstrong is bright, lively, and tuneful, and is finely rendered by the orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. John Armstrong. The capable stage-manager, Mr. Henry Wright, has worked with untiring energy. The ballets are arranged by Miss Rose Lupino.

"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK" AT NOTTINGHAM.

The usual Christmas fare is provided at the Grand Theatre, Nottingham, and from start to finish the pantomime is lively and interesting. The book provided by Mr. Newman Maurice is good and the music by Mr. Frank Bradsell is bright and catchy. The popular story has been followed more or less closely, and the action is divided into ten scenes, all of which are very creditable and some, notably "The Village" and "Fairy's Bower," of great merit. The musical finale to the scene called "Gold" has been specially written for this pantomime by Mr. Fred Trussell, of the London Hippodrome. The company has been organised by and is under the auspices of Mr. Samuel James, who, with the able assistance of Mr. Harry Drury, is responsible for the whole production. The fine scenery is by Mr. George Tweddell. Miss Daisy Silcott, a very charming Jack, has all the verve and style for a boy hero. From the singing of her first song, entitled "Hello, Hello, Hello," she found herself in favour with the audience and is certain to become popular. She is well played up to by Miss Phyllis Yorke as the heroine—Miss Yorke is very sweet and winsome, possessing a good voice, which has evidently received great care and attention. She sang her songs, including "Snowflakes" and "Zuyder Zee," in cultured style. As Mrs. Jack Mr. Charles Gardner has ample scope for broad humour, and he misses no opportunity of creating fun, being ably seconded by Condon and Elgar, whose knockabout business is received with deserved applause. The Sisters Brand in duets and dances are highly appreciated; and Miss Lily Lloyd as Daisy and Miss Frances Hunter as Rowland do all that is necessary for those parts in an unostentatious manner. Mr. James May has a congenial part as the Baron, and as the Baroness Miss Kate Talby is most successful. The Fairy Rosebud is impersonated by Miss Amy Young, whose sweet soprano voice is heard to great advantage in several excellent songs. Mr. Charles Marston, the possessor of a good baritone voice, makes a good Demon, and the acting of the Giant by Mr. Augustus G. Lytton is deserving of praise. Specialities, which are to be frequently changed, are introduced by Bert Coote's Yankee Doodle Girls, whose singing and dancing are excellent, and by Gerrod with his dogs and pigeons. Under the guidance of the genial manager of the theatre, Mr. Charles P. Cooke, there is every promise of a long and deservedly popular run.

"BLUE BEARD" AT PLYMOUTH.

Saturday saw the curtain go up at the Theatre Royal on Mr. Williams's fourteenth annual. This year *Blue Beard* has been adopted. The composition of the "book" has been entrusted to Mr. W. H. Pawley and the incidental music to Mr. Ashley Richards, and both author and composer are to be congratulated. In the opening scene Iphrahim (Mr. Wilfred Shine) and Shakabak (Mr. Frank Bertram) make their appearance, and introduce some piquant topical and local "hits," which are greatly appreciated. Later in the scene the other principals are introduced, and the Messes Peggy Primrose (Fatima) and Elma Morris (Abdul), the latter a lady of particularly fine stage presence and carriage, come in for very cordial receptions. Scene 2 is the kitchen in Bluebeard's castle, and here the four comedians Messrs. Edward Lloyd, Frank Bertram, Wilfred Shine, and George Brooks provide some hilarious fun for the youngsters by investigating the interior of a gigantic pie the contents of which, thanks to some clever mechanical contrivances, perform all sorts of antics. In the third scene—Hall in Bluebeard's Castle—Mr. George Brooks (Sister Ann) renders his song "There is a happy land" in such irresistible fashion that a double encore is demanded. Selim (Miss Murielle Langley) sings "Zuyder Zee" in very creditable fashion, being supported by a chorus of Dutch girls in quaint costumes; and Fatima (Miss Peggy Primrose) scores heavily with the popular "Barcelona" song. After the interval another tuneful number, "Man from Manitoba," falls to the lot of Selim; and a trio of clever dancers, the Gilbert Girls, give a song of the "Sammy" type, entitled "Wouldn't you like to flirt with us?" Selim's palace is a magnificent display of colour splendidly set off by a blaze of light; and the whole of the scenery reflects the greatest credit on the Royal scenic artist, Mr. Pidgeon, to whom the work has been entrusted.

"BABES IN THE WOOD" AT SALTLEY.

This new and pleasing version of *The Babes in the Wood* was presented on Saturday last by Mr. James Alexander at the Carlton Theatre at the instance of Mr. and Mrs. John Walters, who have evolved most seasonable fare out of the old story. Capital scenery, a capable body of comedians, comediennes, and dancers, and all the latest songs of the day are factors which are sure to please, and here they are in full swing and number. The story is well and intelligibly told. The Babes, who have for their champion Robin Hood, pass through their trials and tribulations at the hands of their wicked uncle, the Baron, and live happy ever after, as such good children should. Diversion is made of the wedding of the Baron and Dame Flossie, and the latter, who "keeps a school," which is one of the salient successes of the pantomime, gives the well-known song, "My Wife Won't Let Me." "The Village School" kept the pantomime going at a merry swing with its merry humours, and "The Forest," wherein the Robbers "fight" in the most approved spirit of burlesque; the "Baron's Hall," "Eastern Memories," a series of tableaux and groups, chorally embellished, and which evoked much enthusiasm; and finally "The Palace of Pleasure" kept the audience vastly amused and interested in the story. Mr. Ally Benson, as Dame Flossie, is responsible for a goodly amount of fun, his earnest, albeit never laboured, efforts most invariably scoring, while his humorous play in the schoolroom scene made him doubly a favourite. Mr. Ernest Thirlway utilises his chances as the Baron to effect, and sings several successful songs, while his allies, Blustering Bill and Wavering Wally, are impersonated with the utmost comicality by Messrs. Traynor and O'Connor, who sing comic duets and indulge in fancy cross-talk with amazing frequency and coherency. Mr. Frank Stanart gets in a lot of clever work as Soft Tommy, and Mr. Phil White and the Landor Brothers work with indefatigable will. The ladies are especially numerous and good-looking. Miss Edna Thurley, as Robin Hood, adorns the show with a prepossessing ladylike presence and refined style which is pleasant to behold. Miss Fanny Adamson sings and dances, as Maid Marian, in an exceedingly bright and clever manner; Miss Jessie Yondi puts much energy and ability into the part of Dolly Dimple; and the Misses Kitty Leake and Edie Bracewell sing and dance with much success. The Babes find suitable exponents in Miss Kitty Chester, a particularly well-formed little damsel with a fine voice, and Baby Blyth, who also sings well. Fairy Goodheart is gracefully enacted by Miss Cora Clive, the vocalist of the production, who scored instantly with "Star of the Night." The Sweet Sixteen Ballet Troupe and the Emerald Quartette of Acrobatic Dancers beautify the various scenes with their smart dancing and grouping, and the chorus shows much aptitude and enthusiasm in its work. The music is well arranged and selected by Mr. Frank Travers.

"CINDERELLA" AT SCARBOROUGH.

Messrs. Chas. S. Kitts and Somers Bellamy launched a successful pantomime, entitled *Cinderella*, at the Londesborough Theatre on Boxing night. The pantomime has been produced under the direction of Mr. Charles S. Kitts, and his efforts and those of Mr. Bellamy have been rewarded by the appreciative way in which they have been acknowledged every evening. The whole of the scenery is fresh from the brush of Mr. Fred Munns, and has charming effects, especially amongst the various magnificent dresses of the leaders, and the gay-coloured appearance of the chorus, which is a powerful one and well blended. Miss Rhoda Windrum plays the part of Cinderella, and delights the audience with her charming manner and her expressive singing. Miss Jennie Lynwood, as Prince Brilliant, has a prepossessing appearance and a sweet voice. Mr. T. W. Riley as Baron Oofless is admirably suited for a part of this description. Mr. Bert McNallie and Mr. J. Oliver Russell, as the Ugly Sisters, give good proof of their ability by clever acting, and they dance well. Miss Madge Haines as Dandini is very captivating. Mr. Charles S. Kitts, as Billy the Page, shows his undoubted powers and originality. Messrs. Ford and Ford, as the Broker's Men, are irresistible, and cause much fun with their eccentricities. The Three Misses Gage dance with exquisite grace, and sing with great freshness and fervour. Miss Lyndon Riley, as the Fairy Goodheart, is very cultured, and sings delightfully. Mr. B. Lawrence, as Mother Shipton, proves an excellent selection has been made for this part. Miss F. Vallery, as Phyllis, is winsome and acceptable. The specialities include the Verona Geisha Girls, who obtain a welcome reception; Miss Gladys Cockerell, the Trilby dancer, executes her movements with much lightness, and is well received; Baby Eileen is possessed of a voice of extraordinary range for so small a juvenile, and well deserves all the applause she receives; Sergeant-Major Williams' team of performing dogs show considerable intelligence, and go through their various difficult tricks with honour; the fairy ponies considerably add to the novelties. Mr. Herbert Wellings, the musical director, handles the bâton in a masterly fashion. One of the successful numbers is the novel song, introduced by Mr. Chas. S. Kitts, entitled "Sweet chiming bells."

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT SCARBOROUGH

Variety has given way to the usual Christmas festivities, and pantomime reigns supreme at the People's Palace. *Robinson Crusoe* is the attraction, which has been written by Mr. Bert Albert Rutley and produced by him. A capital selection has been made of the leading artists. Miss Gertrude Rowan, as Robinson Crusoe, is a clever artist, and ably contributes to the fun. Miss Gertrude Wasley, as Polly Perkins, is accorded a warm reception. Mr. Fred Buckley, as Man Friday, gives a very good performance. Mr. Fred Alberto, as King One Lung, is a smart knockabout, and gives great assistance. Mr. Fred Mart, as King Neptune, plays the part with much originality. Miss Edwardes scores as Flossie Lightfoot. Miss Billy Moore, as Will Atkins, easily gains a place in the esteem of the audience. Mr. Bert A. Rutley, as Dick Gargeye, is an able exponent, and works very hard indeed in carrying out his multifarious duties. Mr. Billy Fife, as Mrs. Crusoe, is well to the fore, and contributes in no small degree to the success attained. Miss Emily Denham, as Tom Bowling, gives an excellent delineation of the character. Miss Daisy Atkinson, as Dick Seabreeze, deserves great credit.

The production is on a lavish scale, and carries a chorus that is well balanced, and concludes with a grand harlequinade and transformation scene, which receives special recognition by the audience. The specialities include Billy Moore in lightning gun-drill; the Roi Quartette of dancers; Billy Fife, Scotch dancer; the Raynors, duettists and speciality dancers; the Mascotte, transformation dancer; and the Twelve Scarborough Belles.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT SHEFFIELD.

For many years the Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield, has been the recognised local "home of pantomime." Since the great Ducrow's spectacular triumphs here, the annual feast of fun and glitter is eagerly anticipated by old and young. For the sixth time the subject is *Dick Whittington*, and the general completeness of the pantomime on Christmas Eve again shows the wisdom of Mr. Forsdike's policy in selecting Mr. Francis Laidler to bear the responsibility of production. The libretto is by Mr. A. W. Field.

A grand ballet, followed by a stirring operatic chorus, brings the first act to a finish, the curtain falling on a charming and memory-haunting tableau. The first spectacular scene in the second part is the Market Square, a solidly-built set, with a large Mauresque archway in the middle distance. The arrival of the Emperor and his brilliant suite, with a detachment of Amazonian guards, gives every opportunity for sartorial display and skilful stage-management. In Scene 2 (Olde Chepeside) some good songs and gags are indulged in; and finally everything ends happily in the gorgeously-illuminated gardens of Hampton Court.

Miss Alma Obrey, who made a big success here last season in *Cinderella*, appeared as Dick, and her personal graces, excellent voice, and pleasing manner all combined to make her a popular principal boy. Her tuneful songs, including "The Zuyder Zee," with sabot dance by ladies, was loudly encored. Miss Ethel Bryant was a pretty and graceful Alice, and her singing and dancing were heartily applauded. Miss Blanche de Verne looked an ideal Bow-Belle, and her fine voice was heard to advantage in a pleasing ballad. The Misses Bella and Ethel Brookland were pretty and piquant representatives of Preciosa and Lord Dedbroke; Miss May McKenzie was a charming Dolly Varden; and other prepossessing ladies were the Misses Billie Murray, Rosie Robey, Jessie Wayne, Julia Snow, and the clever Monaco Girls. Mr. Kennedy Allen was a mirth-provoking Idle Jack, and the hard work he put in for the general success of the "annual" received the full approbation of the crowded house. Mr. Jack McKenzie as Mrs. Dessicated Edwards bids fair to eclipse the great success he achieved in last year's pantomime here; Mr. J. W. Gallagher made a deserved hit by his quaint impersonation of Idle Jim; Mr. Gilbert Rodgers played the part of Fitzwarren on legitimate burlesque lines, and sang with his accustomed finish and power; Mr. Alf. Clegg proved a first-rate pantomimist and dancer as the Cat; Mr. Jack Bangs was effective as the Emperor of Morocco; and the Rat King was played dramatically by Mr. Leo King. Mr. Frank Bentham was funny as the Grand Vizier; and those special favourites, Pete and Juno, as the coloured attendants, again delighted the Alexandra audience with their smart dancing and clever coon business. The agile dances of the Monaco Girls were repeatedly applauded; and the exertions of a large and capable chorus deserve recognition, as does the conscientious work of the conductor, Mr. Isaac J. South. The scenery is from the ateliers of Messrs. Beresford Pierce and E. Egerton. The dresses have been designed by Robert Crafter; the armour is from the well-known establishment of White and Sons, in Drury-lane; and the pantomime has been produced by Mr. F. Laidler, assisted by the energetic stage-manager, Mr. J. J. Daly, under the personal supervision of the genial managing-director of the Alexandra, Mr. W. D. Forsdike, and his indefatigable representative, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.

"MOTHER GOOSE" AT SHEFFIELD.

Mr. John Hart's beautiful annuals at the Lyceum naturally caused the Sheffield public to expect something artistic and exquisite in the way of *mise-en-scène* and sartorial adornment when it was announced that the leading provincial theatrical director would produce a pantomime at the Theatre Royal. These anticipations were fully realised on Christmas Eve, when *Mother Goose* was presented at the famous old playhouse in Arundel-street, to a large and appreciative audience. The present version of *Mother Goose* is by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and his story is full of dramatic interest and quaint incidents, told in a witty dialogue. The elaborate scenery has been designed and painted by Mr. D. G. Hall, and there are several sets that are fine specimens of the scenic artist's art. Scene 4, the Hall of Gold, is a gorgeous interior, where Mother Goose celebrates her good fortune by giving a grand banquet. Another artistic picture is the exterior of the Laird's Hunting Lodge. This is a fine depiction of the country in its lovely autumnal tints of saffron, brown, and green. It is certainly one of the most picturesque scenes ever seen on the Royal stage, and when the foreground of the picture is crowded with gaily-apparelled huntsmen and fair ladies, who indulge in a lively dance, the spectacle is one that appeals irresistibly to the sport-loving nature of a Yorkshire audience. In Scene 7, a forest path is disclosed, followed by a lovely poetic conception called the Magic Pool. A charming ballet is fitly introduced here, its movements being instinct with that rhythmic grace, idyllic beauty, and chaste display Mr. Hart's ballets have long been famous for. The Wishing Gate is a pretty and effectively painted pastoral picture; and a part scene, In the Air, we arrive with all the characters in the magic realms of Gooseland, a grand and glowing presentment of fancydom, inspired by the best traditions of pantomime craftsmanship. Here, as a gorgeous finish to the series of scenic triumphs, takes place the resplendent spectacle, the Congress of Geese, and with an operatic finale, the culminating point is reached.

A first-rate company has been engaged. Mr. J. E. Nightingale, the popular Mrs. Sinbad of the last Lyceum pantomime, is always amusing and free from vulgarity in skirts, and his Mother Goose will prove to be a comic creation of the highest order. Another local favourite is Mr. Harry Roxbury, who caused hearty laughter on Monday by his comical antics and funny business in the part of the dame's son, Jack. Mr. G. P. Polson acted dramatically as Roderick, the Laird of Borderland; Mr. Jack Pleasants was a grotesque figure as Alexander Green, and his comic songs were received with hearty applause. Mr. Pleasants made quite a hit on the first night. Mr. Ernest Spalding was good as the pompous humbug, the Mayor of Moortown; Mr. Chas. Hanbury acted with melo-dramatic intensity as the demon, Malignum, and sang the lively ditty, "Hullo, hullo, hullo!" successfully; Mr. Jack Hodson as King Goose, and Mr. Ivan Capell as Queen Goose, did well; and the Bras Valdos as the donkeys thoroughly tickled the risible faculties of the audience by their comical knockabout business and agile tumbling. Miss Maisie Gay as Colin soon became on the best of terms with the house, and her shapely figure, pretty face, pleasant smile, and tuneful voice, made her an ideal hero of pantomime. She sang "There's a man in Manitoba" and other songs very acceptably, and received several encores. A graceful Jill was Miss Sylvia May, with a pretty and winning manner, who won enthusiastic applause and an encore for her captivating song, "Dreamland." Miss Daisy Jerome made a lively and captivating little Deutscher girl as Gretchen, and her coon songs, and other characteristic songs and splendid solo dances, fairly brought down the house. Miss Gertrude Parker was a sweet vision from fairyland as the good Queen Heartsease; and Miss Winifred Norman as Lady Ida, and Miss Rita Marcelli as Lord Eric, were excellent. There is a large and capable chorus, and the ladies of the *corps de ballet* and children have been well trained by Mme. Louie.

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD" AT SUNDERLAND.

Messrs. Ernest Stevens and R. C. Buchanan opened the King's Theatre (a full description of which appeared in our last issue), the most recent addition to places of amusement in the Wearside borough, on Monday last, under the most favourable auspices, with their first pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood*. The proceedings were commenced by the singing of the National Anthem by the entire company, led by Miss Rose Florence from one of the circle boxes. The excellent book is from the pen of Mr. Stanley Rogers. The opening scene, by Banks, is a good example of a village fair, and a fine piece of work.

In the path through the woods, a pretty set by Vennimore, we have the traditional meeting of Red Riding Hood and the Wolf, and the beneficent influence of the good fairy is exercised. Scene 5, Blackberry Brake, is a really fine autumn setting by Glover; and a grand floral ballet introduced therein is distinguished by some smart and excellent dancing by the Arcadian Girls. In Widow Horner's cottage (by Banks) much fun is introduced; and in Scene 9, the Fairy Grotto, an extra attraction is found in Piu, an art statuary demonstrator. This turn is the most remarkable of its kind ever seen in Sunderland. Special electrical and water effects are used, and greatly add to the beauty of the poses. The concluding scene, the Royal Palace (by Grimani), is gorgeous with light and colour, and extensive use is made of electrical effects with most happy results.

Miss Lilian Lea, who plays the part of Eric, the principal boy, is much in evidence, and quickly gains the confidence and applause of her audience. She is no stranger to Sunderland, having appeared here before in pantomime at the Avenue Theatre. She makes a great hit by her sweet and cultured voice. Miss Nancy Hearne as the Marquis of Sportington (the second boy) has a prominent part which she fills in a charming manner, her rendering of "It's a different girl again" being received with enthusiasm. Miss Helene Rose is entrusted with the important part of Ruby. Her rendering of the songs "The sunshade girl" and "Come and make love to me" win for her numerous friends. She also has an attractive manner, and dances neatly. Little Red Riding Hood is in the capable hands of clever and artistic Miss Decima Brooke, who does complete justice to the part; Miss Kate Butler is a bright and charming Blondina; Miss Rose Florence is well placed as the Fairy Queen, singing "Idle dreams" in excellent style; and Miss Florrie Durant and Miss Beatrice Wilson both fill important parts. The comedians are led by the clever and popular Mr. George Le Clerq, whose impersonation of Johnny Stout is full of sprightly witticisms which always succeed in delighting the audience. He has the drollest of comrades in Mr. Ben Brown, who puts plenty of fun into his rendering of Jimmy Green, and gives a whimsical performance; Mr. Walter Wade capably fills the rôle of the village Squire, and scores with some well-rendered numbers; as the Widow Horner, Mr. Harry Nelson, the favourite Tyneside comedian, has a part which exactly suits him, and provides ample scope for the humour which he possesses. Mr. Alfred Bennett has plenty of chances for his abilities as Pepper; and Mr. Will Cutler is highly amusing as Peter Piper. Mr. Fred Zaranella gives a capital portrayal of the Wolf, and is a contortionist of exceptional merit.

"THE BABES" AT WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

On Wednesday, Dec. 26, Mr. John A. Thomson produced his fourth annual pantomime at the Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House. *The Babes in the Wood* is divided into ten scenes, beautifully painted by Mr. W. H. Banks. Scene 10—the Banquet Hall in Huntingdon Castle—and the transformation scene, entitled "The Old and New Year, are perfect works of art. The dresses are very handsome, and the ballets arranged by Miss Rita Frederika are admirably executed. Mr. Henry Eglington, on whose shoulders the onus of the production has fallen, is to be heartily congratulated on the success he has achieved. He also plays Dame Durden, enacting the character with a refined humour that is greatly appreciated. It would be impossible to speak too highly of Mr. Bob Lord's Baron Graball. He makes every line tell. Another character most comically played is the Horatio Fitzsparkle of Mr. Harry Lane Scorey. Mr. Jack Randsford as Dusty Rhodes and Mr. Harry Randsford as Casual Ward, the two ruffians, are screamingly funny. There is nothing but eulogy for Mr. Henry Scorey's Jack o' the Lantern, and Mr. Tom Walker is a praiseworthy Allan Dale. The principal boy, Miss Beatrice Wadham, makes a handsome and débonair Robin Hood, who sings "Hello! hello! hello! it's a different girl again," to the great delight of the audience. Miss Dena Druid makes a hit as Maid Marion. She is a winsome little lady, who acts most intelligently and possesses a captivating voice. Miss Claire Wadham is distinctly good as Fairy Glowworm, her fine voice finding plenty of scope in "Mr. Moon winks his eye"; Miss Bertha Hall looks charming as Will Scarlet and distinguishes herself in the part; the Phyllis of Miss Nellie Hill Storey is an admirable impersonation; and Miss Vera Hazen as Daisy and Miss Connell as Willie, the Babes, are entitled to the highest praise, Miss Rita Frederika being excellent as Storm. The terpsichorean efforts of the Rita Trio of dancers and the Butterfly Troupe of lady dancers are most cordially received.

"ROBIN HOOD" AT LIVERPOOL.

A Drama, in Four Acts, by Clifford Rean; produced for the first time on any stage at the Star Theatre, Liverpool, on Monday, Dec. 24.

King Richard I. ..... MR. CLIFFORD REAN
Prince John ..... MR. HENRY ERNESTINE
Robin Hood ..... MR. F. B. WOULFE
Little John ..... MR. E. HOLLAND DAY
Friar Tuck ..... MR. BOB ANDERSON
Will Scarlet ..... MR. ALFRED WADE
Much, the Miller ..... MR. ALBERT WAGHORNE
Jack-o'-th'-Green ..... MR. SIDNEY CHURCHILL
Will-o'-th'-Hollow ..... MR. E. J. CRANE
William Fitzalwyn ..... MR. WILLIAM MACREADY
Eustace Le Beau ..... MR. A. EDWARD DUNSTAN
Simon Redwoulf ..... MR. ERNEST HAMILTON
Blondel ..... MR. CECIL RENTON
Elwynna ..... MISS WINIFRED SYMONDS
Maude ..... MISS EDITH LORRAINE
Mistress Marion Gilfain ..... MISS ETHEL GRIFFIES

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The author of *Robin Hood; or, the King of Sherwood Forest*, has certainly written a strong and interesting drama which should prove most acceptable to playgoers. The romance attaching to the career of the bold outlaw is well preserved, while there is introduced a love story of a very pretty character. The drama opens with the return of Richard the First from abroad. Having reason to believe that his brother John, who was Regent during his years of absence, is not altogether true to his trust, and also that some of the barons are unfaithful, he visits in disguise Robin Hood and his outlawed men, from whom he obtains information as to how Court events have been proceeding. It transpires that Lord Fitzalwyn has been endeavouring to bring about a marriage between Marion Gilfain, who is a ward of King Richard, and Baron Le Beau, at the same time endeavouring to capture Robin Hood, with whom the maiden is in love. In the second act, Fitzalwyn, during the holding of a banquet, announces the betrothal of Marion and Le Beau, but the former startles the company by declaring that she is already the wife of the outlaw. The next turn of events finds Robin in the clutches of the soldiers, and in order to make him reveal the whereabouts of his followers Fitzalwyn has him tortured. Marion, who is present, cannot endure the sight, and in order to save her husband supplies the necessary information. The stronghold of the foresters is raided by the soldiers, but when the fact that Robin Hood is the real Earl of Huntingdon (being the son of Fitzalwyn's elder brother, who was stolen away when a child) is revealed, the King forgives the outlaws, and everything ends happily. Mr. F. B. Woulfe, who controlled the company, displayed marked ability in the title-rôle, being a manly Robin with a capital delivery; very much credit is due to Mr. William Macready, who looked the part of the villainous Earl Fitzalwyn, and had a commanding presence, in addition to a fine voice; Mr. Clifford Rean was a dignified King; Mr. Bob Anderson did the most with Friar Tuck, and was responsible for a deal of humour; Mr. A. Edward Dunstan afforded every satisfaction as Baron Le Beau; Miss Ethel Griffies was particularly fine as Marion, showing at times high accomplishments; Miss Edith Lorraine as the waiting-maid, Maude, filled the position very acceptably; Miss Winifred Symonds made the most of Elwynna, Friar Tuck's housekeeper; and among other well-drawn characters may be mentioned Mr. Henry Ernestine (Prince John), Mr. E. Holland Day (Little John), Mr. Alfred Ward (Much the Miller), Mr. E. J. Crane (Will-o'-th'-Hollow), and Mr. Sidney Churchill (Jack-o'-th'-Green). The music, specially composed by Herr Schwalter, was very pretty and appropriate, and a quartet of glee singers rendered several pieces with pleasing effect. The scenery was extremely picturesque, and the costumes copied from designs of the period. The whole production, in fact, is most complete in character, and we understand that the bookings are already considerable.

THE matinée hat has been effectively disposed of in Toulouse, the Mayor having issued a decree that in future ladies who occupy stalls must either be bare-headed or wear toques of small dimensions. In order that the ladies who have to discard their headgear shall have no anxiety as to safety of their precious possessions, racks have been placed by the municipal authorities in their cloakrooms, and hooks at the back of the stalls, while mirrors are provided in the promenoirs.

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE MARLBOROUGH.

Pantomime, by Stanley Rogers,
Produced Dec. 26.

Immortals.

The Fairy Godmother .....MISS KITTY DALE
The Snow Queen .....MISS DOLLIE HARCOURT

Mortals.

Prince Casimir .....MISS LELIA ROZE
Dandini .....MR. HARRY WELCHMAN
Hercules .....MR. GEORGE FRENCH
Cinderella .....MISS DAISY REVETT
Tiny .....MR. TOM W. CONWAY
Araminta .....MISS ADELAIDE GRACEY
Elvira .....MISS LOUIE TINSLEY
Capers .....MR. WILLIAM PRINGLE
Joseph .....MR. CHARLES KEAN
Duke of Whistbridge ....MISS ELLALINE THORNE
Viscount Euchre .....MISS MARIAN ROBERTS
Marquis of Gamesby ....MISS DOREEN VAUGHAN
Lord Dice .....MISS ROSE VANE

At Holloway's beautiful theatre on Boxing Day two immense audiences paved the way for the success of *Cinderella*, whose adventures have been set forth in the book of Mr. Stanley Rogers, who has had as collaborator in the music Mr. Harry Richardson. The story is told in the good old-fashioned way beloved by children, and the heroine of the hearth is sustained in her tribulations by the words of the Fairy Godmother, who aids her in the forest. "Take courage, child. As the shades of winter depart from the earth, so shall the clouds pass away from your young life, and happiness reign supreme." The shades of winter do actually depart, and the trees, liveried by summer leaves, wave their branches in the radiance of the sun—a pretty scenic effect that immensely took the fancy of the Marlburians on Boxing Day. The Baron and Baroness have very little in common with the originals of Perrault, but they have an individuality of their own that is of immense service in the general scheme of fun in Mr. Ernest Stevens and Mr. R. C. Buchanan's annual. They are the head and front of many scenes, and their comic business will become the talk of Holloway. Mr. George French as the Baron, otherwise known as Hercules, has a broad view of his responsibilities. As a punishment for his second venture in the troubled sea of matrimony, Hercules is saddled with the housework, the situations evolved from this scurvy treatment of a representative of the *vieux noblesse* being extremely droll. Mr. French has a capital contribution in Mr. Harry Lauder's famous number "She's ma Daisy," in which he is heard to considerable advantage. As the Baroness, known to her intimates as Tiny, Mr. Tom W. Conway makes a hit. In expressing her fixed determination to rule the roast and to hold her own as a domestic tyrant of the true pantomime order, the comedian has a nice derangement of Malapropian "epitaphs," and is consistently funny. That the genuine nature of his drollery is amply recognised may be judged by the hearty laughter he evokes from every part of the house. Mr. French and he have an excellent comic scene on the return of the "happy pair" from the ball, and their playful confidences on a wheelbarrow form an interlude of fun that will establish their claim to the rank of chief funmakers in a production which is largely ruled by mirth.

A chivalrous Prince is at hand in Miss Lelia Roze, a gallant that would realise the courtly grace of a Watteau hero of the Petit Trianon. A beautiful figure, a charming voice, and clear and expressive elocution enable Miss Roze to score in the romantic part, and her number, "Hello, Hello, Hello!" sets the whole house singing the swinging refrain. In another contribution, "My Banjo Lou," she is also very successful. Miss Daisy Revett's Cinderella is tenderly sentimental and joyous by turns. With Mr. William Pringle, who makes a welcome appearance as Capers, the page, she shares the success of "Parrots," a descriptive duet and dance, and altogether makes a pretty and capable heroine. Contrary to the general practice, the ugly sisters are represented by their own sex, and it is a decidedly refreshing experience to find so clever an actress as Miss Louie Tinsley in the part of a gushing elderly spinster, her scenes with Dandini being excellently conceived and carried out. As the other sister, Miss Adelaide Gracey aids the fun in a quarrelling scene. Mr. Harry Welchman acts well as Dandini, and sings very capably. Miss Kitty Dale, as the Fairy Godmother, sings "Once," the pretty song by Arthur Hervey, the verses being by Mrs. Arthur Hervey. On the occasion of our visit she was rapturously encored. Mr. Charles Kean, as Joseph, is concerned in a burlesque wrestling sketch with the Baron, and renders a good account of himself. Miss Ellaline Thorne makes an excellent Duke of Whistbridge; and personable representatives of Viscount Euchre, the Marquis of Gamesby, and Lord Dice—representative peers of pantomime only—are found in Miss Marian Roberts, Miss Doreen Vaughan, and Miss Rose Vane. The Doreen Girls figure to advantage in the ballets, which have been well arranged by Mr. Paul Valentine. One of these is danced in the Palace of the Fairy Godmother, a dwelling of sweet daintiness, with delicate tracery of ivory white everywhere. This comes from the atelier of Mr. Fred Karno. Other pictures of beauty are supplied by Messrs. Stafford Hall, R. C. Oldham, D. G. Hall, Alfred Terraine, and E. Grimani. In the lovely ballroom, with its Corinthian arches, a fine procession of nations immediately precedes the wedded happiness of Casimir and Cinderella. The splendid dresses are by Mr. Robert Crafter. The electric crystal coach, drawn by four diminutive ponies, a most beautiful equipage, evoked shouts of admiration from the youngsters who proclaimed their gladness on Boxing Day when the most popular heroine of fairy lore sat in the beautiful equipage ready to take her departure for the ball. We expect to hear of crowded houses at the Marlborough for some time to come.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH

On Wednesday, Dec. 26,
the Pantomime entitled
"CINDERELLA."

Prince .....MISS HILDA GUIVER
Cinderella .....MISS ETHEL WARD
Dandini .....MISS NORAH EMERALD
Page .....MR. W. H. KIRBY
Gertie .....MR. WILL JOHNSON
Lily .....MR. JACK DENTON
Hob and Nob .....THE NEW MACS
Baron .....MR. J. G. TAYLOR
Deadly Nightshade ....MISS CORDELIA KNIGHT
Fairy Crystal .....MISS DOROTHY SOUTHGATE
The Herald .....MISS F. ST. CLAIR
Herald .....MISS E. LE BARE
Ferdinand .....MISS DE LACY
Laurie .....MISS DESMOND

The playgoers of Hammersmith and district know when they are in possession of a good thing, and therefore no apprehension need be felt by Mr. Mulholland as to the success of his fifth annual. On Boxing Day the capacious and handsome theatre was packed, and the uproarious and continual laughter heard all over the house from children and grown-ups proved conclusively that the pantomime had met with an instantaneous and deserved success. The pantomime is on the ever-popular theme of *Cinderella*, and is written by that fertile author Mr. J. Hickory Wood. The story follows on the usual lines, and is too well known to require repetition. The artists engaged in the production work hard and satisfactorily. Miss Hilda Guiver is a handsome and brave-looking Prince, whose acting and singing will compare most favourably with many a better-known pantomime favourite. Miss Guiver is well provided with popular songs, notably "Hello! Hello! Hello!" "A different girl again," and "Zuyder Zee," which, sung by her with great verve and dash, are bound to increase her popularity. As Cinderella, Miss Ethel Ward makes a sweetly fascinating picture, and her acting and singing are refreshingly natural and dainty. She sings the songs allotted to her—"Hyacinth" and a coon ditty—with great taste and expression. Miss Norah Emerald is a smart and showy Dandini, and soon ingratiates herself into the favourable opinion of the audience. She dances excellently. Mr. W. H. Kirby as the page Alphonso causes genuine and hearty laughter for an exceedingly humorous impersonation of the character. His by-word "That will be nice" will inevitably catch on and be heard all over the district in a short time. He works very energetically, and not a little of the success of the pantomime will be traceable to Mr. Kirby's efforts. The Baron is Mr. J. G. Taylor, who gives a quaintly dry and humorous representation—one which will no doubt be worked up even funnier than it is after a few performances. Gertie, one of the Ugly Sisters, is played by Mr. Will Johnson, a popular comedian from the halls, who, with something of the methods of the late Dan Leno, gives the audience cause for rollicking laughter every moment he is on the stage. He is certainly a safe card to play in any pantomime. Mr. Jack Denton is eminently successful as the other Sister, Lily, and in his caricature of the Gibson Girl he is screamingly funny. The New Macs are very humorous as Hob and Nob, and, given opportunities, will be more so. Miss Cordelia Knight as Deadly Nightshade is good; and Miss Dorothy Southgate gains many friends by her pleasing looks and bearing as the Fairy Crystal. The Melody Four, the Astoria Flying Ballet, the Sisters Dorrell, and Miss Madeline Rossiter all contribute their speciality turns with good effect, the latter one being particularly well received. The Donaldson Brothers and Ardel in their Zoological Gardens Comedy meet with a huge success, their clever antics in the monkey-house gaining special approbation. The scenery by Mr. E. G. Banks is as artistic and picturesque as it could be, and is always in harmony with the very elaborate costumes provided by M. Alias. The music, including most of the popular melodies of the hour, has been composed, selected, and arranged by Mr. Herbert Simpson and Mr. Fritz B. Hart, the talented resident musical-director of the theatre. A word of praise should be given for the well-selected chorus, which contains a number of pretty faces and shapely figures.

"ALADDIN" AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

Pantomime, by Fred Bowyer, Produced on Christmas Eve.

Aladdin .....MISS LILLIE LASSAH
Aureola .....MISS JOSEPHINE SULLIVAN
Ching-a-Ring .....MR. J. DEVEREUX CAWDREY
Widow Twankey .....MR. A. E. PASSMORE
Emperor .....MR. E. OXLEE
Princess .....MISS LILY GULLICK
Pekoe .....MISS NELLIE BARNWELL
Pitti Sing .....MISS GLADYS RAY
Wishee Washee .....MR. FRANK WEIR
Boo-Bee, Bob-Bi .....THE ONDA BROTHERS
The Emperor's Cat ....MASTER FREDDIE CLARKE
Dan-Dee .....MISS DAISY LAKE
Ni-Cee .....MISS LILY LAKE
Fi-Foo .....MISS DOROTHY DEMPSTUR
Kiss-Me .....MISS VIOLET MAY
Fee-Fum .....MISS MOLLIE MOORE
Mi-Mash .....MISS EVA MANSFIELD
Spoo-Nee .....MISS JESSIE HAMILTON
So-Chic .....MISS STELLA WYNN
Dar-Ling .....MR. SIDNEY PENHRYN
Chee-Kee .....MISS ETHEL PENDRY
Char-Ming .....MISS MINNIE ELDRIDGE
Fet-Ching .....MISS DOROTHY FLOYD
Abanazar .....MR. ARTHUR POOLE

The palmy days of pantomime seem in a fair way to be restored at the Crystal Palace by Mr. Bannister Howard, who, on Christmas Eve, presented his first annual in the theatre at Sydenham before an audience of gratifying dimensions. The pantomime is equipped with fun, spectacle, and melody in equal proportions, and no expense has evidently been spared to render the production complete. The story of *Aladdin* is based on traditional lines, and begins with the release of the Genii of the Ring by fairy influence from an immense crystal. Familiar faces appear in Scene 2, the Market Place at Pekin, a well-arranged set, where merriment is started by the appearance of Wishee-Washee, a mandarin, and Widow Twankey, closely followed by Boo-Bee and Bob-Bi, two Celestial policemen, whose pranks are very diverting. Mirth grows still more hilarious at the entry of Abanazar, the magician, and his scheme to obtain possession of the lamp is duly arranged with Aladdin, whose infatuation for the Princess Badroulbadour, leads him to embark upon his perilous mission. Scene 3 reveals the Imperial Baths. The establishment is evidently open to the public, and the eccentricities of the various customers provide an inexhaustible means of comicality. Among the most laughable items of this scene is a travesty of the "Sandow Girls," done by a number of the characters, which was encored. The Exterior of the Cave, where more fun is made, speedily gives way to a realistic representation of the interior, which sparkles gorgeously with many hues, the effect of distance being skilfully secured.

The second act of the pantomime begins in Widow Twankey's Laundry, where all the characters lend a hand to pile up the fun, and songs and dances give pleasing variety to the proceedings. In the following scene, the Palm Grove, a ballet of bats takes place, fair ladies with suitable headgear moving about in picturesque array. Scene 3, the Interior of the Pavilion, is chiefly remarkable for the chase after the demon, who takes headers through the stage, and shoots up with startling suddenness from below, high into the air. It is a remarkable piece of trap-work, and was rightly accorded an ovation. The Exterior of the Palace is a brilliant set, glowing with colour, the tints harmonising agreeably. Opportunity is here taken for the parallel bar display by the Onda Brothers, who have been working indefatigably throughout the piece as the two Chinese policemen, but have energy enough to enable them to execute a series of astonishing feats on the triple bars. The progress of the story lies through a Desert of Despair and a Flying Palace, and eventually reaches its conclusion in the Throne Room of the Palace, an imposing pictorial display, where Aladdin is crowned Emperor, amid great pomp and splendour.

The admirably chosen company played together with a unanimity rare on a first night, and no hitch of any kind was discernible. Aladdin had a buoyant and alert representative in Miss Lillie Lassah, who has a powerful but sympathetic voice, admirably adapted to the singing of a number of tuneful songs which fall to her. "By the side of the Zuyder Zee" was particularly charming, and a neat and varied step-dance quite enraptured the audience. "It's a different girl again" afforded Miss Lassah further chances of displaying her vocal accomplishments. She looked very "fetching" in her white satin suit, and her comely presence and winning ways made the audience willing victims to her fascinations throughout. An equally entrancing Badroulbadour was found in Miss Lily Gullick, who exerted an agreeable influence by reason of her sparkling vivacity and dainty style. The song of "Shy Ann," in the refrain of which she was assisted by a little girl, was prettily rendered, and furnished one of the most tasteful morsels of the evening. Miss Gullick's share in the "Snowflake" duet with Aladdin was also well done, the interlude quite taking the fancy of the house. Fun-makers are furnished in liberal quantities, chief among them being Mr. Arthur Poole, who made Abanazar effervesce with humour without stint. Wherever the fun was thickest, the tall, lank figure of the wily magician loomed prominently. He had many encore verses to add to his topical song, "Early in the morning," in which the most up-to-date allusions were made, and, whether taking part in the travesties of the Sandow Girls or sharing in the drollery of burlesque statuary, he was the cause of incessant mirth. Good service in the cause of merriment was also done by the Onda Brothers, who, beside giving funny impersonations of Boo-Bee and Bobbi, gained high honours for their gymnastic exercises. Mr. A. E. Passmore made a "goey" Widow Twankey, full of the eccentricities which appertain to elder femininity, but strictly avoiding any appearance of vulgarity. His singing early in the evening of "Waiting at the church" put the audience in an excellent temper that lasted till the end. Mr. Frank Weir, too, made a valuable contribution to the mirth by his antics as Wishee-Washee; and Mr. E. Oxlee as the Emperor was not too dignified to join in the revels, which he did effectively. Mr. J. Devereux Cawdrey was an impressive Genii of the Ring, and was responsible for the trap-scene to which we have alluded. A prepossessing Fairy Aureola was furnished by Miss Josephine Sullivan, whose cultivated voice was heard with pleasure in a melodious address to the moon, which won well-merited approval. Miss Nellie Barnwell made a dashing Pekoe, rendering "My little Hyacinth" with a daintiness and charm that could not well be surpassed; and an engaging Pitti-Sing was found in Miss Gladys Ray. All the other parts had adequate exponents, and the chorus and orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Joseph Sainton, who composed and arranged the music, was of unusual excellence. Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of speciality dancers tripped gaily at intervals, and the unaccompanied glees of the London Quartet gave unqualified delight. A feature of the pantomime that will be hailed with joy by the youngsters is a real old-fashioned harlequinade and comic shadowgraph, with Mr. J Devereux Cawdrey as clown.

THE CAMDEN.

On Wednesday, Dec. 26,
the Pantomime entitled
"CINDERELLA."

Prince Peerless .....MISS NANCY LANGTYRE
Cinderella .....MISS LILIAN HUBBARD
Dandini .....MISS MEG HAMYLTON
Quillino .....MISS CORALIE WINGATE
Baron Balderdash .....MR. GEO. HUGHES
Pickles .....MR. JOSIAH ALEXANDRE
Bedelia .....MISS MAY LILIAN LEVEY
Anona .....MR. HARRY HERBERT
Mr. Beerfoam Wood ....MR. FREDERIC JACQUES
Fairy Flora .....MISS ETHEL DUNBAR
Shrimp .....LITTLE CLIFF
Aconite .....MR. T. H. WOOD

On Boxing afternoon Mr. Robert Arthur produced his third pantomime at this theatre, and scored a pronounced and immediate success. The choice this season has fallen on *Cinderella*, and though it is a popular theme in London this year, it is safe to say that none will excel this one for daintiness and good wholesome fun. Mr. Frank Dix is the author of the book, which is well written, and though it follows the story much on the usual lines is nevertheless full of originality and freshness. The music, which at times assumes quite an operatic style, has been composed and selected by Messrs. J. H. Wilson and J. G. Shepherd, and most of the popular airs of the day are to be found in the score.

The pantomime is divided into two parts, and the scenery, which is by Mr. J. Fowler Hogg, is artistic and pretty. The opening scene of Flora's Bower is most effective, while the Forest Glade, which immediately follows it, is a particularly charming set. The Fairy Boudoir is another fine picture, and when Cinderella's coach, with all its little electric lights and small ponies, is driven in, the scene is most charming. The second part opens with the Royal Ball Room, a very fine interior and brilliantly lighted; while the last scene of the Rose Garden and Floral Fête will be remembered as one of the prettiest that has been witnessed at this theatre. It is a splendid piece of colour blending, with all the magnificent dresses, and when the festoons of flowers and electric lights are lowered the effect is superb, and called forth the loud applause of the audience, bringing the pantomime to a brilliant conclusion.

The cast has been most judiciously chosen. For the hero, Prince Peerless, no better choice could have been made than that of Miss Nancy Langtyre, who is so well suited to the part, and plays it admirably. Miss Langtyre has a fine presence, and is the possessor of a good voice, and she has several capital songs. "The Zuyder Zee" is a very pretty number, and "What has the night-time to do with a girl," is another; but she scored her biggest success with "Au revoir, my little Hyacinth." Miss Lilian Hubbard makes a dainty and charming Cinderella, and she soon became a very big favourite. That bright little actress Miss Meg Hamylton is Dandini, and she plays it excellently, and seems to be possessed of unbounded energy. Her song "Bridget" is sure to be heard all over Camden Town before long. Another song of Miss Hamylton's, too, was most successful, "The Ice Cream Girl," which has some very pretty business introduced. The capital duo, Alexandre and Hughes, are a great acquisition, and their contributions on the concertina and other instruments are quite a leading feature. Mr. Hughes makes a capital Baron, playing the character with great humour, and he gets right there with his topical song, which is very funny, and has endless possibilities. His other song, "Hours, weeks, and months," is a cleverly written one, which should catch on. Pickles as played by Mr. Alexandre is a very droll person, who always raises a laugh by the catch-phrase, "Has anyone been asking for me?" and it is easy to see that before long his gags will be a great point in the show. He made a big success with "A different girl again" and "There's always room for a girl," while not the least mirth-provoking scene in the pantomime is his little bit of mock drama with Cinderella. As the sisters, Bedelia and Anona, Miss May Lilian Levey and Mr. Harry Herbert are intensely humorous. They play together on rather novel lines, and Miss Levey has a good song on the suffrage question. Mr. Harry Herbert is a capital comedian, and he causes shouts of laughter; his parody on "The old apple tree" went very strong indeed. His opening duet with Miss Levey, "Sweet Seventeen," is good, and their other duet, "Our hands have met, but not our hearts," was extremely funny, and brought down the house. Another prime favourite is Little Cliff, who is seen as Shrimp, the tiger. He is a clever dancer, and his song, "Good-night, Mr. Brown, I'm out," with a capital dance after, was among the chief successes of the pantomime. Mr. Frederic Jacques is so excellent as Mr. Beerfoam Wood—once an actor, now a broker's man—that one wishes he had more to do. Miss Ethel Dunbar is very good as the Fairy Flora, and she sings well, especially in the opening scene. Mr. T. H. Wood as the evil spirit, Aconite, sings "Will o' the Wisp" in effective style. Mr. Bert Coote's original Yankee Doodle Girls appear in various scenes, and contribute some clever dancing and also some catchy songs, and there is no doubt of their being a great help to the success of the production. In one scene Miss Lucy Wilson appears in a Sandow Girl song, which is a clever satire on the muscular woman of to-day. The dances have been arranged by Mlle. Elsie Clerc and Miss Enid Errol, the première danseuse, gives some fine specimens of her art. The chorus and orchestra work splendidly, and Mr. George F. Ford, who wields the bâton, is to be heartily complimented on the musical portion of the production. The dresses are very tasteful and elaborate, and Mr. T. Blacklock is deserving of highest commendation for his noteworthy stage-management. The whole has been produced under Mr. Robert Arthur's personal supervision, and its success was never for a moment in doubt.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.

The Pantomime, produced on Boxing Day, Dec. 26, entitled

"GOODY TWO SHOES."

Immortals.

Demonia .....MR. GEORGE LAKE GRANGE
Goodheart .....MISS AGNETTA DORINA
Screna .....MISS DOROTHY PENROSE
Hob and Nob ..... THE TWO OTTOS

Mortals.

Robin Hood .....MISS ELAINE GRYCE
Goody Two Shoes .....MISS WINNIE RAYNOR
Bluebell .....MISS DORIS NELSON
Margery Daw .....MISS KATE ROBINS
Little Miss Muffet .....MISS MINNIE DORINA
Tom Tucker .....MISS MABEL DENISON
Jack Horner .....MISS RUBY ARCHER
Johnny Green .....MR. STANLEY GREENE
Peter Piper .....MR. ARTHUR PARTELL
Simple Simon .....MR. FRED HAMMOND
Squire Broadbent .....MR. HARRY MONKHOUSE
The Cat .....MR. REG. ROFFEY
Dame Trot .....MR. WALTER CHAMPNEY

Counted in numbers, the Alexandra pantomimes now amount to eleven, and the Yuletide entertainment provided this year is by no means the least attractive. It is entitled *Goody Two Shoes, Dame Trot and Her Cat; or Harlequin Robin Hood*, and Mr. Paul Valentine has had ample scope to develop his inventive genius. The fun commences in the second scene—the Village of Deardale—and the introduction of the May Day festival and rustic revels. Here Robin Hood, with Thomas Tiles, the Cat, and others, indulge in some amusing pleasantries. In Scene 4 Goody Two Shoes' school, which is left under the care of Dame Trot, is shown a specimen of up-to-date learning—scholastic excellence and the reverse—which skit is directed at the Board Schools of to-day. Little Miss Muffet introduces with excellent results a drum dance. A capital piece of funny business is the wooing of Dame Trot by Squire Broadbent, the Lord of the Manor; and a trio by Demonia, Dame Trot, and the Squire met with instantaneous success, whilst another number, the duet "I want no other girl like you," was commendably prominent, and received a deserved encore. In the final development, the Grand Toy Scene—a somewhat novel artistic display of scenic effect—everything is settled for the best: good overcomes evil, and the grand finale is reached,

Miss Elaine Gryce as Robin Hood was most effective. She has a happy style and graceful manner, while her playing was bright and full of energy. Her musical contributions were smartly rendered, and none were more highly appreciated than the popular number, "The Greenwood Tree." As Goody Two Shoes Miss Winnie Raynor has a pleasing stage appearance, possessing a pleasant voice. Her song of "Take me back to London Town" was an immediate success. She danced well, and presented a picture of pretty rusticity in her neat dress, and she was equally as winsome in her later splendour. Miss Doris Nelson as Bluebell filled her part in a clever and suitable fashion; Miss Agnetta Dorina was a charming Fairy Goodheart, and her rendering of "The rose of my heart" won golden opinions; Margery Daw, the See-saw Girl, was well entrusted to Miss Kate Robins. A word of praise is due to Miss Mabel Denison for her attractive and sprightly delineation of Tom Tucker; Miss Dorothy Penrose as Screna and première danseuse was noticeable for her agility and cleverness, and was enthusiastically received by her many admirers. Mr. George Lake Grange acted his part of the Demon with becoming ferocity. He gave evidence of his ability as a genuine comedian, and his rendering of the catchy song, "When there's a girl about," afforded additional proof of his talent as a singer. The Two Ottos as the attendants Hob and Nob were amusingly business-like with their grotesque antics of the acrobatic-knockabout order, and deserved commendation for their performance. Mr. Stanley Greene played for all it was worth his rôle of Johnny Green; Mr. Arthur Partell made capital out of the small part of Peter Piper; a humorous study was that of Simple Simon, by Mr. Fred Hammond, who instilled into it a welcome quaintness; Squire Broadbent had an interpreter well able to depict the Lord of the Manor in a very smart exponent of comedy, Mr. Harry Monkhouse, whose humour and originality of conception were proved when in Scene 7 his number, "Beds," was introduced, arousing appreciative merriment; the Cat was skilfully played by Mr. Reg. Roffey, an animal delineator of merit; and as a good old-fashioned Dame, Mr. Walter Champney earned his laurels, being admirably fitted.

The several other characters contributed their share to the fun, and a harlequinade, selected from the company, added extra zest to an already well-sustained pantomime. For the attention paid to the production, Mr. Edwin Goodship (the manager), Mr. Francis Bull (for the scenery), Messrs. C. W. May and Mr. M. Gladman (for the beautiful costumes), Mr. Ernest Collini (for original and carefully-arranged music), each deserves mention; and Mr. John Wilson conducted a well-trained and efficient orchestra with exemplary skill. Indeed, all concerned are to be congratulated on the attainment of a potential success.

"SINBAD" AT THE WEST LONDON.

Pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood, Produced on Dec. 24.

Sinbad .....MISS BELLE HARCOURT
Mrs. Sinbad .....MR. CHARLES DILLON
Hindbad .....MR. DAN WHITLEY
Captain Scuttle .....MR. WILLIE PAGE
Ben Bunk, Sanders McBobstay .....ESMONDE AND VERONA
Hassan .....MR. GEORGE WILLIAMS
King Tibbles, Princess Naggles .....SNOW AND FARRON
Fairy Crystal .....MISS MARION MARTELL
Agrippa .....MR. E. STEPHENS
Badoura .....MISS LUCY COVENTRY
Zoe .....MISS EDIE ANDERSON

Again this year Mr. William Bailey has arranged with Mr. George Brydon-Phillips to supply his annual pantomime, and we cordially wish it a repetition of last year's success. The story is well told by Mr. Wood, the pantomime being divided into ten scenes, several of them being very effective sets. The opening scene of the Port is a pretty one, and here we witness the setting off of Sinbad, Mrs. Sinbad, Hindbad, Badoura, and Zoe to find the Diamond Valley. On the way thither the good ship, the Merry Matilda, encounters a severe storm, due to the vengeance of the Old Man of the Sea, Agrippa, owing to his failure to obtain the chart of the Diamond Valley from Sinbad. The next cloth, After the Storm, shows us Sinbad on the raft, being guided by Fairy Crystal to her realms under the sea, which is a clever bit of stage setting, bringing the first part to a close. Part 2 opens with the Harem of King Tibbles, and the scene changes to the Diamond Valley, which makes a charming picture, wherein opportunity is found to introduce a gorgeous jewel ballet. The next scene, and last, the Palace, is another fine bit of stage setting. The grand transformation scene, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," is from the skilful brush of Mr. R. Burris, and the best traditions of this old playhouse are well upheld. The harlequinade is full of interest to the children, who renew their acquaintance with Mr. Harry Ewins, their old favourite, who "clowns" in his own inimitable style. Mr. Willie Page is pantaloon, Mr. James Cornish harlequin, Mr. Fred Damary policeman, and Miss Marguerite Erroll columbine. Miss Belle Harcourt plays Sinbad with charming vivacity and sparkling gaiety. Her voice is extremely tuneful and well modulated, being heard to good effect in "Stowaway" and "There's a man in Manitoba," the latter being an especial favourite already. Miss Harcourt has a good stage presence, and altogether makes an ideal Sinbad. As principal girl Miss Lucy Coventry is quite at home, playing with archness and vim, and she bids fair to make a huge success as Badoura. She sings and dances well, her songs including the tuneful "Zuyder Zee," with its clever sabot dance. Miss Edie Anderson makes the most of her many opportunities as Zoe. Possessed of an attractive personality, she dances with real dexterity. One of her songs, "Good-night, Mr. Brown, I'm out," is already a favourite item, due in a great measure to the originality with which she sings it. In Mr. Charles Dillon Mr. Phillips has been fortunate enough to secure an excellent dame, who well contributes to the fun as Mrs. Sinbad. He makes up well and dresses humorously, his performance having the merit of being entirely free from that exaggeration and vulgarity which too often mar the efforts of many a pantomime dame. As Hindbad Mr. Dan Whitley makes the hit of the evening. There is never a dull moment whilst he is on the stage, his unflagging energies and resourceful by-play being most noticeable. He is provided with a part that affords him practically unlimited opportunities, and he never lets a chance slip by of displaying his quaint methods and funny mannerisms. Mr. Willie Page cuts a comical figure as Captain Scuttle, his performance being a humorous one throughout; Mr. George Williams is fiercely stern as the slave-dealer, Hassan; Mr. E. Stephens is grotesquely made up as Agrippa; and Miss Marion Martell is pleasing as the good Fairy Crystal. Esmonde and Verona are blithe and gay as Ben Bunk and Sanders McBobstay, their business being exceptionally funny. King Tibbles and Princess Naggles are speciality parts absolutely safe in the capable hands of Snow and Farron, their whole performance being a striking one. The dressing and staging of the pantomime are in excellent taste, and much credit is due to Mr. George Taylor for the admirable way in which he has produced it. Mention must also be made of the musical arrangements of Mr. Frank Dawes, many of the numbers being most tuneful.

"BABES IN THE WOOD" AT FULHAM.

Produced Dec. 24.

Jack Hayseed .. MISS MARGUERITE BROADFOOTE
Maid Marian ..... MISS LILY BLACK
Colin .....MISS VERA CAREY
Mavis ..... MISS RUBY FORBES
Edna and Egbert ..... THE SISTERS HERBERT
The Baron .....MR. JOHN E. COYLE
Mrs. No-Luck Jones ..... MR. LEONARD THIEL
The McGuffin ..... MR. JOCK MCKAY
Life Buoy Beaucaire, Sunlight Jim ..... THE POLUSKIS

On Christmas Eve Mr. Robert Arthur produced his third pantomime at the Fulham, and it was received with every mark of favour. The subject selected this year is that tragic episode known to childhood as the story of *The Babes in the Wood* Needless to say, Mr. Dix, the author of the "book," has eliminated the tragedy, whilst retaining the fine melodramatic flavour of the old story. The opening scene shows a farmstead, with a very effective landscape in the distance. The action begins with the usual chorus and dance by reapers and labourers, &c. We are now introduced to the leading characters—Jack Hayseed (ably represented by Miss Marguerite Broadfoote), Maid Marian (Miss Lily Black), and the Baron Bullanbush (Mr. John E. Coyle). There is also a musical interlude by Mr. Jock McKay, as The McGuffin, a Highland musician, who proves no mean performer on the pipes. Next comes an old Fulham favourite in the person of Mr. Leonard Thiel (as Mrs. No-Luck Jones), who again enacts the part of a sprightly lady of uncertain age but undoubted agility, and he promptly scores a hit with a song on "Men." The Baron is duly informed of the decease of his brother and the pending arrival of the Babes. These latter are charmingly represented by the Sisters Herbert. It is not long before the two chief funmakers appear in the shape of the Poluskis. These comic villains enter with thoughts of murder, and the laughter is kept going by their methods of burglary, which are the reverse of noiseless. The signs of the coming rift in the lute soon appear, for Sunny Jim is comically unequal to the task of murdering children. Interrupted by Mrs. Jones, the villains have to sleep in the bedroom. This is not quite what it seems, for the art of the stage carpenter and mechanician has turned it into a haunted chamber, and the furniture and fittings all play the most surprising pranks. This gives place to Scene 4, the Fair, an effective and highly realistic set. Jack Hayseed is now heard in one of the most successful songs of the evening—about the two little dicky-birds that flew away and came back. The topical verses deal with sundry persons and things that are invited to go away or come back, and the experience of the first night shows that Miss Broadfoote will have to be prepared with a very long list of encore verses to this song. Next follow a song and dance by the Babes, very prettily done. The younger Miss Herbert is going to be a dancer of more than ordinary excellence, for she executed with wonderful grace and precision a *pas seul* on tiptoe, after the manner of the great dancers of sixty years ago. Next comes a song of Mr. Thiel's, "The Sandow Girl," and this is followed by the kidnapping of the Babes, which, to be up to date, is, of course, done by motor-car. The scene ends with a brilliant and effective ballet of showmen, clowns, poodles, ringmasters, &c.

In the second act comes the famous quarrel between the villains. In the hands of the Poluskis this is indeed a terrific combat. Mr. Sam Poluski plays the transpontine drama ruffian to perfection, and his companion opposes his dramatic onslaughts with delightful stolidity. The fight is cleverly worked up into a travesty of the stage fights in melodrama, with a deal of hitting and little striking. The next scene is a corridor in the Castle, lanterns, when the Babes are discovered and rescued. The next scene is a corridor in the Castle, where the Baron delivers a good comic song, "Don't be silly." Miss Broadfoote follows with a lively song, "Trixie of Pimlico," and the Baron and Mrs. Jones take part in a topical duet, "The Birthday Party." The McGuffin wanders in, and entertains with some Scotch songs and some good stories. The following and final scene represents the ballroom of the Castle, an elaborately built-up and brilliantly lighted interior; and the play ends with a final ballet and dance of Holly and Mistletoe and Red and Yellow Wines, amid a blaze of light and a veritable feast of colour and movement.

Miss Broadfoote makes a vigorous principal boy, and acts with plenty of spirit. Miss Lily Black's graceful person is seen to advantage as Maid Marian, and she sings well. Miss Vera Carey, as

Colin, and Miss Ruby Forbes, as Mavis, form another attractive couple. The youthful representatives of the Babes, the Sisters Herbert, are already quite at home in their parts, and act with delightful earnestness, and the younger one will probably be heard of again as a dancer. Mr. Coyle, as the Baron, works hard all through, and contributes largely to the fun with songs and business. Mr. Leonard Thiel is as active as ever in his characteristic part, and Mr. Jock McKay's Scotch humour is quite a pleasing novelty. As for the Poluskis, they are a host in themselves, and their business is always remarkably well worked up. Most of it is far above the ordinary knockabout business, and requires considerable dramatic ability, while, above all, it is never in the least vulgar. The music by Mr. Jullien Wilson is suitably bright and pleasant, and the scenery by Messrs. Hogg and Stafford Hall is exceedingly good, particularly the woodland sets and the final tableau.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Dec. 24, the Pantomime, entitled

"ALADDIN."

Aladdin	Miss Winifred Hare
Princess Badroulbadour	Miss Mary Hay
Pekoe	Miss Marion Hargrave
Pitti Sing	Miss Ethel Ivimey
Hi Tid Li	Miss Vera Thompson
Hi Ti	Miss Ethel Ford
Widow Twankey	Mr. Mark Melford
Abanazar	Mr. Arthur Reynolds
Wishee Washee, Ki Ki	The Ethairien Brothers
Ping-Pong	Mr. Dan Lyndon
Bobby Bob	Mr. Gus Granville
Slave of the Ring, Slave of the Lamp	Susie and Protti

Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett's eleventh annual pantomime, produced here on Christmas Eve, bids fair, judging by the enthusiasm which prevailed throughout the opening performance, to eclipse his previous successes. The story chosen is *Aladdin*, and Mr. Mark Melford, the author of the book, has treated the subject with a freshness that should appeal with irresistible force to all lovers of pantomime. The music by Mr. Sidney Shaw is very tuneful, and the various melodies are cleverly arranged.

The pantomime is divided into eleven scenes, of which the opening one, The Market Place in Pekin, is very pretty. Another effective set is Outside the Grotto, in which the See-Saw Girls introduce a novel and clever speciality swing song and dance. This was greatly enjoyed by the audience, who demanded an encore. The concluding scene of Part I. introduces a Grand Procession of the Guardians of the Cave. The groups are arranged with great care, and the whole effect is very striking, and evoked great applause. The most notable scene in the second part is The Banqueting Hall of Aladdin's Palace, a veritable triumph of scenic art, which affords an opportunity for a clever mechanical illusion, the production of a banquet from what appeared to the audience to be an empty table.

The cast is a very strong one. Miss Winifred Hare as Aladdin was an attractive and dashing principal boy. Possessed of a fine voice, which was used to the best effect, Miss Hare was a decided success, and was accorded numerous encores for her songs, the chief of which were "Why do the girls love Charlie?" "A cosy little flat," and "A different girl again," and her duet, "Men and Women," with the Magician (Mr. Arthur Reynolds) was one of the hits of the evening. A charming Princess Badroulbadour was seen in Miss Mary Hay, who has a dainty and captivating personality. Her songs, too, were rendered with much expression, especially "My Prince," which elicited rounds of applause. Another of her successes was "Zuyder Zee," in which she was assisted by the See-Saw Girls dressed in Dutch costumes. Miss Marion Hargrave as Pekoe was thoroughly satisfactory; and Miss Ethel Ivimey was a fascinating Pitti Sing, and acted with much vivacity. Miss Vera Thompson as Hi Tid Li and Miss Ethel Ford as Hi Ti also rendered good service. Mr. Mark Melford was decidedly original and versatile as Widow Twankey, and his quaint drollery and mannerisms kept the house well amused, and to a large extent ensured the success of the piece. Mr. Arthur Reynolds achieved distinction as the magician, Abanazar, and was also responsible for a good deal of the fun. He was particularly amusing in the song "Let me sing," into which he introduced some smart business. Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy as the Emperor was also very good. The Ethairien Brothers as Wishee Washee and Ki Ki had ample opportunities of displaying their talents, and their clever gymnastic and knockabout business kept the fun going fast and furious. Mr. Dan Lyndon as Ping-Pong and Mr. Gus Granville as Bobby Bob also contributed their share of the hilarity, and were very successful.

One of the most interesting treats of the evening was the speciality dancing of Susie and Protti, who assumed the parts of Slaves of the Ring and Lamp. These artists quite impressed the audience with their clever and original dances, which were executed with much gracefulness. The See-Saw Girls also gave an exhibition of troupe dancing, and were the recipients of hearty applause. The whole production was under the direction of Mr. Robert Crossman, and he was assisted by Mr. Fewlass Llewllyn as stage-director. The lyrics are by Mr. T. H. Goldsworthy, the dances arranged by Signor Protti, and the scenery and mechanical effects by George Dance and assistants.

"JACK AND THE BEANSTALK" AT ISLINGTON.

Pantomime, by Newman Maurice,
Produced Dec. 26.

Immortals.

Demon Discord	Mr. James Wilson
Fairy Rosebud	Miss Marie Altino
Giant Gorribuster	Mr. Dick Tubb

Royalties.

Baron D'Oofless	Mr. Nat Watkins
Baroness D'Oofless	Miss Marie Ault
Princess Lovebird	Miss Florence Watson

Hangers On.

Fanfare and Blowhard — Messrs. Harley and Harden

Common People.

Jack	Miss Blanche Vincent
Mrs. Jack	Mr. Charles Austin

More People.

Daisy	Miss Queenie Gordon
Rowland	Miss May Lurlin
Philomel, Phyllis	The Sisters Bartholomew

Mr. Samuel James produced, on Boxing Day, at the Grand, his second annual pantomime, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, the book, as before, coming from the prolific pen of Mr. Newman Maurice, the popular actor-manager of the theatre. Mr. Maurice is an experienced hand at Christmas annuals, and has supplied a *résumé* of the fable admirably adapted for the somewhat irresponsible nature of the production. The music has again been entrusted to Mr. William T. Gliddon, the accomplished *chef d'orchestre*, with very happy results. The entire scenery for the production is from the brush of Mr. George Tweddel, and very excellent examples of his skill they are in every respect, the three most noticeable sets being the opening scenes of the pantomime proper—a pretty rustic set; the last scene of the first part—a brilliant fairy scene—embellished by a ballet and some effective electrical lighting; and a gorgeous set to conclude the pantomime, the Giant's Palace.

Miss Blanche Vincent, as Jack, brings a good stage presence, powerful voice, and vivacity, to her aid with the happiest results. To her fall some of the most popular songs, and she soon gained lusty assistance from the audience in "Hello! Hello! Hello!" and "London Town," both being, of course, encored. Her duets with Miss Florence Watson and with Mr. Charles Austin proved her versatility, and, altogether, she is to be credited with a distinct wit. Miss Florence Watson, as the Princess, proved herself to be a very refined and dainty artist. Her songs, "Farewell, my Little Hyacinth," and the "Zuyder Zee," found immediate favour, her reception being deservedly cordial. Miss Marie Ault, as the Baroness, plays a comedy rôle with success, and her song, "What are they doing it for?" was well sung. Miss Marie Altino, as the Fairy Queen, acts with dignity, and proves herself the possessor of a good voice in her vocal number. The Sisters Bartholomew, as Philomel and Phyllis, played second boy and girl brightly, introducing a special duet and dance with effect. Miss May Lurlin and Miss Queenie Gordon, in small parts, were also acceptable. For the principal comedian the management have again engaged Mr. Charles Austin, who made such a hit here last year. As Mrs. Jack, he carries the brunt of the heavy work on his shoulders, and, altogether, he is to be credited with a great share in the general success. Mr. Nat Wilkins, as the Baron, gives a good performance. Messrs. Harley and Harden, as the knockabouts, are amusing, though their chances to shine are somewhat limited. Their dancing and business are smart. Mr. James Wilson, as Discord, acts a good old *rôle* in the old-fashioned way. Mr. Dick Tubb, as the Giant, acquits himself well; Mr. Fred Melros as the Clown, Mr. Harry Adlin as the Pantaloon, Mr. Robert Sawyer as the Harlequin, Miss Connie Ford as Columbine, and Mr. Ninety as the Policeman present all the humours of the harlequinade to the unbounded delight of the youngsters. Mlle. Luma introduced as a special feature a dance in which revolving slides illuminated her flowing robes, the effect produced being very beautiful. Mr. Sydney Morton, who is responsible for the production, is to be complimented on a remarkably smooth first performance.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, POPLAR.

The Pantomime, produced
on Wed., Dec. 26,
entitled

"THE FORTY THIEVES."

Ali Baba	Mr. Edwin Adeler
Ganem	Miss Lily Iris
Cogia	Mr. Frank Gee
Morgiana	Miss Florence Beech
Lola	Miss Lillie Chappell
Boris	Miss Rosa Sullivan
Cassim	Mr. Geo. Villiers-Arnold
Mustapha	Mr. Chas. H. Ross
Abdallah	Miss Margaret Radcliffe
Princess Zoe	Miss Rosie Bartlett
Hassarac	Mr. Arthur Ricketts
Cassarac	Little Dando
Abbas	Mr. Frank Francis

Mr. Clarence Sounes' second annual pantomime at the Prince's Theatre is a brilliant and gorgeous spectacle, with a bright and well-written version by Mr. Fred Bowyer of the good old story of the Forty Thieves and their tragic ending. There is much to charm the eye, and the pretty faces, ravishing costumes, and magnificent scenery all go to make up the most attractive of pictures. Good fun abounds of the character which appeals to old and young alike; there is music of the popular order and high-class music, and, taken altogether, all the elements lend themselves to the making of an excellent pantomime.

Miss Lily Iris makes a vivacious and pleasing Ganem, full of life and gaiety. She has a well-modulated voice, which she uses with excellent effect. Her contributions to the entertainment include, amongst others, the well-known "Hello," "Nelson's Monument," and "The Zuyder Zee," all of which were heartily received. Morgiana, which should have been played by Miss Ruby Verdi, who is, unfortunately, ill, has an able exponent in Miss Florence Beech, a leading member of one of the *Prince of Pilsen* companies. She took up the part at a few hours' notice, and renders it with excellent effect and style. Her songs were much appreciated, especially "Over a cup of tea" and "Hyacinth." Miss Lillie Chappell is distinctly fascinating and chic as Lola, and one regretted she had not more to do. As Boris, Miss Rosa Sullivan looks and acts well. Her boy's dress suits her admirably, and she cuts a dashing figure. Miss Margaret Radcliffe, as Abdallah the Robber Chief, makes an imperious and imposing principal boy. She is possessed of a commanding presence, and has a fine voice, which greatly pleased the audience, especially in her singing of "Queen of Old Samara" and "Bamboo Bungalow." Miss Rosie Bartlett plays the Princess Zoe in sweet and winsome fashion, winning great applause for her rendering of "Barbadoes." Mr. Edwin Adeler, by his representation of Ali Baba, proves himself to be a finished comedian of no mean order. He has a neat and quiet style of his own which is very effective. In conducting the comical quintette about Little Willie's Whiskers he displays humour of a clever and unusual brand. He works throughout with unwearying effort, which brings about the happiest results. His "Nightmare" song, with chorus, was received with great applause. Cogia is admirably portrayed by Mr. Frank Gee. He is funny without being vulgar, and particularly happy in his selection of songs. Cassim is well represented by Mr. Geo. Villiers-Arnold, who displays dramatic talent of a high quality in the cave scene already referred to. He sings the Drinking Song from "Martha" with considerable effect. The *rôles* of Hassarac and Cassarac are played respectively by Mr. Arthur Ricketts and Little Dando, a quaintly humorous pair, who might aptly be described as the long and the short of it. Their scenes are quite one of the features of the pantomime, and full of fun and merriment; Mr. Dando particularly scores with his song and dance about "The Ladies." Mr. Chas. H. Ross is well placed as Mustapha, his efforts to amuse being much appreciated. High commendation must be bestowed upon Mr. Frank Francis for his representation of a very comical and intelligent donkey. Minor parts were well handled by Miss Clara Edwardes, as Gertie, a village belle, and Miss Lucia Edwardes, as Moonshine. These ladies contributed two or three special items to the programme which were much appreciated, amongst them being a song with drum chorus and "The Starlight Queen," with dance, which was received with much acclamation; Mr. H. E. Evans, as Zambuk; Mr. G. A. Holmes, as Pierri; Mr. W. H. Bull, as Alikar; Mr. T. Hammond, as Malikar; Mr. G. H. Baker, as Caliban; and Mr. W. Crouch, as Maliban, were all highly satisfactory.

The Three Delaries contribute an excellent gymnastic performance of great cleverness and merit in a special scene. Miss Maude May Murray deserves praise for her illuminated serpentine dance, and the Sheppards, with their Spider and Fly song and dance, were well received. The vocal efforts of the London Comedy Quartette were loudly applauded. Their contributions were of the highest class and excellently rendered. The harlequinade has received special attention, the Sheppards, Mr. Frank Francis, Mr. Chas. H. Ross, and Mr. Len Loan taking parts therein. The pantomime is produced by Mr. Lloyd Tounrow, who has had no light task, and from which he has emerged with the highest credit.

Mr. Stephen E. Blythe is responsible for the music, and he must be congratulated on his excellent original work therein, especially a capital march number.

Mr. Harry Lyons, assisted by Mr. E. H. Grime, still looks after the comfort of the patrons of the house, and Mr. Clarence Sounes is to be highly complimented on a pantomime which has all the component parts of a pronounced success.

"THE FORTY THIEVES" AT THE CORONET.

Pantomime, by Frank Dix, produced on Christmas Eve.

Ganem	Miss Cressie Leonard
Morgiana	Miss Beatrice Willey
Abdallah	Miss Jose Hammersley
Kogan	Miss Bijou Dreno
Zabarah	Miss Dorothy Firmin
Lily of the Waters	Miss Nellie Harcourt
Ali Baba	Mr. Harry Cole
Cassim	Mr. George W. Cockburn
Mustapha	Mr. Bert Noels
Abbas	Mr. Harry Zietz
Hamdallah, Cazvini	Messrs. Dale and O'Malley
Scent of the Lillies	Miss Adah Cameron
Voice of the Iris	Miss Marie Howcroft
Dawn of the Morn	Miss Georgie Mary
Blush of the Moon	Miss Mary Thomson
Heart of the Rose	Miss Flo Elliot
Perfume of the Violets	Miss Grace Winter
Cogia	Mr. Johnny Schofield

Mr. Robert Arthur's third Coronet pantomime was presented on Christmas Eve with every token of success. There is a picturesque glow about the subject and its Persian setting which lends itself to elaborate and tasteful staging and interesting treatment, and Mr. Frank Dix must be congratulated on a brightly-written book and a striking and effective illustration of his theme. The good old fairy story is closely followed, and the fun of the fair is not allowed at any time to interfere with the coherence of the plot or to puzzle the student of fairy lore. Spectacular embellishments, the harmless necessary fun of the festive season, and several interpolated songs are furnished in goodly array. Many of the spectacular effects which caused such delight at Fulham two years ago are reproduced. We have the cave of the forty thieves with its vista of wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, the grand spectacular scene of the temptation and death of Cassim Baba, the courtyard of the Seraglio, a sweetly pretty "set" with distant palm-trees spreading o'er a moonlit lake, the white terrace of the Sergalio, with a statue ballet and dance of flowers, and the wedding match, which brings the pantomime to a fitting close in one blaze of splendour.

Miss Cressie Leonard as Ganem is a graceful, refined, and dainty principal boy, and her songs and dances are given in quite unexceptionable manners; her unfailing good humour, freshness, and spontaniety are irresistibly captivating, her "Zuyder Zee" song being capitally sung. Miss Beatrice Willey as Morgiana looks pretty as a picture, and is admirably suited by the Eastern robes which she dons; her duets and dances are pleasantly rendered, and her method is well suited to the style of the part. Miss Jose Hammersley as Abdallah, captain of the Forty Thieves, is a dashing and distinguished leader of the band, and cuts a very taking figure in her robber's robes. Mr. Harry Cole as Ali Baba, the presently metamorphosed woodcutter, does all that is required of him, and joins in the fun wherever necessary. Mr. Johnny Schofield, who enacts the part of Ali's wife Cogia, alias Weed o' the Desert, is well known and deservedly popular at the Coronet, where he took pride of place as the Wicked Squire in Mr. Robert Arthur's Coronet pantomime of *Red Riding Hood* the year before last. He makes a first-class comic female, and is indefatigable in his highly successful effort to amuse the audience; his ditty, "Let me sing," is immensely popular and repeatedly encored. The donkey, Abbas, is impersonated by Mr. Harry Zietz, who makes an ass of himself to some purpose in that he causes the audience to rock with laughter; his droll antics in the stable and both inside and outside the robbers' cave are a continual cause of merriment. Mr. George W. Cockburn repeats his successful assumption of Cassim Baba, and is highly dramatic in his scene of his subjection to the drink fiend, ending in his temptation and death in the robbers' cave. Miss Bijou Dreno as Kogan and Miss Dorothy Firmin as Zaborah are a pair of lovers, and a particularly bright, pretty, and attractive pair they are; their duet and dance, "Waltz me around, will you?" is very daintily rendered. Mr. Bert Noels as Mustapha is well in the picture as the proverb-quoting cobbler. Messrs. Dale and O'Malley as Hamdallah and Cazvini, the lieutenants of the Forty Thieves, act as first aid to the other comedians, their business being very funny and their ditties drolly delivered. A bevy of beauty is supplied in the shape of Misses Nellie Harcourt (a water-carrier), Adah Cameron, Marie Howcroft, Georgie Maby, Mary Thomson, Flo Elliot, and Grace Winter as the six little wives with the high-sounding names.

The scenery is by Stafford Hall. The music, which is eminently tuneful and appropriate in its Oriental significance, is by Mr. J. O. Shepherd, with additional numbers by Mr. Jullien H. Wilson; whilst Mr. W. Meyer ably wields the *bâton* in the conductor's chair.

The costumes do credit to Comelli, who designed them, and to Hugo Baruch, Elkan Brothers, and Miss Hale, who executed these designs. Naturally, W. Clarkson supplies the wigs. The properties are by Geo. Corney and W. Brydon; the mechanical effects are by G. Sinnott and W. Hollis Davis; and the electrical effects by David Marshall, C. Ballantyne, and W. M. Joncke.

Mr. Charles A. James stage-manages the show, with Mr. Henry Watson as assistant. Mme. Elise Clerc, from the Empire Theatre, is ballet mistress; the whole being produced under the personal supervision of Mr. Robert Arthur. The Royal Peri Troupe of Oriental dancers trip on the light fantastic toe in fine fashion, and the Steinway Quartette do good work.

The book of words, by the way, contains capital portraits of all the principals, of Mr. Dix, the author, and Mr. Robert Arthur, the lessee and manager.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Dec. 24, the Pantomime entitled

"CINDERELLA."

Baron Seedy	Mr. Herbert Rule
Mildred Ann	Mr. Willie Scott
Jane Ermyntrude	Mr. Arthur Watts
Cinderella	Miss Alice Digby
Prince Splendid	Miss Gracie Taylor
Dandini	Miss Nora Morra
Toddles	Mr. Arthur Carlton
Count Claude	Miss Violet Vercoe
Lady Maud	Miss Maggie Edwards
Eric	Miss Jessie Salisbury
Phyllis	Miss Essex
Herald	Mr. S. Liddard
Snatch	Mr. Mount Stephen
Catch	Mr. Harry Rennior
The Fairy Godmother	Mme. Van Dalle

In deference to the festive season, this popular South London drama house again gives itself up to the fun and frolic of King Pantomime. The story chosen for illustration is *Cinderella*, written by Brian Daly and John M. East, who very wisely keep closely throughout to the delightful old nursery tale. The production is divided into two parts, which together contain no fewer than twelve elaborate scenes, the changing and setting of which are very smartly effected. The opening scene, the Water Mill in the Royal Forest, is very pretty and most realistic. The Kitchen of Hard-up Hall is another picturesque set, in which every attention to detail is apparent. Here Cinderella (Miss Alice Digby) and the Baron's Page (Mr. Arthur R. Carlton) give a very diverting burlesque drama, which evokes peals of merriment. Fairyland, which concludes the first part, is pre-eminent from a spectacular standpoint; a beautifully-dressed ballet, who throughout show evidence of careful training and rehearsal, magnificent electric lighting effects, creditably managed by Mr. J. H. Waters, and a gorgeous state coach drawn by four of the smallest possible ponies all help to make up this magnificent picture. A scene during which the laughter is loud and long is entitled "The Wrong Way Home (by 'Bus)." The 'bus is fixed, but the wheels revolve, the panorama goes flying past, and there is a moving track, which is traversed more or less successfully by various characters. The heroine Cinderella finds a fascinating and romantic representative in Miss Alice Digby, who dances with exquisite grace and sings delightfully with a youthful freshness quite appropriate to the character. Her felicitous rendering of "Firefly" and "My bungalow in Borneo" is much applauded. As Prince Splendid Miss Gracie Taylor sings and dances with charming *abandon* and refinement. It may safely be predicted that Miss Taylor will quickly be a great attraction. Her songs, "In Far Siam" and "When there isn't a girl about," prove to be very popular, whilst "Zuyder Zee" is one of the greatest successes of the evening. Nothing but praise can be accorded Miss Nora Morra, who fills the rôle of Dandini; she fully realises the pert, saucy retainer, and by her vivacious singing contributes much to the success of the piece. Her songs, "Peggy Machree" and "Rosie is waiting," are much to the taste of the audience, who join lustily in the refrain of each. Mr. Herbert Rule invests the character of Baron Seedy with much merriment, and contributes many good songs to the performance, his greatest success being undoubtedly "Songs with a Chorus." Mr. Arthur R. Carlton, already well known here, is never-tiring in his successful efforts to amuse as Toddles, the Baron's page. As the two ugly daughters, Messrs. Arthur Watts and Willie Scott, one very tall and the other short, make a splendid pair of quarrelsome sisters, and without a trace of vulgarity keep the fun going merrily whenever they are on the stage. Mr. Scott makes a great hit with a topical song dealing with "Suffragettes." Boisterous fun and grotesque humour are amply supplied by Messrs. Mount Stephen and Harry Rennior as two broker's men; they are responsible for some of the heartiest laughter, their dialogue is excruciatingly funny, and their perverted proverbs provoke much mirth. The fine voice and presence of Mme. Van Dalle lend distinction to the part of the Fairy Godmother; Mr. S. Liddard declaims well and distinctly as the Herald; Miss Violet Varcoe and Miss Jessie Salisbury make handsome and attractive courtiers; whilst Miss Maggie Edwards and Miss Essex are indeed a pretty pair as ladies of the Court. The Aroza Belles during the evening give pleasing turns in varied clever styles of dancing. One of the most noticeable features of the pantomime is the excellent chorus, quite on a par with that of a first-class comic opera company. The mounting, effects, and costumes are on a lavish scale. The lyrics by Brian Daly are written in admirable taste; whilst the music composed and arranged by Mr. J. Nurnberger is both melodious and tuneful, and the augmented orchestra under his efficient bâton do extremely well. Mr. Charles A. East must be heartily congratulated on his splendid production, the performance going with a swing and smoothness seldom attained on a first night, giving evidence of the value of having the supervision of so experienced a manager as Mr. East. He has the aid of Mr. Edward Godfrey as assistant-stage-manager. Mr. R. A. Neville is an ever-pleasant, courteous, and business-like acting-manager.

GRAND, WOOLWICH.

On Wednesday, Dec. 26, the Pantomime entitled

"THE BABES IN THE WOOD."

Robin Hood	Miss Mary Ambrose
Maid Marian	Miss Lily Maxwell
Baron Verdigris	Mr. Charles W. Anson
Winston	Mr. Frank Lawton
Raitz, Taxis	The Brothers Harrison
Dick	Miss Maisie Richardson
Dorothy	Miss Zeta Russell
Mary Ann Spankhurst	Mr. Fred Lincoln
Friar Tuck	Mr. Jack Hughes
Will Scarlett	Miss Violet Worth
Alan-a-Dale	Miss Alma Allen
Little John	Miss Mary Graham
Jack o' the Green	Miss Annie Reiff
Marjory Daw	Miss Nelly D'Alvo
Charley Wagg	Miss Ella Vane
Jack Horner	Miss Eva Lott
Tommy Tucker	Miss Diana Stacey
Polly Flinders	Miss Jeanie Rose
Nelly Bly	Miss Kathleen Morgan
Miss Muffet	Miss Kathleen Stewart
Stormy Petrol	Mr. John Sandbrook
Electra	Miss Daisy Webb

Every Christmas Mr. Clarence Sounes sets himself resolutely to an increasingly difficult task, that of beating his previous achievements in the way of pantomime production, and it must be admitted that, so far, he has each year been successful—at any rate, the present pantomime, produced on Boxing Day, is fully up to, if it does not actually surpass, the high standard already set at this theatre. The actual production was in the able hands of Mr. Arthur Linforth, under the general supervision of Mr. Sounes, and a lavish outlay of time, trouble, and expense has resulted in a production which, in point of scenery, dresses, and performers, is a memorable one, and subsequent audiences will doubtless for some time to come heartily endorse the verdict of Wednesday's crowded and enthusiastic house. The subject chosen for presentation is the story of *The Babes in the Wood*, the book being by Mr. St. John Hammond, who has eschewed the time-honoured rhymed couplet for ordinary modern and concise prose, while additional lyrics are supplied by Messrs. J. McLaren and C. W. Anson, and the music, which is beautifully orchestrated, is from the pen of Mr. Ernée Woodville. The story readily lends itself to scenic illustration, a fact of which full advantage has been taken.

An excellent representative of Robin Hood has been found in Miss Mary Ambrose, whose commanding presence and fine figure admirably fit her for the rôle of principal boy, while her good resonant voice is heard to full effect in several songs which will doubtless soon become favourites. Decided hits were "Sweet dreams of my home-land," in which Miss Ambrose accompanied herself on the violin, and "Wake up, John Bull!" Miss Lily Maxwell makes a fascinating Maid Marian, looking so pretty that it is small wonder that Robin Hood would go through fire and water for her, and acting and dancing with a demure archness that is taking in the extreme. Her song and dance, "The Cigarette Girl," and her rendering of "Sailing in my balloon" were notable successes. A dashing rendering of Will Scarlett comes from Miss Violet Worth, who plays with charming assurance, and whose song, "Cupid," was well received; while a duet, "I love you all the time," with Marjory, is another much-appreciated item. The last-named character is played with good taste by Miss Nellie D'Alvo, who sings and dances nicely, and makes a hit with a lullaby song in the second act. The comedy element is particularly strong, and first and foremost in this connection must be mentioned the Brothers Harrison. This indefatigable pair seem to have a positive genius for the invention and carrying through of laughable business, and, whether they were making a tremendous din as a couple of timid burglars, or were engaged in a burlesque duel, or, again, were running a sideshow at a country fair, the audience were kept in convulsions of laughter the whole time. Their songs, "Studying for the Bar" (accompanied by a wonderfully clever dance) and "On the Links," secured perhaps the heartiest encores of the evening. As Baron Verdigris, Mr. Charles W. Anson proves himself a comedian of no mean order, his eccentric make-up and mannerisms as the Babes' "dear uncle" and his particularly funny business in the bedroom scene being notably successful, while his comic version of "What a happy land is England!" was well received. Mr. Fred Lincoln makes a capital Dame, and puts plenty of clean, wholesome fun into his representation; his make-up is excellent, and he gives his various songs and tales with much spirit. His best song was, perhaps, "Good-bye, my lady-love," while the humour of a cross-purposes speech in which he consistently speaks of a ship while one of the other characters thinks he is referring to a girl is admirably maintained. As Winston, Mr. Frank Lawton is provided with a part which, of itself, does not give him much scope, but which he makes extremely acceptable by his clever whistling and performance on the "bones." His imitation on the latter of a train (a South-Eastern one, of course) is very realistic, and was enthusiastically re-demanded. Mr. Jack Hughes makes the most of Friar Tuck, and sings the Bandolero song with good effect; Mr. John Sandbrook does as well as possible as the Demon, though he has few opportunities for the exercise of his powerful voice; and Miss Daisy Webb, as the Fairy, speaks her lines with distinction. Last but not least must be mentioned the excellent Babes of Miss Maisie Richardson and Miss Zeta Russell. Little Miss Russell is, indeed, by way of being an infant prodigy, for not only does she act naturally and sing nicely and clearly, but she proves herself an accomplished performer in the difficult art of toe-dancing. The pantomime is followed by a harlequinade, which will doubtless develop into a great attraction for the children, though time did not allow of its full performance on Wednesday. The comfort of the audience was, as usual, ably looked after by Mr. Jack Gladwin, Mr. Sounes's popular acting-manager. A word of praise must be given to the excellent work of the orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. J. Klee.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Wednesday, Dec. 26, the pantomime, entitled

"BLUE BEARD."

Blue Beard	Mr. Edwin Brett
Sister Ann	Mr. Sydney Young
Mustapha	Mr. Harold Carson
Selim	Miss Nell Richardson
Shacabac	Mr. Wilson Blake
Esaw	Mr. F. Frost
Lieut. Pursey Pride	Miss Nellie James
Midshipman Myte	Miss Dorothy Green
A Mysterious Visitor	Mr. Harold Clemence
Fatima	Miss Nellie Groves
Wilhelmina	Miss Edna Seaton
Miss Silvery Thames	Miss Dorothy James

Kingstonians had a surprise rushed on them on Boxing Night. They had come to understand—at least they imagined they had—Mr. Peter Davey's level of a pantomime, for had they not followed his progress during nine successive years. But they had made a mistake, and readily they acknowledged it at the close of the performance of *Blue Beard* on Wednesday evening. In his latest and tenth "annual" Mr. Davey has struck a higher mark than formerly, and that is saying a great deal. A better-dressed pantomime has not been seen on the boards at the Royal County Theatre; and here comes in the benefit of the co-partnership at Kingston which has helped Mr. Davey in most of his enterprises. We refer to Mrs. Davey, than whom none has worked harder towards the picturesque setting of the show by her colour schemes of dressing. A young Surbiton man, Mr. Hugh Mytton, wrote the libretto and lyrics, and his local knowledge gave him excellent scope. While he took liberties with the story, liberties were also taken with his "book" by Blue Beard (Mr. Edwin Brett), who, along with Mr. Sydney Young (Sister Ann) and Mr. Harold Carson (Mustapha) did not fail to introduce some excellent stage business and gags. And "what excitement!" Mr. Edwin Brett was the life and soul of the piece. He was very happy in his song "When there's a girl about you"; but undoubtedly the ditty that will take some beating is his parody on the "first lines" of well-known songs. He also made a hit as Sheeny after being deposed from power. Sister Ann is the sister to everybody, and the talk of the town. She sings a good song, and leads the "Suffragettes" to gaol; and not only plays Romeo to Blue Beard's Juliet, but ultimately runs off with him on a motor-car. Harold Carson's is a familiar voice, and stands well in honours; and Mr. Wilson Blake gives undoubted pleasure with his fooling as Shacabac, the private secretary to Blue Beard, in love with the little Dutch maid, Wilhelmina. Miss Nell Richardson makes a fine Selim. She is tall and graceful, and possesses a sweet voice, which she uses well, singing easily and clearly. She won her audience with "Hello, hello! a different girl again." She distinctly scored with her duet "For You" with the imprisoned Fatima; and this number should prove one of the best items. The tableau at the conclusion of the first part is a very effective scene, in which Miss Richardson sings "Snowflakes." The masterpiece of conception, however, is the scene The Fête of Roses, which opens in the pale moonlight, with Selim on the crescent of the moon, warbling advice to lovers when they spoon. Her partner Fatima (Miss Nellie Groves) brings a sweetness of smiles to her part that will win her a place in the hearts of Kingstonians. She has already won the first-nighters with "Wouldn't you like to love me?" and her way of asking it and her "Sunshine" under the canopy of roses and coloured electric lights. The brightest spark of a lively evening's enjoyment was the little Dutch girl of Miss Edna Seaton, who comes all the way from Australia and makes her first appearance in pantomime. She is not new to the boards, however, and her sprightly songs and dances and pretty naughty ways made her a first favourite. Miss Dorothy James (as Miss Silvery Thames) leads on her Six Gibson Girls. They fall to the wiles of Blue Beard and go searching in the East for a husband; and being imprisoned have, of course, to be rescued by six jolly tars of the "Merrie England," who are gallantly led by Lieut. Pursey Pride (Miss Nellie James), an old favourite, and one whose skill is seen in the dances, which have been arranged by her. Some special dances are given by Miss Dorothy Green as little Midshipman Myte; her prettiest efforts being Pas du Moulin Rouge and Pas Pirouette. The scenery, which is a fine feature, is the work of Julian Hicks and George Miller. All the music has been selected and arranged by Mr. J. H. Russell, the popular bâton. The whole is stage-managed by Mr. H. B. Cook, who deserves a word of praise for the smoothness of the opening run.

(*Continued on Page 16*).

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft were among the first subscribers to the Irving Memorial Fund, giving a donation of fifty guineas. On the 19th inst. Sir Squire journeyed to Yeovil, to fill the place rendered vacant by his late friend, by giving a recital of Dickens's "Christmas Carol" at the local assembly rooms, in aid of the district hospital. Shortly before his death Sir Henry promised to give a Shakespearean reading for that purpose, but as this unfortunately became impossible, Sir Squire Bancroft was appealed to, and he very kindly volunteered to give a recital from the works of Dickens Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, who presided over a large and influential audience, in introducing his distinguished visitor, alluded to the great reputation which Sir Squire enjoyed as an actor, and spoke of the universal regret felt at his and Lady Bancroft's retirement from the stage, of which they were such brilliant ornaments.

Mr. John Hare was among the distinguished congregation at a memorial service for Mr. W. R. McConnell, K.C., the late Chairman of the County of London Sessions, held at the Temple Church on Thursday. Dr. Woods, Master of the Temple, conducted the service.

Mr. Edward Terry, who has devoted long years to useful work in municipal and social matters, has been made a Justice of the Peace for Mortlake. The esteemed proprietor of Terry's Theatre is treasurer of the Royal General Theatrical Fund, and among the offices held by him are those of guardian of the poor for the Richmond Union, a churchwarden, grand treasurer of the Freemasons, president of the Theatrical Fire Fund, trustee of Barnes charities, and member of various hospital and orphanage councils.

Mr. Arthur Conquest accomplished a remarkable feat in taking up Mr. Harry Randall's part in the Drury-lane pantomime after only forty-eight hours' notice. His method of mastering the lines is interesting and instructive. "When I was handed Mr. Randall's part," he said, "I took it home, and on the night of Christmas Eve had two hours at it before going to bed. On Christmas morning I copied it out—that is one of the best ways of memorising anything, you know—and had another hour's grind. Then I dropped it altogether, and went for a couple of hours' walk, dismissing it entirely from my mind. I came back, and ate a good Christmas dinner. In the afternoon I went into the garden, and had some exercise with the punching-ball. In the evening I gave Mrs. Sindbad another couple of hours. At half-past ten I went to bed—and that was how it was done!"

Mr. Richard Green will make an addition to the small body of Savoyards available for the present revival, Mrs. D'Oyly Carte having engaged the popular baritone to appear in some of her intended reproductions. Mr. Green was formerly with Mr. Carte at the Royal English Opera House, and afterwards played principal parts in *Haddon Hall* and *The Vicar of Bray* at the Savoy.

Miss Annie Hughes, who made such a striking success just recently at the Camden Theatre in *Tommy*, by Jerome K. Jerome, starts a tour with the play at Eastbourne on Jan. 17. Miss Hughes will play in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dublin, and all the big cities, and will be seen in the suburbs in the part after Easter. The accomplished actress is also playing her famous character of Nan in *Good for Nothing*, which precedes *Tommy*.

Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, writing in the *Atlantic Monthly*, makes the alarming revelation that the "matinée girl," hitherto thought to be restricted to America, exists in large numbers in this country. At a recent matinée given in an English city by one of our most deservedly popular stage heroes, he states it is credibly alleged that at the opening of the doors 279 ladies consecutively passed the pay-box! Then a single man entered. But he was a curate.

"I do not think," continues the eminent dramatist, "that any explanation can be offered of this incident that would flatter the dramatic taste of the town, or indeed that concerns the drama at all. I think the only explanation that can be given of these matinée phenomena is to class them with the nursemaid and the soldier in the park; except, indeed, that the nursemaid has this great advantage, or disadvantage—she does actually talk with her hero, and in many cases is made the veritable heroine of the story."

Mr. J. Hickory Wood, the author of the Drury Lane "annual," has an enlightening story to tell of a theatrical manager who shared his box at a provincial theatre where a pantomime was in progress. "He surveyed the show gloomily," says the prolific author, "and when the principal comedian entered and did his best, the manager, with a scowl on his brow, leant over to me and remarked: 'I want to engage that man for next Christmas.' 'Do you think he is funny?' I inquired. 'Screamingly funny,' he replied, frowning heavily. 'Then why don't you laugh?' I asked. 'Laugh?' said he. 'Laugh, when he's got his eyes on me, and every smile means that he'll ask another "fiver" a week?'"

A few nights prior to the Christmas holidays two well-known private constables drove to one of the Blackpool hotels and asked to see Miss Florence Baines. A page-boy, who had to transmit their request through a speaking-tube, immediately called into the mouthpiece: "Miss Florence Baines is wanted by the police." To the numerous guests assembled in the corridors and ante-rooms this statement was startling in the extreme. The band ceased playing, and quite a number of people assembled at the foot of the staircase ostensibly for the purpose of witnessing the arrest. Many were the expressions of sympathy as the well-known artist was seen descending the staircase, when the two officers handed to Miss Baines an official-looking document, which read as follows:—

"St. John Ambulance Brigade,
"Blackpool, Dec. 20.

"Dear Miss Baines,—I heard last evening that you were spending a few days in Blackpool, and I wish to take the opportunity of informing you that we are now busy in preparing for our annual distribution of clothing to the poor of Blackpool, so if you care to see what is done by the ladies of the nursing division in connection with this work, and you will name a time and date when you will call at my office, I will remain in and wait for you.—With kind regards, yours respectfully,
J. C. Derham, *Chief Constable*."

During the reading of this letter the hotel guests took in the situation, the band played on, and not a little merriment was caused by the incident. Miss Baines, it may be added, has appeared at the matinée organised by the Chief-Constable for two successive years.

Mr. Gaston Mayer will commence his fourth French season at the New Royalty Theatre on Monday, Jan. 21. The season will open with Lavedan's comedy, *Le Marquis de Priola*, the chief parts in which will be played by M. Le Bargy and Mlle. Gabrielle Dorziat. During the season, M. Coquelin *aîné* will appear in two plays new to this country, and Jeanne Granier will also be seen in a new piece, by Georges Berr, one of the foremost actors of the Comédie Française, and the author of *L'Irrésolu*, the French original of *The Indecision of Mr. Kingsbury*.

Mr. Norman V. Norman hopes to add four more plays to his already large répertoire in the spring, namely, two Shakespearean comedies and two plays of modern life.

The pit queue has formed the subject of warm debate, and the messenger boy has been discussed almost out of existence. Mr. Carl Hentschel, to whom the interests of the playgoer are ever dear, is of opinion that the practice of allowing messenger boys to reserve places in the queue is manifestly unfair. "Why," he writes, "should the humble playgoer who can only afford his 2s. 6d. or 1s., but is able to give an hour or two of his time to wait outside, be ousted by the man who can, and is well able to, pay for a higher-priced seat? After all, why should not the queue system be done away with altogether? The late Mr. D'Oyly Carte instituted the queue many years ago, when the Savoy first opened. It was not popular at first, and was well abused as being a foreign custom repugnant to the ideas of independent playgoers, who loved to scramble and struggle for their seats. But certainly it was an improvement on the old method, and as time went on the queue became universal; but it is really serious matter that the humble playgoer desirous of patronising the theatre and enjoying himself should have to risk his health and wait in discomfort under conditions which are really unbearable."

"There is only one remedy," continues Mr. Hentschel, "and that is to let all parts of the theatre be booked. Let Mrs. D'Oyly Carte be the first to set the example. The general excuse is that it may mean keeping the box-office open all day. Well, at the Savoy this is already done. Secondly, it is argued that as the pit is the best place for seeing, 2s. 6d. is too cheap, and you will have people who now patronise the upper boxes come into the pit. Well, it may perhaps be a little revolutionary to old pittites, but if the pit is worth more money, why not change the seating arrangements, and make the pit 4s. and the upper boxes 2s. 6d., although in my opinion in some of the theatres a good large pit at 2s. 6d. might prove very profitable.

"For many years past I have advocated the booking of all parts of the house. It is the only fair means of getting out of the present difficulty, and the humble patrons of the theatre ought to be put on the same footing as those who pay for the higher-priced seats. There should be one law for all. Managers should realise that a playgoer's judgment and appreciation are affected by his surroundings, and one goes to the theatre for pleasure. Under present conditions, during the winter months many are prevented from going to the theatre, for, quite apart from the bodily discomfort, they cannot afford to risk their health by waiting; and, secondly, their means will not permit them to patronise the higher-priced seats."

Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, on the other hand, has reason for the conviction that playgoers are not desirous of a general booking of seats. "During the many years I have been in management," she said to an interviewer, "I have had hundreds of letters from theatre-goers—I am always glad to hear from them and to carefully consider any suggestions they may have to make—but I do not remember that I have received a single letter containing the suggestion that they should be allowed to book the pit seats. And you may take it from me that the pittites who patronise the Savoy know what they want, and if they had wanted to book their seats in the pit we should have heard of it long ago. And you may also take it from me that we value the support of our pit patrons to such an extent that we should very carefully consider any suggestion from them, and endeavour to meet their wishes, if it were possible."

Miss Mabel Love starts at the Coronet on Feb. 4, for a special tour of the suburban theatres, in *The Freedom of Suzanne*, under the above management. Miss Love has made a very great personal success in the title-rôle, one of the most trying and difficult parts of any piece now touring.

The benefit of Mr. Wm. Peacock, the managing-director of the Harrogate Grand Opera House, was a record as regards numbers, the theatre being packed in all parts. The Burnells and Miss Carrie Moore were prevented from appearing by regrettable illness. Mr. Fred Allandale started with "All the girls," for which he received a well-deserved encore; Miss Lilian Payne sang "Kathleen Mavourneen" excellently; Mrs. Wm. Peacock had a tremendous ovation when she appeared to recite "The Charge of the Light Brigade"; Mr. Albert le Fre's turn of dancing was a great success; and Miss Florence Smithson accompanied herself at the piano in two songs. Mr. Neil Kenyon proved himself to be inimitable, and his turn was productive of screams of laughter.

A violin solo was played by Miss Marie Peacock, who also sang delightfully, and Miss Violet Lloyd and Mr. E. Statham Staples were seen to great advantage in the "mad" duet from *The Dairymaids*. The sketch, *Becky Bounder*, went with a scream from start to finish. Miss Ada Blanche, as the irrepressible Becky, was excellent, and had good support from Miss Edith Blanche as Emily Tompkins, while the two men parts were played by Mr. J. T. Hollins and Mr. Douglas Blair. Miss Emily Breare was heard to advantage in "La Serenata"; the Harrogate Quintette, trained by Mr. Frank Staveley, proved very capable dancers; Mr. Witty Watty Walton did his polyglot song, which went well; Mr. C. L. Naylor, Mus. Bac., leader of the Harrogate Kursaal, conducted the overture, *Poet and Peasant*, and had a most hearty reception. In the interval Mr. Peacock spoke a few words of thanks, and had the reception of the evening. Mr. Harry Marshall's company of amateurs finished the bill with the third act of *The Second in Command*

A score or so of children obtained licences for theatrical performances at Marlborough-street on Monday. In one case Mr. Oscar Barrett asked for a permit for five girls to take part in *The Beauty of Bath*, transferred from the Aldwych to the new Hicks Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, on Thursday. In the second instance a solicitor applied, on behalf of Mr. Austin Fryers, manager of Hengler's Circus, for licences for nineteen children to perform in *Red Riding Hood*.

At the same Court on Thursday application was made, on behalf of Mr. Beerbohm Tree, for licenses to permit a boy and girl to take part in *Antony and Cleopatra*, produced at His Majesty's Theatre. Sub-divisional Inspector Smith offered no objection on behalf of the police, and the licenses were granted.

The very successful matinées at the Criterion Theatre last week in aid of the funds to be raised by a fête to be given next June in aid of the Belgrave Hospital for children, have been followed by a meeting of the organising committee which took place at Kensington Palace on the 18th inst. H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg presided, and it was decided to summon a meeting of the general committee early in the New Year.

Mr. Hugh Fleming, who for the past three weeks has been lying dangerously ill with pneumonia at a Buxton hydro, has, his numerous friends will be pleased to hear, sufficiently recovered to enter upon his duties this week in Manchester as advance director for Baron Harris's principal *Prince of Pilsen* company.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Cecil have returned from South Africa after a successful ten months' engagement with Mr. Leonard Rayne, having visited all the largest and most important towns. Miss Elgin made a great success out there as the vivandière, Cigarette, in *Under Two Flags*, a part she played in England for over a year with Mr. Mark Blow

Miss Lily Hall Caine, who has already acquitted herself so well in Drury-lane drama, will be the Greba of Mr. Hall Caine's play *The Bondman*, which is to be revived at the Adelphi Theatre on Saturday. The cast of *The Bondman* will otherwise be practically the same as at Drury-lane. Mr. Frank Cooper has been specially re-engaged for the part of Jason. The character of Michael Sunlocks will be played by Mr. Walter Hampden, and Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. Oscar Adye, and Mr. Austin Melford will play their original parts. Miss Marie Illington will again appear as Mrs. Fairbrother, with Miss Florence Wood, Miss Grace Edwin, Miss Rhoda Ray, and Miss Eily Malyon in the other ladies' parts.

Miss Stella Gastelle, after many thousand performances in *La Poupée* in London and the provinces, is taking a "busman's holiday" by appearing in pantomime. She appeared on Boxing Day at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, in *Robinson Crusoe*.

Royal Academy of Music competitions have resulted as follows:—The Potter Exhibition (pianoforte playing), Christian Carpenter (of London), the examiners being Messrs. Thomas B. Knott, Herbert Lake, and Septimus Webbe (chairman); the Hine Prize (for Composition), Olive M. Turner (of New Barnet), the examiners being Miss Ethel M. Boyce and Messrs. E. H. Thorne and F. Cunningham Woods; and the Broughton Packer Scholarships, violin, to Evan Williams (of Llanelly), and violoncello, to Harry Wm. Lodge (of Clapham), the examiners being Messrs. Josef Bláha, Herbert Walenn, and Hans Wessely (chairman).

Baron Harris's *Prince of Pilsen* company terminated its brilliantly successful autumn tour on Saturday week at Derby, amid a scene of enthusiasm rarely, if ever, witnessed in that Midland town. The house was filled at early doors, many being turned away, and during the performance bouquets and bonbons were literally showered upon Miss Sophie Harriss, the prima donna of the company, who was the recipient of an ovation at the fall of the curtain. The company embarks upon its next tour at Manchester, where it forms the attraction for the Christmas and the New Year holidays.

We record with regret the death of Mr. Olly Deering, an old and popular Australian actor, who passed away suddenly on Nov. 16 at the Commercial Hotel, Sydney. The veteran performer was well and cheerful at the Criterion Theatre the night before, chatting with Messrs. Meynell and Gunn, in whose *Fatal Wedding* company he was acting. The funeral took place at Waverley, the coffin-plate giving the age as sixty. The deceased's widow is professionally known as Miss Linda Raymond.

The competition originated by Miss Marjorie Slaughter, daughter of the well-known composer, for the best pianoforte performance of her intermezzo, "Betty," in connection with Mr. Seymour Hick's production of *Alice in Wonderland* will take place at the Prince of Wales's Theatre at noon on Tuesday, Jan. 8. A great number of musical students in London and the country have sent in their names, and Mr. Walter Slaughter will be glad to receive the names of other intending competitors at the earliest moment.

The report of the Organising Committee of Actors' Day will be presented at a meeting at the St. James's Theatre on Thursday, Jan. 10, at 3 p.m. The appointment of the Advisory Board will also be submitted for confirmation.

An awkward incident occured at the Royalty, Glasgow, on Monday. In consequence of the non-arrival of the dresses and "props." belonging to *The Catch of the Season* company, which was due to commence a month's run, the theatre had to remain closed, and the initial performance was given on Tuesday. A Glasgow daily paper humorously recorded the affair as "The *Hitch* of the Season." It is twenty-five years since a similar occurence took place in Glasgow, the last occasion being when *A New Magdalen* was snowed up on a journey from Aberdeen, necessitating the Royal Princess's being closed on a Monday evening.

Famous songs from the Savoy opera, rendered by their original singers, will be an interesting feature of the celebration dinner to be given by the O.P. Club at the Hotel Cecil to-morrow. Miss Isabel Jay will sing "The Moon and I"; "Brightly dawns our wedding day" will be rendered by Miss Agnes Fraser, Miss Jessie Rose, Mr. Scott Russell, and Mr. Richard Temple; Mr. Courtice Pounds will be heard in "A pair of sparkling eyes," and Miss Lilian Coomber, Mr. Henry Lytton, Mr. Robert Evett, Mr. C. H. Workman, and Mr. Walter Passmore will also repeat selections from their old sucesses. A specially illustrated menu is being prepared by Mr. Carl Hentschel as a memento of the occasion.

Mr. Arthur Rodney, who has been unwell for the last fortnight, is now, we learn, quite recovered, and anxious to resume business.—Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner, who recently created and made such a success in the title-rôle in Servais Le Roy's mystical play *Lady Kinton's Necklace*, has been engaged to play the heroine and do a specially-arranged *pas seul* in *Her Last Dance*, by Roland Oliver, at the Chelsea Palace during the week beginning Jan. 7.

A comedietta and recital will be given by the students of the London Dramatic Academy and School of Elocution at the Victoria Hall, Bayswater, on Tuesday evening, Jan. 29. In addition to a programme contributed by her students, Miss Nora Hastings, the principal of the Academy, will appear during the evening by general request.

Messrs. Shubert Bros., of New York, who hold a long lease of the Waldorf Theatre, have made arrangements by which London artists who wish to appear in the West End in new plays will be able to do so at the Waldorf in precisely the same way as they are now able to do in provincial houses. In other words, the Waldorf Theatre will play high class companies on the travelling sharing plan, giving them hospitality for a week, a fortnight, or for just as long or short a period as the attraction warrants. This new idea robs the West End production of all the attendant disadvantages of large financial arrangements for advance rent, dead rent, and other expenses, and should help materially towards the creation of new dramatic material. The arrangements under this new departure are exclusively in the hands of Mr. Edward Michael, of 15, Craven-street, Strand.

Mr. T. W. Rawson, we are glad to learn, has now recovered from the effects of the serious accident he met with at Morecambe in June last, and after his six months' sojourn in the Lancashire seaside resort has come up to town.

Mr. Lawrence Leyton, who has been playing Mr. Aubrey Smith's part in *The Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt*, concludes to-night a special engagement with Mr. Charles Steuart's *The Little Stranger* company.

On the afternoon of Christmas Day a treat was given at the Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, for the local children about one thousand free tickets being distributed. Mr. and Mrs. Snelson gave each child a present of oranges and sweets, and a much-appreciated performance was also provided by the various artists

Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's companies finished their winter tours last Saturday week, at Bristol, Dundee, and Bournemouth. Their spring tours will start earlier than usual, the first commencing at Eastbourne on Monday, when Mr. Hutchison will produce *Peter's Mother*, with Miss Ruth Mackay in the title-rôle, supported by an exceptionally strong company. Two other companies of this play will also be sent out later in the year.

"Carmen," an adaptation of the novel of the same name by Prosper Merimée, is to be produced on Monday at the Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmund's. The title-rôle will be played by Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, and Mr. Frank Cellier, jun., will be the Don Jose. Other parts will be entrusted to Messrs. Duncan Yarrow, Edward Landor, A. Cotton Holmes, A. Wilson-Wynne, Stanley Roberts, Percy H. Vernon, Basil Dean, Walter Carr, Edwin Beverley, Herbert Halford, Frank Spenser, Henry Craddock, and Master Sydney Skipp; Misses Nora Goulden, Nita Ashby, Kate Turner, May Saker, Irene Woodford, Marion Bird, and Mrs. Edward Saker. The new piece will be embellished by incidental music from Bizet's opera, arranged by Mr. R. B. Creak, of the Savoy Theatre.

Mr. Henry Taylor celebrated on Thursday the twenty-fifth year of his management of the Lyceum Theatre, Crewe. The special performance, which was under the patronage of the Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. Hoptroff), consisted of a sketch by members of Messrs. Phelps and Tilbury's *Blind Foundling* company, engaged at the theatre this week, another by members of the local Dramatic and Comedy Company, and a number of excellent professional and amateur turns by Cris (ventriloquist), Mr. F. W. West (baritone), Mr. Walter Huber (tenor), Miss Mabel Hall (descriptive vocalist), Miss Ray Watson (comedienne), Mr. Robert Earle (patter vocalist), Mr. H. Phelps (elocutionist), and the popular local humorist, Mr. Will Horabin; whilst the stage-management was successfully carried out by Mr. William Ellis. At the conclusion of the entertainment Mr. and Mrs. Taylor entertained the theatre staff and a few friends on the stage, the company numbering close on a hundred.

At the rehearsal of *Blue Beard* at the Empire Theatre, Southend-on Sea, on Monday night, Mrs. Danby, the wife of Mr. Gus Danby, one of the principal comedians, met with a serious accident. The unfortunate lady was entering the auditorium from the stage, when she fell down the corridor steps, and it was at once seen that she was badly injured. She was promptly removed to the Victoria Hospital, where it was ascertained Mrs. Danby had fractured her skull. She now lies in a very critical condition

"Anna of the Plains," adapted by H. A. Saintsbury from the novel by Alice and Claude Askew, was copyrighted on Saturday at the Court Theatre. The new play will be toured by Mr. Saintsbury early in the new year with a carefully-selected cast and special scenery and properties. The business arrangements are in the hands of Mr. Percy J. Purdey.

Mr. J. Fred Watson, the energetic manager and licensee of the Victoria Theatre, Broughton, had a capital house on the 21st, when he took his first benefit. Mr. Allan Wilkie and his company contributed the screen scene from *The School for Scandal* very creditably; Mr. Edwin Garth (a Broughtonian), in *Matrimonial Bliss*, kept the house in laughter; and Mr. Frank Crimp, of *The Prince of Pilsen* company, gave a smart mimetic act. A large number of artists from other theatres in Manchester and Salford also appeared, amongst whom were Ted Saunders, in imitations of music hall artists; Maud Beaumont, with her catchy songs; Tom Sullivan, eccentric comedian; Premier Yankee Quartette of lady dancers; Pryde and Payne, sketch artists; Frank Exley and Alice Hamilton, instrumentalists and vocalists; Ernie Williams, vocal comedian; Sisters Temple, duettists and dancers; Mannatti, with coon songs; Miss Clare Wolverson (Mrs. J. Fred Watson), a charming vocalist; Mr. Bert Gibbons, humorist; Gus Hindell, comedian; and Miss Renee Graham, male impersonator.

Miss Winifred Pearson, who has just concluded her third engagement with Mr. C. W. Somerset, has been engaged by Miss Annie Hughes for Mr. Robinson in her forthcoming tour of *Tommy*.

Mr. George Unwin has just returned from Paris and the Riviera, where he has been attending to the business arrangements for Mr. Edgar Vaughan Grey, who is giving a series of his afternoons of Recitation and Recitative. Mr. Grey's success is assured, for the entire house is sold out for his first recital at Nice in January. Mr. Unwin expects to return to the South of France shortly, in connection with an English scheme there, which is now under consideration.

Two new plays will be produced at a series of Tuesday and Friday matinées at the Court Theatre, beginning on Jan. 8. The first will be a "very light comedy," in three acts, by Cyril Harcourt, entitled *The Reformer*, the parts in which are allotted to Messrs. Allan Aynesworth, Sydney Brough, O. B. Clarence, John L. Mackay, Hubert Harben, Edmund Gwenn, and Allan Wade, and Miss Eva Moore and Miss June Van Buskird. The second novelty is *The Camden Wonder*, a play in three scenes, by John Masefield, with Miss Dolores Drummond, Mr. Edmund Gurney, Miss Carlotta Addison, Mr. Norman McKinnel, Mr. H. R. Hignett, and Mr. Norman Page in the cast.

During the indisposition of Miss Beatrice Homer this week, the part of the Ugliest Woman on Earth was played by Miss Nell Oliver at the Theatre Royal, Cardiff.

It is agreeable to note that Miss Millie Lingard was sufficiently recovered from her indisposition to be able to appear at the first performance of the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham.

"Schneewittchen und die Siebenzwerge" provided an acceptable Christmas piece at the Scala for the German community in London, who took full advantage of the opportunity afforded on Boxing Day of witnessing an excellent performance under the direction of Herr Hans Andresen. The tale of "Snowwhite and the Seven Dwarfs" is familiar through the medium of English story-books, and the adaptation prepared by A. Görner is skilfully done. The play was admirably enacted by the German company, Herr Andresen himself taking the part of the wicked Queen's Minister and playing with much humour.

"Mr. Bernard Shaw," says the *Daily Chronicle*, "is indulgent to the amateur actor. Certain enthusiasts in a South London suburb were recently contemplating a performance of *You Never Can Tell*, and applied to the author of the play for permission to give it. This was G. B. S.'s answer:—'Dear Sir,—Amateurs cannot perform my plays. Professionals cannot unless I am there to help them. By all means do it if you want to, and God help the audience!'"

Amongst the subscribers to Owen Hall, Ltd., which has gone to allotment, are Mr. S. B. Joel, Lord Weardale, Colonel Sir Theodore Brinckmann, C.B., Mr. George Edwardes, and Mr. Ascherberg. Another £1000 is needed in order that the company may be able to open the Waldorf Theatre at the end of March with *King Silly*, the book of which is by Mr. Hall, the lyrics by Mr. Adrian Ross, and the music by Marie Horne.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree, in mounting *Antony and Cleopatra* at His Majesty's, was in the happy position of having a "clean slate" as far as artistic splendour was concerned. Neither the revival of the play at Drury Lane in 1873, with Mr. James Anderson and Miss Wallis in the principal parts, nor Phelps's production at Sadler's Wells in 1850, could be compared in beauty and accuracy with the present prodigious achievement. Curiously enough, there has never hitherto been a revival of *Antony and Cleopatra* the acting of which could be termed satisfactory. When the Cleopatra was good, the Antony was bad; and sometimes both were inadequate. Macready admitted that he could not grasp the character of Antony, and his Cleopatra, Miss Phillips, was insignificant. Miss Glyn was, perhaps, the best of the Shakespearian Cleopatras; but Phelps failed from natural causes to "realise" Antony. Of the Cleopatras who have appeared in plays founded on the theme, the most unsympathetic was apparently Mrs. Siddons; and the most sinuous and passionate Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, who represented the Egyptian Queen in MM. Sardou and Moreau's *Cléopatre* at the Porte St. Martin in 1890.

"There are many reasons," says Mrs. T. P. O'Connor, in an article in the *Daily Mail*, "why English companies in English plays can no longer look to America for a rich harvest of dollars. America is rapidly finding herself; she has discovered her own value, her own individuality, and her own independence, even in the subject of plays. The fashionable and the cultivated set, who wish to be *au courant* with every movement abroad, no doubt still go to see English plays, and profess to admire and to understand them, but deep down in their heart of hearts they prefer an American atmosphere, which, in spite of the same language, is quite different from England; they are as widely asunder as the two poles.

"One of the most prominent managers in America, who has successfully fought the theatrical combines said to me, 'It isn't necessary for us to have one English play in this country. When you realise that if an American play is successful it takes five years to exploit it, with companies travelling from Maine to Florida, and from California to the East, you can fancy that an American success is worth working for.' There are plays in America that have had a twenty years' run. *The Old Homestead* has run in America for twenty-five years, and *Shore Acres* has had a success of similar duration."

Recalling the submarine scene in Mr. Cecil Raleigh's *White Heather* at Drury Lane, a writer in the *Daily Mirror* reminds us of some strange things which happened while it was in process of preparation. At one of the many rehearsals Mr. Arthur Collins asked the author to give his opinion of the submarine effects. He was to go in front, and to watch every detail closely, but not to say a word until the scene was over. Mr. Raleigh took his seat in the stalls, and was then surprised to see that, by some mistake in the lighting, the fish that were supposed to be frisking about in the depths of the green water appeared really to be flying in the air above it. But he said nothing. At last, when the curtain came down, Mr. Collins's voice was heard from the stage: "Well, what do you think of our scene?" And Mr. Raleigh answered, "The scene is splendid, but the fish are high."

At the same rehearsal another incident occurred. One of the sea scenes showed a little boat, with a man in it, who was supposed to be feeding the pipe that supplied the diver below with air. As the diver sank, the boat was slowly raised, so that you had the illusion that you were descending into the sea. In reality, the boat was drawn up high above the scene, out of sight of the audience. This mechanism was at length got into satisfactory order late one night. Mr. Collins accordingly dismissed the rehearsal, and everybody went home—everybody except the unfortunate actor who played the man in the boat. He sat in mid-air for many hours, quite alone, out of sight and out of hearing, under the impression that the rehearsal was still going on far below. At last one of the watchmen, going his rounds at about four in the morning, heard a plaintive voice praying from above, "Please, may I come down now?"

These trivialities of stage-management are often very amusing. In the old days at the Adelphi Theatre it was customary to pull the wooden bâton attached to the stage carpet down to the footlights by means of two lines of sash-cord, which ran through two box-eye holes in front of the stage, and, on being pulled from underneath, brought the carpet down to the extreme front. On one occasion, however, one of these lines had become broken, and a green-coated wing man was sent on in front of the act drop to put the remnant of the cord through the hole. Of course, the musical-director would not play any entr'acte selection while this was going on, and the orchestra remained idle; but one of the violinists found some mischief still for his idle hands to do, and no sooner did the greencoat man try to push the cord through the hole than this waggish violinist, from under the stage, just inside the door of entry, put his second finger in the bottom of the hole, and prevented the cord passing through it.

In vain did the unfortunate greencoat, kneeling and perspiring through anxiety and the heat of the footlights, try and try again to effect a passage for the cord. In vain did the stage-manager on one side of the act drop, and the master-carpenter on the other, exhaust their communitive vocabulary; all was in vain. As to the orchestra and the occupants of the circle and gallery, who could see the joke and its cause, they were in fits of laughter. Then came the usual chaff from the gallery-boy fiend: "Twist it agin, ole chap!" "Spit on the hend!" "Try it agin; keep yer 'eart up," &c. At last, driven to desperation by heat, anxiety, and chaff, the poor greencoat, thinking that the hole was stopped up with dust, drew a penknife from his pocket, opened a small sharp blade, and jabbed it quickly into the obstruction; the yell of anguish emanating from the unfortunate violinist was drowned by the satirical applause of the audience. The pizzicato passages of the poor musician were for many weeks conspicuous by their absence.

Some of those who witnessed at the rehearsal of *Antony and Cleopatra* at His Majesty's Theatre on Boxing afternoon the experiments with the lighting of the Sphinx may have remembered the following incident:—Dion Boucicault, nicknamed playfully by John Hollingshead "Dionysius the Tyrant," was wonderfully gifted—an author, actor, stage manager, and a man of vast commercial aptitude; but he was a stern martinet in business, and brooked no "back answers." When *The Colleen Bawn* was in process of production at the Adelphi, he left word overnight that the Cave Scene should be ready set for his inspection the next morning. Entering the theatre by the front, he saw a ray of light playing on the gauze waters; and ruining the effectiveness of the "set." "Put out that limelight!" he roared in stentorian tones to the gasman, who replied, "It's the——" "Put it out, I tell you!" "If you please, sir, it's the——" "Silence!" roared the angry manager. "Put it out, I tell you!" "I can't, sir. It's a sunbeam from the skylight!" "Oh, is it? Very well, then; let it alone."

"ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA."

On Thursday, Dec. 27, at His Majesty's Theatre, Revival of Shakespeare's Tragedy.

Mark Antony	MR. TREE
Octavius Cæsar	MR. BASIL GILL
Lepidus	MR. NORMAN FORBES
Sextus Pompeius	MR. JULIAN L'ESTRANGE
Domitius Enorbarbus	MR. LYN HARDING
Eros	MR. HUGH C. BUCKLER
Ventidius	MR. ROBERT ATKINS
Scarus	MR. A. B. IMESON
Demetrius	MR. HARRY C. HEWITT
Mecænas	MR. EDWARD OUSTON
Agrippa	MR. ALFRED GODDARD
Proculeius	MR. A. CORNEY GRAIN
Thyreus	MR. S. YATES SOUTHGATE
Menas	MR. HERBERT GRIMWOOD
Menecrates	MR. CLIVE CURRIE
Varrius	MR. C. H. SWORDER
Euphronius	MR. JAMES SMYTHE
Alexas	MR. J. COOKE BERESFORD
Mardian	MR. HENRY WILLIAMS
Soothsayer	MR. J. FISHER WHITE
Clown	MR. BRUNO HOLMES
Messenger	MR. CHARLES QUARTERMAINE
Messenger	MR. E. EGERTON HINE
Cleopatra	MISS CONSTANCE COLLIER
Octavia	MISS MAUD CRESSALL
Iras	MISS HILDA MOORE
Charmian	MISS ALICE CRAWFORD

One of the most wonderful things about Shakespeare is the way in which he, with the instinctive insight of genius, seizes the pith and essence of an historical period. He often goes quite behind his "authorities" by virtue of the divine right of imagination, and grasps the essentials which they were too close to the events they recorded to perceive. *Antony and Cleopatra* is practically a continuation of *Julius Cæsar*. The "conquering hero" is Octavius. Shakespeare shows us the precocious pupil of the late Julius already opposing Mark Antony at Philippi, and what is more, getting his own way; and he hits off Octavius's cold-blooded reserve as opposed to Antony's generous appreciation in the remarks of the two men over Brutus's body. From the moment that the adopted son of Julius Cæsar comes back from Apollonia Antony's fate is sealed. He will have to go the way of Pompey and Lepidus in order to make room for the coming Augustus. Octavius's virtuous indignation at Antony's "wassails," and his ingenious idea of an alliance, the results of which will serve him, eventually, as an excuse for "suppressing" Antony, are so thoroughly well done that they have deceived commentators as they did courtiers. Later criticism has been more intelligent.

But the "love-interest" is the predominant interest in *Antony and Cleopatra;* and the historic purport of the play sinks into secondariness compared with the immortal amours of Antony and the Egyptian queen. Here Shakespeare had only a few phrases of Plutarch and his general knowledge of a certain kind of womanhood to "go on," and marvellously did he utilise his experience of the type. His Cleopatra is unique.

In a play of this kind accessories are invaluable in creating an atmosphere. The sense of proud pomp and exuberant luxury is admirably supplied by the superb production which Mr. Beerbohm Tree gives us at His Majesty's. And it is not only elaborate. It is accurate, judicious, and artistic. It is impossible to describe in detail this prodigious exploit of scenery and stage-management. What will appeal to everyone is the poetry of many of Mr. Tree's embellishments. The idea of the Sphinx grimly watching the careers of Antony and Cleopatra as she has watched the up-risings and down-fallings of countless generations is awe-inspiring. Another poetical touch may be noted. At the conclusion of the banquet which celebrates the delusive amity of the world-sharers, after the guests have gone over the side into the boat, a servant passes round and extinguishes the lamps. There is a muttered growl of thunder in the distance; then all is dark, and the curtains fall. Such details as these come within the compass of possible description. But can one give the expectant reader any idea of the classic splendour that pervades the piece? We pass from Cleopatra's palace, with its winged attendants, its decorations of strange and quaint formality, and its exuberance of colour and cloth of gold, to the severer beauties of a Roman mansion, with its stately marble columns and its solemn corridors. Here the gold is on the men's armour, on the suits of ceremony which they wear at their momentous meetings. As for Mr. T. E. Ryan's tableau, "The Return of Antony to Alexandria," in the third act, it simply "beggars description," and Mr. Joseph Harker deserves the warmest praise for the way in which he has painted most of the scenery. It is an achievement of which Mr. Harker may well be proud. Mr. Percy Macquoid's designs for the scenery and properties have been done with care and knowledge; Mr. Raymond Roze's fine compositions are a valuable adjunct to the effect of the whole; and Mr. Carlo Coppi's arrangement of the dance in the second act is very effective. Messrs. B. J. Simmons, of Covent Garden, have supplied the dresses with marvellous taste, skill, and completeness of workmanship. The union of all these forces has resulted in a superlatively splendid and successful production—a triumph of art, knowledge, and invention.

The part of Mark Antony is a difficult one. Garrick, Macready, and Phelps all failed in it. Garrick's chief trouble was that he was unable to "look the character." This is certainly not an obstacle to Mr. Beerbohm Tree. With his tall and commanding figure he carries the gorgeous armour and sumptuous apparel of Antony with dignified ease, and his whole bearing is large, noble, and magnanimous. His love passages with Cleopatra are full of fervour; and he uses excellent discretion in his scenes with Octavius and the other "notables." Antony's more dramatic opportunities come as the tragedy thickens and as the clouds of ill-fortune close in around the lovers. Here Mr. Tree acted with all his accustomed power and earnestness, and with touches of the most tender pathos. The poignant bitterness of Antony's self-reproach could hardly have been better expressed. Miss Constance Collier's Cleopatra was overpowering in the plenitude of its majesty, in the *abandon* and energy of its passion, and in the seductive eloquence of its sensuous languor. Every phase of feeling and fancy in the part was treated with marvellous completeness of accomplishment; and in the later acts Miss Collier rose to a very high pitch of grandeur and intensity. From a pictorial point of view Miss Collier was most happily chosen. In her splendid attire, and with her fine physique and features, she looked every inch an Egyptian queen. Mr. Tree was indeed fortunate in securing her as his Cleopatra. Mr. Basil Gill played Octavius Cæsar with much spirit, but rather represented him as a sincere, hot-blooded young warrior than as the precociously crafty politician who was adopted and "formed" by the great Julius. In the scene on board the galley Mr. Gill suggested tipsiness rather than the reserve and mere toleration of the revels which are indicated by history and Shakespeare's text. Mr. Gill, however, carried out his conception of the character with admirable ability, and looked the future Augustus to the life. Mr. Norman Forbes infused a novel touch of quaintness into his reading of the rôle of Lepidus, and supplied the "comic relief" in the gallery scene quite cleverly, his business with the ballet girls "at back," while Menas was making his proposals of assassination to Pompey, being very funny indeed. Mr. Julian L'Estrange was entirely satisfying as Sextus Pompeius, hitting off excellently the quick, impulsive nature of the man. As Enobarbus Mr. Lyn Harding scored very highly by the humour and emphasis of his treatment of the rôle generally, and by the unblemished excellence of his delivery of the great Cydnus speech, which Mr. Harding spoke with fine phrasing and acceptable ease and freedom. Mr. Harding's was really a memorable interpretation. A sweet and simple Octavia was Miss Maud Cressall, who did full justice to the retiring modesty of the sister of Octavius; and Miss Alice Crawford made a handsome, buoyantly effusive, and comely Charmian, the bright contrast of her gaiety in the earlier acts being as commendable as the brief expressiveness of her death scene later on. Miss Hilda Moore was an agreeable exponent of Iras; and Eros was well represented by Mr. Hugh C. Buckler, Mr. J. Fisher White, well made up, being a most grim and impressive Soothsayer. Mr. Charles Quartermaine depicted terror very graphically as the Messenger to Cleopatra; and Mr. E. Egerton Hine spoke his lines well as the Messenger from Sicyon. Mr. Herbert Grimwood gave a firm and concrete embodiment of Menas; and Mr. J. Cooke Beresford was an entirely efficient Alexas. Mr. Bruno Holmes hit off the Clown happily; and Mr. Robert Atkins did extremely well as Ventidius, Scarus and Demetrius having competent representatives in Mr. A. B. Imeson and Mr. Harry C. Hewitt. Mr. Edward Ouston was good as Mecænas, and Mr. Alfred Goddard played Agrippa creditably, Mr. A. Corney Grain and Mr. S. Yates Southgate deserving praise as Proculeius and Thyreus, and Mr. Clive Currie and Mr. C. H. Sworder supplying able impersonations of Menecrates and Varrius. Mr. James Smythe was excellent as Euphronius; and the little part of Mardian was safe in the hands of Mr. Henry Williams. It is impossible to do full justice to Mr. Tree's revival within the limits of our notice. We can only say, in general terms, that it is grandly beautiful, nobly magnificent, and superbly and astonishingly sumptuous. It is a production that must be seen.

VAUDEVILLE HARLEQUINADE.

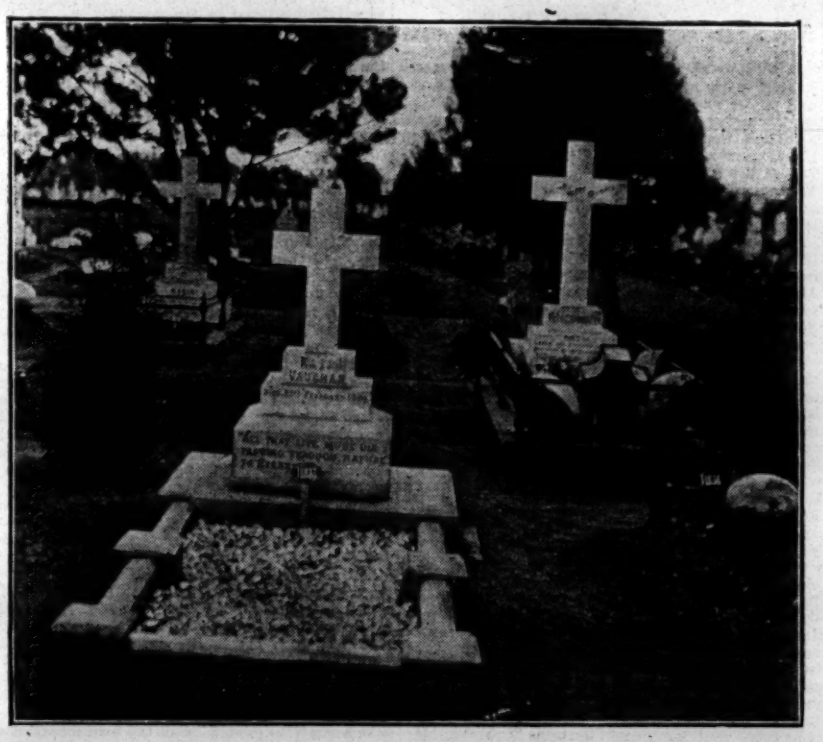
It is a very pleasing addition that the Vaudeville management have made to *The Belle of Mayfair* in their harlequinade, and not less pleasing is the manner in which it is introduced. In the second act Miss Billie Burke, who as Julie Caldicott gives us such a delightful heroine, tells us that she feels, oh! so tired. She sits down in a chair and falls asleep, but before doing so expresses a romantic desire to see a harlequinade in which her sweetheart, the Hon. Raymond Finchley, shall be the Harlequin and she the Columbine. A Fairy Princess comes to her aid, and after waving her magic wand over the unconscious Julie the latter is seen to suddenly spring up, her cloak falls from her, and she is attired in the gauzy, diaphanous raiment of a dancing girl. Then the voices of the other characters in the play are heard as if in continuance of the story of *The Belle of Mayfair*, but immediately they appear before us they lose their former characteristics, and the hero becomes a Harlequin in all his gaudy glory, and the stern parents of Julie and Raymond become Clown and Pantaloon respectively. They indulge in all manner of antics outside and even inside the time-honoured butcher's—or, perhaps, we should say poulterer's—shop, and ludicrous scenes are enacted. Mr. Charles Angelo, who plays the part of the Comte de Perrier in *The Belle of Mayfair*, is extremely entertaining as the Swell, who inquires in a haughty tone of voice how he can gain admission to the Zoo, and is recommended to go as an hippopotamus. Then in Mr. Courtice Pounds there is a wily and amusing Policeman, who, unobserved by Clown and Pantaloon, is an interested spectator of the wrangling between those two worthies over the sharing out of the sausages, turkeys, and chickens they have stolen. An aspect of modernity is afforded by the entrance of four suffragettes, waving banners which contain written demands for women's rights. They will fight to the end to secure what they think they ought to get; they will go at once to the House of Lords; they will——; but with magical rapidity a blind is drawn from a shop window, a variety of beautiful hats are exhibited, and the militant quartette fairly fight for the opportunity of a first choice of the confections. In a few seconds the hats disappear, and one sees seated on a chair before the shop window a beautiful Pompadour, who is lured to the outside by a Cupid, and there performs a stately, slow, dignified dance. The Pompadour is no other than the engaging Miss Camille Clifford, and nothing could be more graceful than her movements. Mr. Arthur Williams as the Clown, Mr. Farren Soutar as the Harlequin, and Mr. Sam Walsh as the Pantaloon are, indeed, a frolicsome trio, and their doings create endless merriment among not only the youthful but the older members of the audience; and there could be no more charming Columbine than Miss Billie Burke. There is a wonderfully quick change at the conclusion of this harlequinade, for in a very few moments after the black cloth has been lowered upon it, it is raised, and there before us, reclining in the chair in which we previously saw her, is the sweet Julie of *The Belle of Mayfair*. Julie wakes up, and comes to the conclusion that she must have been dreaming—that she could not have been a Columbine nor her lover a Harlequin. Then all the other characters troop in, the parents withdraw their objections to the marriage of Julie with the Honourable Raymond, and Cupid wins his way, as he should do in any self-respecting musical comedy. Miss Ruby Ray, by the way, makes a very attractive figure as Mlle. Amorette. The management of the Vaudeville are to be commended upon a most capitally-arranged harlequinade.

THE HICKS THEATRE.

One of the most noticeable features in the interior arrangements of the new Hicks Theatre, which was opened on Thursday night, is the ample space which is allowed between the rows of seats. Especially is this evident in the stalls and dress circle, where the moving from one seat to another does not involve any measure of discomfort to those already in their places. There is nothing displeasing to the eye in the decorations, which have been carried out in a warm ivory-white tone with plain gold enrichments. The upholstery, carpets, curtains, and wallpaper are of a pretty rose du Barri colour, which gives an aspect of warmth to the whole. The theatre throughout is constructed of fire-resisting material, the auditorium, saloons, and staircases being entirely of concrete and steel, and the stage throughout of teak or other hard wood, and the building generally embodies all the latest improvements. The auditorium, which has accommodation for about 1,200 persons, with standing space for a further 260, is constructed on the two-tiered principle, having some 180 stalls at the lowest level, with a good pit at the rear. A fine roomy dress-circle, having eight rows and seating 300 persons, occupies the first tier, and on the second tier is the family circle, slightly raised, above which is a spacious gallery. The auditorium is 50ft. wide by 70ft. deep, and the interior of the house has been designed by Mr. W. G. R. Sprague on a circular plan, the walls forming the segment of a circle. The dome and covings of the main circle present a very fine effect, and there is nothing garish in the scheme of embellishment. Nor could the visual sense be in any way offended by the electric lights, which are artistically toned down without prejudice to their illuminating power.

An atmosphere of pleasurable anticipation made itself felt on this, the opening night. It could scarcely have been connected with the play, which was *The Beauty of Bath*, transferred from the Aldwych Theatre. It was not the first night of a new piece, but it was the first night of a new theatre, and when Mr. Karl Kiefert's excellent orchestra struck up the National Anthem, it was with the utmost enthusiasm that the audience rose to honour the occasion. Then followed a number of popular airs, all admirably played, and ending with "For Auld Lang Syne." Immediately on the appearance of Miss Ellaline Terriss in her part of the Beauty of Bath, as well as, later, of Mr. Seymour Hicks as the sailor lover, the whole house manifested its good wishes by uniting in thunderous and continued applause, which lasted for some seconds, and slightly interrupted the progress of the play. At the conclusion the boisterous cheering indicated that nothing would satisfy the spectators but a speech, late as the hour was. So Miss Terriss appeared once more before the footlights, and in her winsome manner expressed her delight at the reception. "Mr. Frohman begs to thank you for your great kindness to-night," she said, "and he hopes you have been comfortable in our new theatre. I hope so, too. For ourselves, all I can say is that we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, and that I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year." Then the National Anthem was again played to indicate closing-time, but the audience would not accept the hint, and resumed the hearty clapping of hands, which meant that they required a speech from Mr. Seymour Hicks. Mr. Hicks obeyed the mandate, and briefly expressed his hearty thanks.

Considering the difficulties associated with the opening of a new theatre, the performance of *The Beauty of Bath* went with commendable smoothness. Miss Ellaline Terriss, of course, brought her accustomed charms of individuality and acting to the rôle of Betty, and her singing of "How do you known when a little girl's in love?" was characterised by that vivacity of tone and expression and accompanying movement that have helped to make her so popular among playgoers. Buoyant and breezy, Mr. Hicks gave us a rare specimen of a spirited naval lieutenant, full of life and jollity. Miss Rosina Filippi was altogether a delightful personage as Mrs. Alington, and Miss Sydney Fairbrother was seen and admired in her capital sketch of an ex-Bloomsbury lodging-house keeper. Mr. Murray King as the gay Sir Timothy Bun, Mr. William Lugg as the aristocratic Viscount Bellingham, Mr. Stanley Brett as the entertaining actor, Mr. Beverley, Mr. Laurence Caird as the inane Lord Quorn, Miss Maudi Darrell as the engaging actress, Miss St. Cyr, and Miss Florence Lloyd as Lady Bun, not to mention the other members of the company, ably supported Miss Terriss and Mr. Hicks.



A CORRESPONDENT HAS SENT US A PHOTO, WHICH WE REPRODUCE ABOVE, OF THE LATE MISS KATE VAUGHAN'S GRAVE. MISS VAUGHAN DIED ON FEB. 21, 1903, AND WAS INTERRED IN THE CEMETERY NEAR JOHANNESBURG.

DRURY LANE.

On Boxing Day, Wednesday, Dec. 26, the Pantomime, by J. Hickory Wood and Arthur Collins; Music Composed and Arranged by J. M. Glover, entitled

"SINDBAD."

Sindbad	MR. WALTER PASSMORE
Mrs. Sindbad	MR. ARTHUR CONQUEST
Envoy to the Empress	MR. HARRY FRAGSON
Empress of all the Saharas	MR. FRED EMNEY
Old Man of the Sea	MR. EDWARD MORGAN
Bill and Tom	DREW AND ALDERS
Hindbad	MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON
Ruby	MISS MARIE GEORGE
Abdallah	MISS FLORENCE WARDE
Zoe	MISS ETHEL OLIVER
Fairy Roma	MISS ROSAMUND BURY
Carmenita	MLLE. RODRIGUEZ
Davy Jones	MR. ALEC DAVIDSON
Egyptian Policeman	MR. CHARLES ROSS

The Drury Lane pantomime is an English institution. A Christmas without one would be like a Christmas without roast beef, plum pudding, and mince pies. This comparison was made by a writer a quarter of a century ago. It is just as true to-day. Old customs die out, fashions are constantly changing, and the public taste in matters theatrical is as variable as a weathercock; but the Drury Lane annual remains with us. Its popularity, fostered by the enterprise and lavish expenditure of the management, is steadily maintained year after year, amongst old and young alike. The production this year has cost, it is said, no less a sum than £20,000, and *Sindbad* will surely be ranked as one of the most beautiful spectacles that has ever graced the boards of "old Drury." It is safe to prophesy that every performance will be crowded for weeks to come. Mr. Arthur Collins and his band of assistants have again scored a triumph, and have nobly fulfilled public expectation. The scenes that will be most talked about are a Persian Garden, the Valley of Diamonds, from the brush of Mr. Henry Emden, Palace of the Empress, by Mr. R. McCleery, and the Durbar, by Mr. Harry Brooke. All these scenes—and there are others—bear testimony to the skill of the scenic artists, while the dresses are equally significant of the admirable taste displayed by those who had their selection. Particularly striking is the Durbar, with its stately procession of elephants and their attendants. It is, indeed, a rare feast for the eye, and no mere description in print can do it justice. Remarkably realistic and cleverly worked is the shipwreck scene; and after this the chief characters seek refuge on a whale's back. Here much amusing business is introduced.

In one of the Egyptian scenes a motor 'bus is introduced, and the attempts of passengers to run after and get aboard this remarkable vehicle are the cause of great merriment, the effect of rapid motion being given by a moving platform, on which would-be "fares" are compelled to keep running. Other notable features are a snake dance and a monster centipede dragon, and a grand scenic ballet in which 150 performers take part. In the jungle scene appear some remarkably realistic elephants and lions, and Sindbad and a companion take refuge from the latter in a huge portmanteau—just the sort of thing to delight the children.

In the book, from the pen of Mr. J. Hickory Wood, there are plenty of topical allusions, the Education Bill, the House of Lords, and, of course, the Suffragettes, receiving the most attention. For instance, Mrs. Sindbad, addressing a crowd of Persian women, remarks, "How down-trodden you are in the East! In England it is the privilege of every woman to wrestle with policemen and break Cabinet Ministers' windows.

To Mr. J. M. Grover, the composer and arranger of the music, much credit should be given, and his energetic and inspiriting leadership of the fine orchestra should also be mentioned.

Most of the leading members of the company have already become renowned in pantomime at this house, and their re-engagement has met with general approval. Miss Queenie Leighton, who plays Hindbad, is quite an ideal principal boy, looking extremely well in all the costumes she wears, and meeting with success both as actress and vocalist, opening with "What is a fellow to do?" she makes a big hit with "Hello!" and later with "I want to be a popular millionaire." Miss Leighton's fine presence and easy, unforced style are of the greatest value. Miss Marie George is a winsome Ruby, and sings and dances with equal certainty of pleasing the audience. Her numbers include "Look out, Mr. Man," "That's a cinch," and "Sambo," a song and dance" in which she has the co-operation of children appearing as blacks. Miss Rosamund Bury is a stately and graceful Fairy, and her ballad singing is greatly appreciated. Miss Florence Warde is a handsome Abdallah, and Miss Ethel Oliver is a dainty representative of Zoe; Mlle. Rodriquez as Carmenita also deserves mention.

It was only to be expected that such an admirable comedian as Mr. Walter Passmore would give point and humorous distinction to the part of Sindbad, and we were not disappointed. There is more than a suggestion that the sailor's frequent voyages to all parts of the world are not altogether unconnected with the fact that Mrs. Sindbad is a lady who is accustomed to have her own way, and her judicious husband adopts towards her a policy of conciliation and self-sacrifice. Mr. Passmore plays the part on these broadly comic lines; but whether at home or abroad, this Sindbad is always a promiment figure in the fun-making. In one of the early scenes he sings a rollicking song of the sea, "Be a sailor," and a topical effusion, "The never, never land." Later he gives a very successful ditty, "The kangaroo," in which he has the assistance of a number of children, who, made up to represent kangaroos, go through a series of comic evolutions, finally making a most effective exit. In the much-regretted absence through illness of Mr. Harry Randall, Mr. Arthur Conquest played the important part of Mrs. Sindbad, and played it well. She is a severe-looking dame is the sailor's wife, and she stands no nonsense from anybody—least of all from Sindbad, in whose adventures in search of the Diamond Valley she shares. One of the funniest things in the pantomime is the quarrel which Mrs. Sindbad has with the Empress of the Saharas when the two ladies sit down to have a "friendly" cup of tea. Sindbad comes between the quarrelsome couple with the most disastrous results to himself, and the whole scene causes screams of merriment. Mr. Conquest has a capital song in "Down the Fulham-road," which met with immediate favour; and the usual topical duet is sung with Mr. Fred Emney in the scene already mentioned. Mr. Harry Fragson as the Envoy to the Empress again takes a full share in the fun and frolic of the Christmas piece. He makes his appearance on a real camel, and on its back he sings his first song, which, adapted to Offenbach's "Barbe Blue," is partly in English and partly in French. Mr. Fragson also gives a number of songs while seated at the piano, the most notable of these being "The Envoy of Sahara," with a capital chorus. Mr. Fred Emney is a delightfully humorous Empress of all the Saharas, the character being cleverly contrasted with that of the other dame. The imitation girlish manner and coquettish air are admirably assumed, while Mr. Emney's clear enunciation allows every word to be heard in the most distant parts of the huge theatre. Messrs. Drew and Alders as the eccentric English sailors, Bill and Tom, are always quaint and original. They play their parts in a broadly burlesque style, and introduce much novel business that cannot fail to evoke loud laughter, particularly amongst the younger members of the audience. "Smile, Bill," is a catch phrase that is certain to become popular. No better representative of the Old Man of the Sea could be desired than Mr. Edward Morgan. He is impressive and appropriately dramatic. Good work is done by Mr. Alec Davidson as Davy Jones, and Mr. Charles Ross as an Egyptian policeman.

The pantomime winds up with a harlequinade, with Mr. Leo Lester as clown, introducing a troupe of performing animals; Mr. Ernest Lester as pantaloon; Mr. Tom Cusden as harlequin; Miss M. Pannell as Columbine; while Messrs. W. Green and Chris Le Brun are the policemen. Mr. Ernest D'Auban is the stage-manager.

"RED RIDING HOOD" AT TERRY'S.

Pantomime, by Newman Maurice, produced on Boxing Day.

Robin Hood	MISS LILY HAROLD
Red Riding Hood	MISS GLADYS ARCHBUTT
Granny	MR. PHIL SMITH
Jack	MISS AMY ELCOCK
Jill	MISS FLORRIE ST. ROY
Fairy Bluebell	MISS NANCY FREYNE
The Wicked Wolf	MR. GUY WILLIAMS
Baron Badlot	MR. GUS OXLEY
Pen	MR. FRANK COLLINS
Ink	MR. FRANK STANMORE
Herald	MISS LUCY BOSWELL
Margery Daw	MISS IRENE VAUGHAN
Miss Muffet	MISS CASSIE KING
Dolly Dimple	MISS DOROTHY SHAND
Lawyer Fox	MR. FRED STOREY

Two pantomimes are this year to be found in the immediate neighbourhood of the Strand, Mr. Samuel James, the well-known producer, of the Grand and other theatres, having secured Terry's for the production of a Christmas piece. Mr. Newman Maurice, the popular comedian and manager, is the author, and has served up a festive dish in which mirth and melody are pleasantly mingled, the result being a bright and merry production which met with general appreciation on Boxing Day. Discarding the familiar demon, the author has provided the evil genius in the person of Lawyer Fox, in whose office the pantomime opens. Red Riding Hood is introduced by means of a gigantic album, through whose illuminated pages she steps. In addition to Lawyer Fox, there are his two clerks, Pen and Ink, and the forces of evil are also strengthened by Baron Badlot, who plays the villain against his will. A deep plot is laid against Red Riding Hood in the village of Rusticana, where the heroine meets Robin Hood, and the pair fall in love, although Granny, the heroine's elderly relative, thought that she was the object of Robin's affections. The humorous characters join in mirthful fooling, until the Elfin Dell in Summer is revealed, giving place in turn, by a mechanical change, to the Dell in Winter.

The sixth scene is Granny's bedroom, where the traditional episode of the Wolf eating the old lady and taking possession of her bed to the subsequent dismay of Red Riding Hood, is enacted. The old lady, however, is more 'cute than her predecessor in the rôle, and manages to escape by taking refuge under the bed. On the arrival of Red Riding Hood the Wolf chases her round the room, but the plucky little lady, taking advantage of several articles of trick furniture, manages to elude him. Repentance eventually sets in in the case of all the bad characters, who, in a gorgeous Palace scene in which garlands of flowers figure charmingly, assist in the celebrations due to Robin's restoration to his ancestral possessions, among the gay revels being a minuet, gracefully danced by the ladies of the ballet.

The interpretation of the pantomime is in the hands of a highly competent cast, including some well-known names. Mr. Fred Storey, whose study of Rip Van Winkle will be favourably recalled, appeared as Lawyer Fox, and received a hearty greeting on his first entry. His make-up as the old lawyer was an artistic study, and he displayed wonderful agility in his leg-mania dance and his eccentric capers. A cordial welcome was also extended to Miss Lily Harold, who played Red Hood with her customary dash and finish. Her melodious voice sounded agreeably in "Rosie waiting," which boasts a tuneful refrain, and in the popular "Snowflakes" she had the assistance of a chorus robed in white satin, who lent an effective accompaniment, while a gentleman who took up a position in the orchestra repeated the refrain in a melodious falsetto. "A different girl again" was also vivaciously rendered by Miss Harold, who looked superb in her tasteful costumes. A pretty and refined Red Riding Hood was found in Miss Gladys Archbutt, who acted, danced and sang with gaiety and animation. Her rendering of Mr. Nation's song, "The flower girl," in which effective use is made of a bevy of comely ladies, was greatly enjoyed, and "The Zuyder Zee" also served to give further opportunity to Miss Archbutt's vocal talent. Mr. Phil Smith made a thoroughly amusing personage of the Granny, leaving undone nothing that might cause laughter. His make-up, eccentric all through, was particularly funny in the last scene, when he dressed up in a youthful fashion, with a short frock, which looked truly ludicrous. His songs were drolly rendered, though there was not a little harmony in the duet "An amorous breeze," imitated from the French by Mr. W. H. C. Nation, several of whose songs are included in the pantomime. Mr. Frank Collins and Mr. Frank Stanmore shared equally in the credit due to Pen and Ink, Lawyer Fox's servants, their various disguises causing endless merriment. They were responsible for many diversions, but the most effective was the travesty of a thought-reading séance, in which one comedian made a ludicrous appearance as a lady of uncertain age, who gives absurd answers, while a small boy stands by and derides their efforts. Such nursery favourites as Jack and Jill are numbered among the cast, and as impersonated respectively by Miss Amy Elcock and Miss Florrie St. Roy, added greatly to the enjoyment. Besides sharing in the success of a duet. "When love comes knocking at the door," Miss Elcock has a neat coon song and dance, and Miss St. Roy sings of the "Continong," with a speciality dance in illustration. Miss Nancy Freyne made a handsome Fairy Bluebell. She gave full value to the tunefulness of "My little Hyacinth," and also rendered "The tick-tack of the mill"—another of Mr. Nation's songs, composed by Wm. Corri—charmingly. Her adversary, the Wolf, was played in an awesome manner by Mr. Guy Williams, who sang the ballad "Blow, blow, thou winter wind," in meritorious fashion. Several other songs by Mr. Nation are introduced into the piece, "Harvest home," imitated from a French pastoral, and sung by Mr. Gilbert Martinengo and chorus, being the opening glee. "Love in winter," composed by H. G. B. Hunt, is sung by Miss Lucy Boswell, who made a smart Herald, her cultivated voice giving every expression to a pretty ballad, the accompaniment to which is very effective.

The scenery is by Mr. Geo. Sweddell and Mr. E. G. Banks, and the incidental music arranged by Leonard Leslie. The pantomime, which is produced by Mr. Gilbert Laye, under the direction of Mr. James and the author, is followed by a harlequinade energetically sustained by the Breton Troupe.

"THE COAL KING," under the management of Messrs. G. M. Polini and Lauderdale Maitland, commences its third provincial tour on Monday next, at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby. The drama has proved a phenomenal success, and the return visits of the play confirm in every sense the general demand for plays of this description.

CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS.

(*Continued from Page 13.*)

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT THE DALSTON.

Pantomime, by H. E. Bowes, Produced on Dec 24.

Robinson Crusoe ..... Miss Marion May
Polly Hopkins ..... Miss Nellie Moore
Mrs. Sarah Crusoe ..... Mr. Fred Lloyd
Captain Billie Taylor .... Miss Cissie Conyers
Fairy Queen ..... Miss Beatie Moore
Will Atkins ..... Mr. Geo. Rapley
Billy Crusoe and Jimmy Crusoe Sandy and Carl
Richard Hopkins .... Mr. Will Hicks
Dick Deadeye .....Mr. George Jones
Tom Towrope ..... Mr. A. Selwood
King Hyapakoola .....Mr. Tom Shenton
Princess Flumeza-..... Miss Bertha St. Ruth
Inky Flim Flam ..... } The Silvos
Wanky Foo Foo .....
Friday ..... Mr. Sydney T. Russell
The Dog ..... Mr. Chas. Denman
The Monkey ..... Mr. Jack May

The story of the pantomime at the Dalston Theatre this year is the well-known one of *Robinson Crusoe*. It is written by Mr. H. E. Bowes, and the music has been composed and arranged by Mr. H. Wellings and Mr. C. D. Fox, Mr. Alfred Whyatt being responsible for the scenery. The pantomime, which was produced on Christmas Eve, is played with considerable zest by members of Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's company; and Mr. Fred J. Little, who arranged and produced it, has every reason to feel confident of success.

The scenic effects are calculated to please everyone, and the dresses by Misses Hetty Bass and M. Bramley are tasteful and elegant.

The title-rôle is undertaken by Miss Marion May, who sings excellently. With Miss Nellie Moore, the Polly Hopkins, who captures all hearts, Miss May sings a very pretty duet. Miss Nellie Moore, it should be added, greatly pleases the audience with some lively dances, and praise is likewise due to Crusoe for a Dutch dance which fairly brings down the house. The duet entitled "It is the scarecrow" is most effectively rendered by Miss Nellie Moore and Mr. Sydney T. Russell, the latter appearing as Friday. One of the funniest personages in the pantomime is Will Atkins, who, in endeavouring to strike terror to the hearts of almost every other character in the story, produces the greatest hilarity. Mr. George Rapley's assumption of this part is certainly most humorous. He sings several songs, the most successful being "Oh, what a happy land is England!" Mr. Fred Lloyd gives a vigorous representation of Mrs. Sarah Crusoe. Messrs. Sandy and Carl, who appear as Billy and Jimmy Crusoe, introduce a really funny boxing act which keeps the house in a roar. The Silvos, who are attendants on King Hyapakoola, also cause some fun; while Mr. Tom Shenton is a success as the King. Miss Cissie Conyers presents a smart appearance as Captain Billie Taylor, Miss Bertha St. Ruth makes a vivacious Princess Flumeza, and Miss Beatie Moore is Fairy Queen. Others among those who help to maintain the fun are Mr. Will Hicks, who represents Richard Hopkins; Mr. George Jones and Mr. A. Selwood, who represent first and second mates of the Saucy Sally; and Mr. Charles Denman and Mr. Jack May, who appear respectively as dog and monkey, and prove most agile.

Among the specialities introduced must be mentioned the dances by the Sidney Quartette, some daring performances by the Zaracs, and the Marvellous Ladderites, who keep everyone on the tip-toe of expectation, at the same time contriving to maintain their own balance. Mr. Tom Shenton is stage director, and Mr. W. R. Parker musical director.

"MOTHER GOOSE" AT THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

Pantomime, by Brian Daly and John M. East, produced on Boxing Day.

Widow McGooseley.....Mr. Tom McNaughton
Jack .....Mr. Fred McNaughton
Jill .....Miss Alice Lloyd
King Geezer .....Mr. J. M. Campbell
Prince Lotharío .....Miss Violet Loraine
Phyllis .....Miss Edie King
Rustic Robin .....Miss Dora Poole
The Maid .....Miss Lena Verdi
The Golden Goose .....Mr. Leon Dubois
The Family Cow..Wm. Phillips and Chris Zietz
Nimrod .....Mr. H. A. Watman
A Waif .....Miss Irene Ross
A Page .....Miss Ida Thorpe
Bailiff .....Mr. J. F. Mells
Major-Domo .....Mr. J. Rutland Menell
Constable Goodheart ....Mr. A. B. Henderson
The Demon of Folly.....Mr. Leonard Russell
The Fairy of Wisdom .....Miss Edna Knollys
Gnome of the Mill .....Mr. H. J. Wood
Septimus Snatchall .....Mr. Ernest Rees

Enormous audiences packed the theatre at both afternoon and evening performances on Boxing Day, and manifested their delight by tumultuous applause. For pretty effects, side-splitting fun, and tuneful melody, the pantomime must be hard to beat. The production is fully equal, if, indeed, it does not actually excel, any of Mr. Cecil Paget's previous pantomimes at this house. The pantomime opens in unconventional fashion with a scene representing the exterior of the Crown, where a kindly policeman gives a ragged little urchin sixpence to witness *Mother Goose*. We are then taken to a pretty scene, the exterior of Mother Goose's farm, where a delightfully funny Mother Goose is presented to us in the humorous person of Mr. Tom McNaughton. The Goose (Mr. Leon Dubois) is introduced, and he is indeed a wondrous bird, causing endless delight to the youngsters. The goose is scolded, and told to go "on the knee" by its irate mistress. The old story is very closely followed, and we soon find ourselves in a brilliantly illuminated ballroom—the Hall of Gold—where a cleverly arranged *bal masque* is executed. The next scene of importance is another view of Mother Goose's poultry farm—a very pretty set, with a river and rustic bridge in the distance. Here Mother Goose is photographed by Snatchall (Mr. Ernest Rees), her face, unfortunately, breaking the camera. In the succeeding scene, "The way to the Well," Mother Goose goes to the Well of Truth to make herself beautiful, accompanied by Jill (Miss Lloyd) in a beautiful Princess costume of sky-blue velvet, representing Camille Clifford, and supported by a bevy of Gibson Girls. Another picturesque set follows, the Cave of Youth and Beauty; and this is succeeded by a huge motor-'bus, in front of which there is a moving track, the futile efforts of Mother Goose and her companions to enter the 'bus causing roars of laughter. The pantomime concludes with a gorgeous spectacle, entitled "Floralia," where there is a magnificent procession of ladies clad in sea-green costumes, on which various flowers are embroidered. Prince Lotharío (Miss Violet Lorraine) weds Jill, and all ends happily. It should be mentioned that at all the afternoon performances the pantomime is followed by a real old-fashioned harlequinade in three scenes, the last of which is the ever-popular "shadow pantomime."

The pantomime, as we have said, is rich in genuine fun, and foremost among the laughter-makers is Mr. Tom McNaughton, whose Mother Goose is full of quiet, unforced humour. His song "Let me sing" is excellently rendered. Mr. Fred McNaughton looks very comical in his pink sash and short frock as Jack, the naughty boy, and is responsible for many a hearty laugh. Mr. Ernest Rees is very droll in his dry style as the tutor Septimus Snatchall, and his two songs, "Tinned meat" and "All girls are fair to me," are decided hits. Miss Violet Lorraine makes a comely and dashing principal boy, and her chief song, "Rosie is waiting," is a very tuneful melody, the chorus of which is loudly taken up by the "gods." Miss Alice Lloyd, who is a great local favourite, has no less than four songs to sing in her rôle of principal girl, and "May," "The Gibson Girl," "Queen of Old Samara," and a topical ditty, "The Monocle Girl" are all very well rendered. Altogether a great deal of the success of the pantomime is due to Miss Lloyd's dainty impersonation of Jill. Miss Lena Verdi scores a notable success as the Dutch Girl. She plays with much vivacity and looks charming, her rendering of the song and dance "The Zuyder Zee" fairly bringing down the house. She also gave most admirable imitations of Miss Ella-line Terriss, Miss Connie Ediss, and Miss Vesta Victoria. Another great success was scored by Miss Edie King, who, as Phyllis, has a bright dancing song, "Let me show you," which she renders effectively. Mr. John M. Campbell as King Geezer has not been afforded many opportunities by the author, but he proves himself a genuine comedian. His song "How dare you?" was given with excellent effect. Miss Dora Poole makes a shapely Rustic Robin, and scores with her song, "It's a different girl again." Mr. Leonard Russell proves himself the possessor of a fine baritone voice as the Demon of Folly, acting with much distinction and singing a spirited patriotic ballad. Miss Edna Knollys is a handsome Fairy of Wisdom, and sings very sweetly; Messrs. William Phillips and Chris Zietz make a comical Family Cow; Miss Irene Ross is pathetic as the Waif; Messrs. Syd Raymonde, Will Phillips, Chris Zietz, and the Misses Marie Mitford and Bessie Royce supply ably the merry features of the harlequinade. The music for the pantomime, which is produced by Mr. John M. East, is composed and arranged by Mr. Louis La Rondelle, the musical director being Mr. W. W. Meadows. The scenery is painted by Mr. Alfred Terraine. The dances and processions are arranged by Miss Ina Alston, while the dresses are designed and executed by Miss Annie Burrows. Special praise must be awarded to the acting-manager, Mr. H. J. Brett, for the care and courtesy he displayed in seating his numerous patrons. In her tag at the conclusion of the performance, Mother Goose expressed a hope that "the pantomime would succeed in filling the coffers of the Crown Theatre," and without a doubt her wish will be realised.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Wednesday, Dec. 26, the Christmas Pantomime, entitled

"CINDERELLA."

Cinderella .....Miss Lucie Caine
Prince Perfect .....Miss Beatrice Edwardes
Princess Belle ..... Miss Maud Sprightly
Dandini ..... Miss Lily Sprightly
Baroness Ouncelight .. Miss Florrie Sprightly
Baron Ouncelight .....Mr. Eric Farr
Puffer ..... Mr. Erne Chester
Duffer ..... Mr. W. Doust
Flossie ..... Mr. Edward Pollard
Gertie ..... Mr. Fred Pollard
Peter ..... Mr. Fred Cary
Fairy Godmother ..... Miss Lilian Cecil
Fairy Attendant .....Miss Dolly Hunt
The Boy ..... Mr. George Grogie
Dancers ..... The Eight Sunrays

The Broadway management must be congratulated on a highly successful production, and this, the eighth annual pantomime at this handsome and popular theatre, is worthy to rank with the best of those that have gone before it.

Mr. Frederick Stanhope, whose name is associated with all our pleasantest memories of pantomime at this house, is again responsible for the Christmas production, and Mr. Louis Calvert could have no more popular or capable lieutenant.

Scene 6, entitled the Cavern of Crystals, is a very beautiful set, in which we see Cinderella seated in her fairy carriage, which is drawn by four thoroughbred ponies. All the various scenes are admirably painted, and evoked, each in its turn, warm applause from the large audience present.

Among the artists, Miss Lucie Caine in the title-rôle must be mentioned first; this charming artist made an instantaneous success, and her songs, especially "Hyacinth" and "Whispers of Love," were capitally rendered. Miss Beatrice Edwardes as Prince Perfect was a dashing and handsome principal boy; her opening song, entitled "Every man will be a soldier," was greatly appreciated, as were her later efforts, "There's a man in Manitoba" and "A different girl." The latter was encored. The three Sisters Sprightly are a welcome feature in any pantomime. Miss Lily Sprightly as Dandini achieved a notable success, and her singing and dancing were excellent. Miss Maud Sprightly was a very charming and lovable Princess Belle; she sang and danced herself into instant favour. The third, but by no means least important of these clever sisters, is Miss Florrie Sprightly, whose wonderful ability of characterisation was seen at its best in the Baroness; her make-up and acting proved quite irresistible. Miss Lilian Cecil was an attractive Fairy Godmother; this lady is also a delightful vocalist. Mr. Eric Farr was a capital Baron; Mr. Erne Chester was excellent as Puffer, and Mr. W. Doust was equally funny as Duffer; these three gentlemen are known as The Tally-ho Trio. The Brothers Pollard were most successful—Mr. Fred as Gertie and Mr. Edward as Flossie; they sang "Trouble," "Waiting at the church," and "Interrupting you" in amusing style. Mr. Fred Cary has proved one of the hits of the production, his performance of Peter being exceedingly droll, and his songs, "Silence" and "Let me sing," were warmly applauded. Mr. George Grogie is very good as the Boy from the Corner Shop. Miss Elvira Stuart and Miss Dolly Hunt are charming Fairies. The Eight Sunrays are a delightful addition to the cast.

The entire production was an unqualified success, and a long and prosperous run may be predicted.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT STRATFORD.

Pantomime, by "Iam Query," produced on Boxing Day.

Mortals.

Robinson Crusoe .....Miss Stella Gastelle
Mrs. Cassandra Crusoe ..Mr. W. E. Richardson
Peter Perkins .....Mr. Dan Paulton
Polly Perkins .....Miss Rosie Sylvester
Bill Atkins .....Mr. Ben Albert
Starboard .....Mr. W. Woodhouse
Larboard .....Mr. T. Wells
Captain Cutter .....Miss Mamie Stuart
Bob Ratling .....Miss Marjory Lytton
Mary Mayflower .....Miss Ethel Ashton
Anthony Gill .....Miss Ethel Verdi
King Hullabaloo .....Mr. J. A. McLaren
Nicee Picee .....Miss Adelena Balfe
Friday .....Mr. Frank Hemming

The Smart Set.

Lord and Lady Prom. E. Nade.
Misses Lilly Hodson and Hilda Saxe
The Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Floppery
Misses Flossie Telford and Rene Steadman
Sir Nothing and Lady Nothing To-do
Misses Julia Leslie and Ida Ernest
The Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Laying.
Misses Flora Ernest and May Holden

Immortals.

Neptune .....Mr. James Laren
Amphitrite .....Miss Marion Taylor
Davy Jones .....Mr. George Rogus
Spirit of Adventure .....Miss Mimi Franklin

Mr. Fred Fredericks produced his eleventh annual pantomime at the Borough Theatre, at a matinée performance, on Boxing Day, and its enthusiastic reception from a packed house may be taken as an assurance that *Robinson Crusoe* will be added to the list of successful Christmas productions for which Mr. Fredericks has been responsible. The "book," which is from the pen of that clever extrepreneur who elects to be known as "Iam Query," is brightly written, and adheres closely to the familiar story. In fact, though the pantomime at present contains a plethora of interpolated songs and speciality acts, the plot is never long in abeyance, and this will be of much moment to the juveniles, to whom the career of the adventurous Robinson Crusoe is of enthralling interest. The opening scene is Davy Jones's Locker, and from there we are taken to the Bar Parlour of the Jolly Sailor. Here we make the acquaintance of our hero, who is in love with pretty Polly Perkins, the innkeeper's daughter. Crusoe has a rival for Polly's hand in the bad, bold buccaneer, Bill Atkins, and in the fine mechanical change which takes place to the Quay Side—with its picturesque view of the Port of Hull—we find our hero taking ship for foreign parts to avoid arrest as a smuggler, a fate designed for him by the wily Bill Atkins. A splendid scene depicts Aboard the Skylark, and the Snowstorm, the wreck of the Skylark by icebergs, and the Sea of Ice are all brilliant examples of stage illustration; while intense admiration is aroused at the fairy picture provided by the Coral Cave, with its wealth of colour and movement. The tableau is completed by the appearnce at the mouth of the cave of Crusoe asleep on a raft.

Part 2 opens with the Cannibal Island, where we meet Friday, Crusoe's protégé, whose touching fidelity to his young master at once commends itself to the children. The rest of the survivors from the wreck also manage to get to the island, and at Crusoe's hut there is a general reunion, and much rejoicing. As the Cannibal King turns out to be a disguised Englishman, and none other than Mrs. Crusoe's better half—being shipwrecked runs in the Crusoe family—a big fête day is arranged for the marriage of our hero and Polly, and we therefore pass on to the concluding scene, the Grove of Golden Palms—a gorgeous spectacle—which was most enthusiastically received. For the entire scenery Mr. George Dodson is responsible, and much credit is reflected on his artistic efforts.

As Robinson Crusoe Miss Stella Gastelle is highly popular. The part suits her admirably, and she is always vivacious, buoyant, and active. Her fine vocalism is greatly admired, and of her songs perhaps "Who's your tailor?" meets with the most recognition. Miss Rosie Sylvester is a very pretty and pleasing Polly Perkins, and is a great favourite. The coquettish invitation expressed in her song "I want a little man like you," in which different members of the audience are signalled out, is a most attractive item, and "Sailing in my balloon" meets with ready approval, while her neat dancing is much admired. Miss Mamie Stuart plays Captain Cutter with a breeziness and genial swagger well befitting the part, and sings "There's a man in Manitoba" with fine effect. To Mr. Ben Albert is allotted the important part of Bill Atkins, and a wise choice has been made. He is always amusing, and his songs, "Leave her alone with them" and "That's the end of the chapter," are among the best things in the pantomime. Mr. W. E. Richardson presents an excessively funny appearance as Mrs. Crusoe, and scores heavily with his quiet, dry methods. His songs and patter are in high favour, and throughout he works unflaggingly. Mr. Dan Paulton, an old Stratford favourite, plays with much resource in the character part of Peter Perkins, the jovial innkeeper being depicted in just the right vein, and he has some capital songs. A striking performance as Friday is contributed by Mr. Frank Hemming, who at his first entrance as the unfortunate savage plays with such dramatic intensity that involuntary imprecations are hurled at the offending savage chief by the more susceptible "gods." The character is always popular and Mr. Hemming further has an opportunity of exhibiting his dancing prowess. Miss Ethel Ashton, who has been principal dancer in many Stratford pantomimes, contributes several solo dances which are greatly applauded, and plays Mary Mayflower very appropriately. Messrs. Woodhouse and Wells as Starboard and Larboard are prime favourites, and their speciality duets and dances are vociferously received. Mr. J. A. McLaren is eminently successful as King Hullabaloo, and he has a topical ditty which goes wonderfully well. Miss Marjory Lytton is a very smart and alert Bob Ratling; Miss Ethel Verdi is excellent as Anthony Gill; and Miss Adelena Balfe plays with much charm and ability as Nicee Picee. Mr. James Laren declaims his lines with vigour as Neptune; Miss Marion Taylor plays with dignity as Amphitrite; and Mr. George Rogus contributes a grim sketch of Davy Jones. One pleasing element in the attractions of the production is the vocal ability of the large chorus of very pretty girls, in a splendid assortment of beautiful dresses, who show the result of much careful rehearsal. The melodious and very appropriate music is composed and arranged by Mr. Ben Barrow. For the comfort of those in front, the experienced Mr. Frank Rothsay is responsible; and Mr. Francis Maxwell Stewart's expert stage-management secures a smart performance of a brilliant annual.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

Pantomime, by Frank Dix, produced on Boxing Day.

"HUMPTY DUMPTY."

Humptiland People.

Humpty Dumpty .....Miss Yvonne Lamor
Curly Locks .....Miss Georgina Middleton
Jack ..... } The Crystals
Jill .....
King of Humptiland ....Mr. R. H. Douglass
Queen of Humptiland .....Mr. Arthur Rigby
Johnny Stout ... } Messrs. Moon and Morris
Jimmy Green ... }
The Little Gollywogs .....The Sisters Crisp
Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe Mr. E. Thirlby
Doge of Venice ..... } Mr. E. W. Thomas
Wizard of Memphis ... }
Twinklestar .....Miss Winifred Wood

Earth People.

Polly .....Miss Elinor Vale
Mrs. Tremaine .....Miss Elsie Evelyn Hill
Leslie Tremaine ....Miss Gladys Rose Jones
The Great Gollywogs
Messrs. Wally Scott and Seth White

It is our pleasant task to be able to record that Mr. Robert Arthur's ninth Kennington pantomime is likely to rank amongst his most successful productions from a material as well as from an artistic standpoint. The verdict of the large audiences which witnessed the two Boxing Day performances was entirely favourable, as shown by the enthusiastic call which was given at the close for author, composer, and acting-manager, and as Mr. H. B. Brandreth, who has worked untiringly to maintain in *Humpty Dumpty* the high standard always associated with the Kennington stage, appeared before the curtain, together with Mr. Dix and Mr. Wilson, the house broke into a furore of applause. The ovation was well deserved. The author has chosen a somewhat original theme. The curtain rises on Leslie Tremaine in his Portman-square nursery, a very effective set, by Mr. G. E. W. McKie, hearing from his mother the story of Humpty Dumpty. Leslie is a somewhat precocious youngster, and wants to know why Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, and why he fell off, and various other things which Mrs. Tremaine cannot tell him. So, pondering over the subject, he falls asleep, and dreams of Humpty Dumpty and his ways. In the dream the Queen appears, awakens Leslie, and takes him off with his Great Gollywogs, which suddenly become animated, to Humptiland. His wanderings there through two acts, in which are incorporated nine more scenes, constitute the pantomime, and when he rouses from his slumber he finds himself in the nursery again. The staging is magnificent, and in the Kingdom of Humptiland we have Stafford Hall's first great scene, and one which reflects the greatest credit on him. When the King and Queen, accompanied by the chorus of guards and maidens, enter the spectacle is brilliant in the extreme. Here the varied and beautiful costumes designed by Comelli and executed by Baruch and Co., Berlin, Ellian Bros., London, and Miss Hale, the Kennington wardrobe mistress, are seen to advantage, and a fair sample of Mr. Wilson's tuneful music is heard in the rollicking chorus, "This is the kingdom of Humptiland." There are also some topical lines which go down well, and an extremely catchy song, "Sweetheart I love you," by Princess Curly Locks. The distinctive feature of the third scene, the Old Woman's Shoe, a faithful representation of which is given by Mr. McKie, is the Queen's slumber song, in which a number of children in night-dresses and carrying candles participate. The fourth scene, by Stafford Hall, "Venice," is a blaze of colour. For half an hour the fun is fast and furious, terminating with the riotous gaiety of the carnival, in which the brightest of Venetian costumes are worn. In the midst of it all, Humpty and Curly are borne away inside an egg trophy placed on a barge. It is a novel effect, and forms an appropriate finish to the first act. The opening scene of the second act is the City of Memphis, by Stafford Hall, which makes an interesting picture, whilst the Gates of the City by the same artist is also well done. There are a couple of railway station scenes by McKie, and a gorgeous setting by Stafford Hall of the Home of Twinkle star in Mars. But undoubtedly the most striking feature of the second act is the motor chase of Scene 5, in which biograph views thrown upon a succession of canvases, by McKie, produce a remarkable result. There are during the course of the pantomime some good electrical and mechanical effects by David Marshall and M. Ginnett and Harry Krott respectively, whilst the properties are by Georgo Corney and H. Longhurst. The company is an exceedingly strong one, numbering 120 outside the principals. The latter include some of the best known names on the suburban pantomime stage. Miss Yvonne Lamor as Humpty Dumpty is an excellent principal boy. Of dashing appearance, a good singer, fine dancer, and bright actress, she soon makes herself a warm favourite with all. In the Venetian scene she does a good deal of singing, and her Hyacinth song is one of the prettiest of the piece. A charming leading girl is Miss Georgina Middleton as Princess Curly Locks. She is full of girlish grace and vivacity, and acts with an unaffected simplicity of demeanour that wins everyone's heart. Miss Middleton scores with several catchy songs, one of which, "The Ice Cream Girl," brings down the house; whilst her duet with Humpty, "Love, love," is effectively rendered. The company is especially well cast on the comedy side. Mr. R. H. Douglass as the King and Mr. Arthur Rigby as the Queen are comedians of the first water, and the laughter is ceaseless whenever they are about. They introduce a lot of side-splitting patter, and their make-up is in itself immense. Mr. Rigby secures enthusiastic recalls for his two principal songs, "I never go beyond eighteen" and "Man," the latter teeming with suffragette allusions. In the Shoe scene Mr. Douglass has some amusing gags on modern love-making, which never fail to catch on. The Crystals, American vaudeville actresses, make a big hit as Jack and Jill. They are both wonderful dancers as well as good vocalists, and their song and dance in the Shoe scene, "My bungalow in Borneo," is accorded a thoroughly deserved encore; whilst the Cowboy song and dance in the second part of the pantomime is almost as equally warmly received. As Johnny Stout and Jimmy Green, Moon and Morris are responsible for a great deal of merriment, and their speciality dance in Venice was very good. In the railway scene, too, they both showed themselves to be fine knockabout comedians. The Sisters Crisp as the Little Gollywogs deserve a line for quite a clever dance; whilst Mr. R. W. Thomas doubled the parts of the Doge and the Wizard in highly commendable fashion. The manner in which as the Doge he told the story of Humpty will take a lot of beating. The Great Gollywogs were ably impersonated by Wally Scott and Seth White, and Mr. Edward Thirlby made an interesting Old Woman, his make-up being faultless. Miss Gladys Jones is an ideal Leslie Tremaine, making quite a nice boy of the Little Lord Fauntleroy type. Miss Elsie Hill is equal to all the calls upon her in the part of Mrs. Tremaine, and the same must be said of Miss Elinor Vale as Polly. There are some exceedingly artistic ballets arranged by Mlle. Elsie Clere, and in these the Martian Troupe of eight principal dancers give a graceful exhibition of the terpsichorean art. There are numerous rousing choruses and concerted pieces which go with a swing that must be mightily pleasing to Mr. Wilson, who conducts his own music. The stage-management is in the hands of Mr. Douglas, and it is a feather in his cap that the whole performance is completed without a hitch.

THE STANDARD.

On Boxing Day, Dec. 26, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."

As the Christmas attraction here this piece is meeting with enormous success. At both the afternoon and evening performances on Boxing Day the house was crowded to excess, and the reception given the play was indeed cordial, and must have been highly satisfactory to Mr. Walter Melville, the author. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Mr. Ashley Page for his masterly delineation of the soldier hero, Jack Brown. He plays with manly bearing and vigour, and is a decided success. Mr. Beresford Whitcomb supplies a capital study of Colonel James Graham, whilst Mr. Johnny Chippendale is the cause of much laughter as Tommy Spratt. Little Albert fully deserves to have his name brought prominently before the public; he cleverly undertakes the rôle of Teddy Munro, and fully complies with his description on the programme, that of "a saucy nipper." Mr. John Sargent is powerful as David Munro, alias Matthew McGuire, and shows ability; and Mr. Alfred Harding successfully impersonates the scheming villain, Charles Courtenay. A characteristic delineation of the old farmer, Nathaniel Lee, is given by Mr. C. A. Chandler, who deserves high praise for a clever piece of acting. Miss Nattie Everett proves of value in the part of Lizzie Walker; and Miss East Robertson acts with much dramatic force, and is eminently successful as Julie De Beauvrais. Miss Georgie De Lara skilfully presents the woman who left her husband, Peggy Munro; whilst Miss Marion Deuvil sweetly portrays the rôle of Nancy Lee, and fully deserves the applause which from time to time reward her efforts. The many minor characters in the drama are given due prominence by other members of the company.

The Paisley Theatre presented a brilliant spectacle on the 21st ult. Instead of the local battalion of Volunteers—the 2nd V.B. Argyll and and Sutherland Highlanders—having their usual annual dance, they arranged with Mr. J. H. Savile to take his theatre for a night, and witness the pantomime of *Goody Two-Shoes*. From the Colonel of the battalion down, the theatre was filled with the Volunteers in uniform, and their lady friends. At the close of the first part of the pantomime, the presentation of prizes for the past season's shooting took place from the stage.

ON THE ROAD, DEC. 31.

Are You a Mason.—Hippodrome, Mansfield.
Assassin.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
At Cripple Creek.—Athenæum T., Lancaster.
At Duty's Call.—Miners' T., Ashington.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—T. R., Wexford.
Beauty of Bath.—Grand T., Croydon.
Beauty Shop.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Belle of Mayfair.—O. H., Coventry.
Benson, F. R.—Queen's T., Leeds.
Benson, F. R. (N.)—O. H., Workington.
Benson, F. R. (S.).—T. R., Limerick.
Breed of the Treshams.—Pier P., Eastbourne.
Bulmer, Mr.—T. R., Smethwick.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Victoria Hall, Halifax.
Chinese Honeymoon (Macdona).—Scotland.
Christian, The.—T. R., Smethwick.
Claudian.—Winter Gardens, Blackpool.
Coal King.—P. O. W., Great Grimsby.
Compton Comedy Co.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Country Girl (Macdona).—South Wales.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Whitehaven.
D'Oyly Carte.—New T., Aberdeen.
Driven from Home.—Palace T., Blackburn.
Earl and the Girl.—Grand T., Eccles.
Earl and the Girl (N.).—Shrewsbury.
Female Swindler.—King's T., Cardiff.
French Spy.—T. R., Wednesbury.
Gay Parisienne.—Norwich.
Golden Ladder.—Grand T., Nelson.
Harris' Repertoire Co.—T. R., Bury St. Edmunds
Her Fatal Past.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Her Lost Self.—Mountain Ash.
Her Luck in London.—Empire T., Manchester.
Honour Thy Father.—T. R., Waterhouses.
Hour of Her Triumph.—Empire, Cradley Heath.
Indian Mutiny.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Camberley.
La Poupee (Ralland).—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Little Breadwinner.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
London Fireman.—Maestag.
Love That Women Desire.—Prince's T., Salford.
Lucky Durham.—O. H., Jersey.
Man and Wife.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Manxman.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Merveilleuses.—The Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Midnight Wedding.—T. R., Jarrow.
Monte Cristo.—O. H., St. Helens.
Moody Manners (A.).—Dublin.
Moody-Manners (B).—Woolwich.
Mr. Popple.—O. H., Leicester.
My Sweetheart.—Corporation T., Chesterfield.
Napoleon the Great.—Wedgewood T., Burslem.
Otto the Outcast.—Victoria T., W. Stanley.
Prince of Pilsen (Harriss).—T. R., Hanley.
Private Secretary.—New Grand T., Doncaster.
Prodigal Parson.—H. M. T., Barrow.
Proof.—Empire T., Cradley Heath.
Revenge.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Royal Divorce.—Star T., Swansea.
Saints and Sinners.—New T., Aberdare.
Sherlock Holmes.—H. M. T., Barrow.
Silver King (Polini).—Junction T., Manchester.
Spider and the Fly.—Rochdale.
Still Alarm.—New T., Hawick.
Three Little Maids.—Carlisle.
Toreador (Macdona).—Coatbridge.
Traitor Prince.—Myddleton.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—T. R., Peterboro.
Two Little Sailor Boys.—T. R., Sth. Shields.
Unwedded Wife.—Grand T., Walsall.
Village Blacksmith.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
Walls of Jericho.—T. R., Merthyr.
Warning to Women.—Court T., Bacup
Wearin' o' the Green.—Gaiety T., Clydebank.
What the Butler Saw.—Royalty T., Barrow.
When Woman Hates.—T. R., Smethwick.
White Chrysanthemum (Macdona).—Kirkcaldy.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—T. R., Glossop.
Worst Woman in London.—T. R., Colne.
10.30 Down Express.—T. R., Chesterfield.
£1,000 Reward.—Shakespeare T., Altrincham.

ROYAL ARTILLERY, WOOLWICH.

As a Christmas attraction at this theatre a strong booking has been made in the shape of the Moody-Manners Opera Company with a considerable répertoire. The company, which is paying its first visit to this theatre, is a large one, numbering seventy in all, with a chorus of thirty-five voices, and, seeing that every member played throughout the Moody-Manners season at Covent Garden and the Lyric, it is not surprising that their welcome here was a warm one. On the evening of Boxing Day the ever-popular *Bohemian Girl* was played to a house crowded with an audience that was at once attentive and enthusiastic. A better choice than that of Miss Alice Boaden to play Arline could scarcely have been made, for not only is Miss Boaden the happy possessor of a naturally sweet soprano voice, but her acting is characterised by an easiness and a gay insouciance, tempered towards the end, by a regretful tenderness, that make her impersonation all the more valuable. Her rendering of many well-known numbers was much appreciated, her greatest success being perhaps with "I dreamt I dwelt in marble halls." Miss Mary Norton made a regal-looking Queen of the Gipsies, and sang and acted with real dramatic power; she is gifted with a good, resonant voice of remarkable carrying power, and her song, "Love smiles but to deceive," was enthusiastically redemanded from every part of the house. A manly, straightforward rendering of Thaddeus was submitted by Mr. Seth Hughes, who looked every inch a soldier, and whose proud defiance to the Austrian arms was given with force and dignity. Mr. Hughes is as good a vocalist as he is an actor—which is saying a good deal—and his rendering of the very popular "When other lips and other hearts" was one of the best received numbers of the evening. Count Arnheim found a thoroughly aristocratic-looking representative in Mr. Marshall Vincent, whose characterisation of the part was from every point of view satisfactory; his song, "The heart bowed down," was well rendered, and his acting, particularly in the dramatic scene where the Count recognises his daughter, was noticeably good. Mr. George Neilson was admirably suited as Devilshoof, his powerful, resonant voice enabling him to do full justice to the numbers allotted to him, his rendering of "In cellar cool" (specially introduced) in particular bringing down the house. Mr. Neilson has a very thorough idea of a comedian's business, and Devilshoof's uninvited exploration of the castle was a really excellent piece of fooling. Mr. R. Brookes made the most of the somewhat thankless part of Florestan, singing well when he had the chance, and looking and acting sufficiently fatuously at other times. The chorus of gipsies, peasants, &c., was tuneful, and went at their work with a will, rendering the concerted numbers with excellent effect. They were also very well handled, good stage-management being evident both in the grouping and the entrances and exits. The scenery was adequate and the dresses tasteful. A much appreciated item was the clever and graceful dancing of four little ladies becomingly dressed in red and white. The orchestra—a large proportion of whom are travelled by the company—were well up to their work, and the whole performance reflected credit on all concerned. The company's répertoire also includes *Maritana*, *Carmen*, *Cavelleria Rusticana*, *I'Pagliacci*, *La Traviata*, and *Faust*.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE DRAMA.

Owing to pressure on our space, we have been compelled to hold over the weekly instalment of the above. The series will be continued next week.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephone, 4747, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. H. DURANT.—Blow for Blow, *a drama by H. J. Byron, was produced at the Holborn Theatre on Sept. 5, 1868, and revived at the Adelphi in March, 1870. The original cast included the Misses Lydia Foote, Jane Rignold, and Sallie Turner, Messrs. G. Honey, J. C. Cowper, and Parselle.*

FRANKLYN.—*When* Two Roses *was revived at the Criterion on Dec. 4, 1887, with Miss Annie Hughes as Letty and Miss Maude Millett as Ida, Irving's original part (Digby Grant) was played by Mr. William Farren, sen.*

F. L., JUN.—*Application should be made at Somerset House.*

SAM.—*(1)* The Ticket-of-Leave Man, *adapted by Tom Taylor from Brisebarre and Nus's* Léonard, *was first produced at the Olympic in May, 1863, when the principal parts were played by Henry Neville, Horace Wigan, E. Atkins, Robert Soutar; Misses Kate Saville, Fanny Hughes (Mrs. Gaston Murray), and Raynham. (2) Early in the run the late Nellie Farren played Sam Willoughby in place of Miss Raynham.*

J. E. D.—*The best course is to "copyright" your piece at any theatre or hall which is licensed for the representation of stage-plays. But previous to the copyright performance you must send your MS. to the Licenser of Plays, St. James's Palace, S.W., enclosing £1 1s. for reading fee.*

BANKER.—*Sir Charles Wyndham opened Wyndham's Theatre with* David Garrick, *Nov. 16, 1899. The seats were sold by auction, and the whole proceeds given to the Soldiers' Wives and Families Fund.*

T.W.—*"Across the Bridge," originally sung by the late Charles Godfrey, is published by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.*

ALF. D.—*Consult a solicitor.*

A. T. S.—*Your best course is to obtain a trial turn at one of the minor halls; that ought to be a good test as to your ability. A few lessons in step-dancing could be obtained for a moderate outlay.*

SAWDUST.—*Miss Bessie Wentworth died Jan. 6, 1901.*

MORTERIA (Southport).—*The usual course is to submit the play to the managers of theatres; and as to length, you can easily compare it with published dramas.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth or Death or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence, every additional word One Penny.

The charge for a notice of Marriage, not exceeding forty words, is Two Shillings and Sixpence, every additional word One Penny.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

HOWARD—On Dec. 23 at Newport, Mon., Margaret Howard, wife of Thos. Howard, of the Marvellous Howards, of a son. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

EDWARDS—LEE.—At 7, Poplar-street, Danvers, Mass., U.S.A., on Dec. 2, Tom Edwards, of Park Lodge Loughboro' Park, London, to Flora Katherine Lee, of Leicester, youngest daughter of the late Edward Lambert Bramwell, of Briton Ferry, Glam.

DEATHS.

DEERING.—Nov. 16, suddenly, at the Commercial Hotel, Sydney, Australia, Olly Deering, actor.

GUION.—John Guion (Carr), died Dec. 14, after a long illness; brother of Jim Guion, and uncle of George Gilbey. Deeply mourned. Foreign papers, please copy.

LEE-ANDERSON (NERREY). — Passed, on Christmas morning, at Aldershot, after eight weeks' illness and great suffering, Jessie ("Daisy"), elder daughter of William Lee-Anderson, Esq. (late manager of the Grand Theatre, Leeds), and second wife and devoted companion of Terence Nerrey.

POYNTON.—Dec. 19th, from Bright's disease and heart failure, the father of Alfred Poynton.

WILLIAMS.—Dec. 20, after a short illness, Richard Williams, banjoist and mandolinist (of Earle and Earle), deeply regretted by his late partner, Francis O'Flynn.—R.I.P.

IN MEMORIAM.

CABAN. — In loving memory of Rose Caban, née Meers, wife of Charles Caban and beloved daughter of Hubert and Adele Meers, who passed away in Edinburgh, Dec. 31, 1902. R.I.P.

CULLING.—In loving memory of my darling wife (Ada Clare), who passed away Dec. 31, 1903.—Otto C. Culling.

CULLING.—In loving memory of Ada Clare (Mrs. Otto C. Culling), who went to rest Dec. 31, 1903. Never forgotten by her devoted friend, Georgie de Lara-Allen.

HENDERSON.—In loving memory of our darling baby, James Martin, who died Dec. 27, 1905. Ever remembered by his loving father, mother, grandfather, and grandmother.

MORRISON.—In loving memory of my dear father, John Morrison, who departed this life Dec. 28, 1903, aged 102 years. Gone but not forgotten by his sorrowful daughter, Mrs. Ougeneo, and his granddaughters the Sisters Ougeneo.

PETTITT. — In loving memory of Henry Pettitt, dramatic author, who died Dec. 24, 1893, at The Chestnuts, Goldhawk-road, Hammersmith. Greatly missed and deeply mourned by his wife and three children.

SAUL.—In loving memory of Simondson De Wilfred Saul, who died on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 1899, aged 58 years. Still to memory dear.

VINCENT.—In loving memory of my dear brother Frederick Vincent, late Manager for John Hart, Esq., of the Grand Theatre, Leeds, who passed away Dec. 28, 1904. Never forgotten.—MARIE.

IN LOVING MEMORY of my dear Charlie, who was called away Dec. 30, 1905. Never forgotten.—R. H.

PRESENTATION.—To Mr. Jack Woolf Mr. Rollo Balmain and Miss Sara Mignon have given a handsome present of a silver-mounted walking-stick as a token of appreciation for their very successful engagement at the Queen's, Poplar.

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Zampas, The

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

WE wish many happy returns of the day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Jeannie Burgoyne—Saturday, Dec. 29.
Douglas Cecil—Saturday, Dec. 29.
Fred Eastman—Saturday, Dec. 29.
Rudyard Kipling—Saturday, Dec. 29.
C. Lodge-Percy—Sunday, Dec. 30.
Cecil Barrett—Sunday, Dec. 30.
Little Tony—Monday, Dec. 31.
Mrs. Edward Compton—Tuesday, Jan. 1.
(Miss) Vivian Hamilton—Tuesday, Jan. 1.
Minnie Terry—Tuesday, Jan. 1.
Russell Wallett—Tuesday, Jan. 1.
Michael Nolan—Tuesday, Jan. 1.
George Groves—Tuesday, Jan. 1.
L. A. Smith—Tuesday, Jan. 1.
W. H. Brougham—Tuesday, Jan. 1.
Theodore Jones—Tuesday, Jan. 1.
Ethel Brooklands—Wednesday, Jan. 2.
Edwin Firth—Wednesday, Jan. 2.
Elsie Allen—Wednesday, Jan. 2.
Clifford Rean—Wednesday, Jan. 2.
Wingold Lawrence—Thursday, Jan. 3.
Trant Fagan—Thursday, Jan. 3.
Fred M. Wright—Thursday, Jan. 3.
Alice Venley—Thursday, Jan. 3.
George Newham—Thursday, Jan. 3.
Fuller Mellish—Thursday, Jan. 3.
Jenny Valmore—Thursday, Jan. 3.
Mabel Marston—Thursday, Jan. 3.
Maud Darling—Friday, Jan. 4.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Harry Barker was presented with a valuable ring by Mr. J. Larder, manager, Palace, Leigh, during his second week's engagement as a mark of appreciation of his abilities.

THE Duke of Connaught and Princess Victoria Patricia of Connaught witnessed the performance of *The Vicar of Wakefield* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Saturday night.

MR. T. ELLIS BUXTON has been transferred from *Moses and Son* to *The House that Jack Built* at the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, as stage-director of that pantomime.

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NAME.	DATE.
Abrahams, Messrs. F. & M.	March 31, 1906.
Alexander, Mr. Alex.	June 2, 1906
Ashcroft, Late Mr. W. E.	October 27, 1906.
Ashton, Mr. George	May 5, 1906.
Ashton, Miss Margaret	September 1, 1906.
Ball, Mr. Alf	September 1, 1906.
Barbour, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Barclay, Mr. Arthur J.	May 26, 1906.
Barlow, Miss Billie	March 10, 1906.
Barnett, Mr. Orlando	October 6, 1906.
Barrasford, Mrs.	February 10, 1906.
Beatty, Miss May	November 10, 1906.
Beecham, Mr. Charles	Dec. 22, 1906.
Bertoldi, Late Miss Ena	April 7, 1906.
Billington, Mrs. John	January 20, 1906.
Bordin, Signorina Maria	September 15, 1905.
Brickwell, Miss Mamie	Nov. 24, 1906.
Brookfield, Mr. Charles	Dec. 22, 1906.
Brough, Mr. Lionel	May 13, 1905.
Brown-Potter, Mrs.	March 3, 1906.
Burton, Mr. John	March 10, 1906.
Butt, Mr. Alfred	August 25, 1 905
Carrington, Miss Eva	February 24, 1906.
Cavalho, Miss Sylvia	March 3, 1906.
Cellier, Miss Marguerite	May 26, 1906.
Cinquevalli, Mr. Paul	May 5, 1906.
Clark, Mr. William	March 3, 1906.
Clark, Mr. T. Sealey	May 19, 1906.
Collier, Mr. Hal	May 19, 1906.
Conquest, Mr. Arthur	May 26, 1906.
Coote, Mr. Bert	June 16, 1906.
Corri, Mlle. Ghita	September 22, 1905.
Costello, Mr. Tom	September 15, 1906.
Cotterell, Mr. Sid	July 14, 1906.
Courtice, Mr. Thomas	Dec. 22, 1906.
Craven, Mr. Tom	Dec. 15, 1906.
Crisp, Late Mr. Henry	May 26, 1906.
Cruikshank, Mr. Alfred	March 17, 1906.
Culloch, Mr. Arthur	November 10, 1906.
Dacre, Mr. Harry	Dec. 1, 1906.
Dallas, Mr. J. J.	July 7, 1906.
Dampier, Mr. Alfred	May 12, 1906.
Deering, Late Miss R.	July 14, 1906.
De Gracia, Mr. G.	May 19, 1906.
Dixon, Mr. Robert	Dec. 8, 1906.
Dobson, Mr. E. H.	August 12, 1905.
Donegan, Mr. James R.	May 20, 1905.
Duff, Master Harry E.	April 29, 1905.
Dyball, Mr. George H.	January 13, 1906.
Elliott, Late Mr. J. B.	May 26, 1906.
Elen, Mr. Gus	September 23, 1905.
Gastelle, Miss Stella	July 15, 1905.
Gatti, Late Mr. Stefano	October 20, 1906
Genée, Mlle.	September 22, 1906.
Godfrey-Turner, Miss M.	October 28, 1905.
Gibbs, Miss Edith	March 3, 1906.
Grace, Miss Amy	January 13, 1906.
Gray, Miss Dora	January 13, 1906.
Grey, Miss Isabel	July 7, 1906.
Grove, Mr. Fred	March 10, 1906.
Grein, Mr. J. T.	Nov. 11, 1905.
Hamlyn, Mr. J. D.	January 20, 1906.
Hansen, Miss Laura	January 20, 1906
Harris, Mr. Thomas	February 24, 1906.
Harrington, Mr. John P.	Dec. 8, 1906.
Harriss, Miss Sophie	April 7, 1905
Harvey, Late Mr. Eddie	September 1, 1906.
Hastings, Miss Nora	March 10, 1906.
Heron-Brown, Miss Edith	June 16, 1906.
Hey, Miss Muriel	September 15, 1906.
Hitchens, Mr. H. J.	September 8, 1906.
Holloway, Mr. Baliol	April 15, 1905.
Hunter, Late Mr. Harry	October 20, 1906,

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Chapter II.
PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.
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MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.
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INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as the "Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters, respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman.

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1906.

THE DRAMA IN 1906.

The year that is now closing has been decidedly up to the average in its dramatic output. Yet we just missed having a great disappointment. It would indeed have been a sorry "list of plays" which did not contain the title of a contribution from MR. PINERO. Not only has he given us another sample of his genius; the sample has been successful. And this means a great deal. For no dramatist can ever attempt his best without encouragement. It looked a short time since as if Mr. PINERO were "going all wrong." We admit that the appreciation earned by *Letty* and *Iris* was enough to make any author cynical; and *The Wife Without a Smile* was a regrettable incident—a symptom of irritable eccentricity which made one nourish the most depressing fears for Mr. PINERO's future. Yet here he is again with one of the "big successes" of the London season down to his account; and the triumph is the more gratifying in being scored in connection with one of the most artistic and intelligent of London managements.

Were it only for *His House in Order*, 1906 would be a year whose dramatic history would be pleasant to look back upon; but it is also memorable for the best production of our chief dramatic poet. The value of elaborate mounting was never demonstrated more clearly than in the case of *Nero*. The author's work required and deserved assistance. It would have been so easy to have taken the broad and easy way in dealing with the Roman Emperor; to have made him a crude monster—unexplained, inhuman, and childishly non-complex. Mr. PHILLIPS grappled with the intellectual problem, and re-created a very interesting and not inhuman character. But, offered to a public like ours, *Nero*, on the strength of its psychology alone, would not have run a month. The magnificent mounting, Mr. BEERBOHM TREE's vastly popular personality, and the admirable acting of himself and his company were the jam which induced the British playgoer to swallow contentedly—indeed, without special observation—one of the few intellectual blank-verse dramas which has been written in England for a long time. Mr. H. A. JONES has been playing the part of Achilles this year, for *The Heroic Stubbs* was an effusion quite unworthy of his muse; but, if we may base conjecture on the scenario of *The Hypocrites* which has reached us from America, Mr. JONES has simply postponed his re-establishment till the piece is produced in London.

A phenomenon of the year has been the climacteric "fashionableness" of BERNARD SHAW. He has been, as we say of children, "spoilt." Mr. SHAW has never been subjected to criticism worthy of his steel. To quote him: "My tricks are never detected because of my trumpet and cartwheel declamation. Critics, like other people, see what they look for, not what is actually before them. In my plays they look for my legendary qualities, and find originality and brilliancy in my most hackneyed clap-traps." Mr. SHAW, we fear, is past praying for. He will go on to the end of the chapter, dissipating his quick wit and astonishing powers of observation in "scattery" concoctions like *Major Barbara* and *The Doctor's Dilemma*. When Mr. SHAW wrote *Widower's Houses*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, and *The Devil's Disciple* he owned himself a charlatan. But he went sufficiently in fear of criticism to "join his flats"; in other words, to construct his plays—simply and strongly, but still to construct them. Now that all wholesome restraint is removed, he "goes as he pleases"—still banging away at his drum and tootling on his trumpet. But *The Doctor's Dilemma*, from a technical point of view, is a great improvement on *Major Barbara;* indeed, up to the end of the second act it is a quite complete and consistent play, and the dialogue and characterisation are the best Mr. SHAW has ever done. We commend to this writer's notice the work of a less successful fellow-dramatist—Mr. JOHN GALSWORTHY, the author of *The Silver Box*, also produced at the Court. It was a really remarkable echo of the modern school of French pessimism.

All things considered, the above constitute a very fair crop of thoughtful plays; and the pleasant ones have been plentiful also. Could one wish for a more fascinating bit of erotic fantasy than the *Morals of Marcus*, for instance? Or a better example of the dashing, adventurous drama than *Brigadier Gérard*; or a more exciting, unsophisticated evening's amusement than *Raffles*; or a stronger mixture of the sensational and the deeply dramatic than *The Bondman*; or a more satisfactory solution of a dangerous difficulty than *Colonel Newcome*? The lighter entertainments showed an improvement in quality; and, though our American visitors have not been very fortunate this year, *The Lion and the Mouse*, at the Criterion, was an artistic work, which only failed because of its pronounced local colour. And when we recall such superb revivals as Mr. TREE'S *Winter's Tale*, *Richard II.*, and *Tempest* productions at His Majesty's, when we remember Mr. COMYNS CARR'S *Tristram and Iseult* and Mr. RUDOLF BESIER'S *Virgin Goddess* at the Adelphi, we must admit that the serious and ambitious, as well as the frivolous and fantastic side of the stage, has been well supplied in 1906.

The distinctive feature of the year has been the plenitude of revivals. This is not a symptom on which it is safe to congratulate managers, for a revival is often the result of a failure or quasi-failure necessitating marking time for a while. But from the points of view of the actor and actress and of the public, revivals are "all to the good." Rising artists get more opportunities for personal distinction; those of established reputation have salutary changes; and the number of the playgoer's opportunities is increased. If many large fortunes may not have been made by theatrical management in 1906, much *kudos* has been won; and, artistically, the year has been one which it is most pleasant to look back upon.

HENGLER'S.

Hengler's Grand Circus offers admirable attractions this Christmas for the youngsters and for children of a bigger growth. First and foremost there is the petite pantomime, or "spectacle," as it is modestly called, entitled *Little Red Riding Hood*. Mr. Austin Fryers, the manager, reminds visitors that in the early days of Hengler's spectacles of a poetic and fanciful character were a special feature, and *Little Red Riding Hood* was one of the most popular of the successful series which Mr. Hengler produced. Miss Connie Gilchrist was the original exponent of the title-rôle, and the spectacle in which she appeared was so popular that it was transferred complete to Paris, where it enjoyed a good run. The *Red Riding Hood* which is now presented is on the lines of the original production, but includes electrical and scenic effects undreamt of in those days. Specially noticeable are the ruby footlights, which, contrary to the usual method, are directed towards the audience. In this way the auditorium is bathed in a warm light, and the ring is thrown in darkness so that the scenic changes are effected unseen by the audience. This is the first time this ingenious device (credit for which is due to Mr. Lionel C. C. Smith) has been used for stage purposes. Mr. Arthur Coomber is responsible for an ably-written "book," and he, by the way, plays in interesting fashion the part of the Grandmother. Mr. Coomber has a special claim to notice in connection with Hengler's, for as a boy he appeared in the original production of *Red Riding Hood*. There is a very engaging heroine in Miss Clarence Heney, whose adventures in the rôle are eagerly followed by the youthful spectators. Miss Maggie Robertson at once wins the admiration of the kiddies for her very attractive Prince Charming; and Miss Maie Hoey as a very graceful and gracious Fairy Queen, and Miss Ethel Terry as Red Riding Hood's mother capably fulfil the requirements of their rôles. Mr. F. Farreld makes himself cordially disliked as the Wolf, and that is synonymous with saying that he acts the part well. There are four scenes, Gloomy Dell, the Fairy Dell, the Village Green, and the Grandmother's Cottage, all of which are capitally staged and mounted. Some pleasing music has been composed for the spectacle by Mr. Denham Harrison, and the score includes the famous "Spring" chorus sung by a number of trained boys. The dances have been arranged by Mr. Edouard Espinosa, who is generally responsible for the stage production; and the dresses are the design and work of Miss Elva Dearen. The spectacle is followed by a rollicking Old English harlequinade.

And as if this delightful little pantomime were not sufficient there is quite a galaxy of good things in the remainder of the programme. In Caban's French Circus are to be seen some highly-trained miniature ponies, dogs, and monkeys, not to mention Puggie, a doggie who creates roars of laughter with his feats as a football player. Flying Fox, the pony who races on a revolving table, seems to possess gifts of nerve and agility not permitted to the average equine, and an indication of the difficulty of Flying Fox's daily task is given in the offer of £30 to any person who can remain on the revolving table, going at the same speed, for thirty seconds. Princess Fayette shows us the latest style of Parisian driving, and she cuts a very dainty figure as she cleverly manipulates the reins. Bob Hanlon's troupe of acrobats execute a number of aerial feats which are as varied as they are attractive; and there is plenty to interest one in the Animals' Kindergarten, in which, among other exhibitions of intelligence, ponies play at see-saw. Prince Fee Lung makes one almost gasp with wonder at his demonstration of Chinese magic and his juggling. He smashes a plate into a score of fragments, and these are placed under a handkerchief, one piece of the broken pottery being retained. A couple of seconds later the handkerchief is withdrawn, and there is the plate intact except for the single fragment, which is found to exactly fit so as to make the article complete. Fee Lung is equally successful with his juggling tricks. Felix, the musical clown, is as entertaining a fellow as one could wish to meet, and other commendable turns are given by Paddy, the retriever pony; Domino, the Arabian donkey; and Shamrock, on whom is bestowed the distinctive honour of being the smallest pony in the world. A series of praiseworthy animated pictures, supplied by Films, Ltd., conclude the show.

THE Leamington Theatre Royal re-opened on Boxing day, when Mr. Edward Compton and his comedy company gave an excellent performance of *David Garrick*. Mr. Compton appeared for the 1332nd time in the title-rôle, his favourite part, and gave a truly admirable portrayal of the character. Miss Mackenzie gave a charming delineation of the rôle of Violet, displaying in a remarkable manner all those characteristics which the part calls for. Alderman Gresham as played by Mr. Henry Crocker was exceedingly good; as was also the Hon. Tom Tallyhaut as interpreted by Mr. Dennis W. Cleugh. Other noteworthy performances were the Rumbelow of Mr. Philip Gordon, the Mrs. Rumbelow of Miss Marie Hassell, the Selina Sowerberry of Miss Barbara Pigot; the Sowerberry of Mr. G. Wallace Johston, and the Simpkins of Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree. Other pieces given during the week included *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The School for Scandal*, and *Edmund Kean*. On Friday night Mr. Compton was accorded a benefit.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"OU EST MOREAU?"

Vaudeville, in Three Acts, by P. Bonhomme and G. de Téramond, Produced at the Bouffes, on Dec. 21.

Marcelle	MLLE. JAMESON
Mariette	MME. GENSE
Hemance	MLLE. MORLAY
Lucile	MLLE. FERGOUDY
Georgette	MLLE. DARBELLY
Lagripette	M. COQUET
Fernand	M. HENRY LAMOTHE
Jules	M. BERTHELIER
La Bistrouille	M. COUSIN
Moreau	M. HARDOUX
Le Sergent	M. MAUGE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Dec. 27.—Not long ago the Bouffes brought out a comedy. It did not succeed, and the management now tried their luck with a vaudeville, which, however, is not likely to fare better. It is a farce of "the rough-and-tumble order," with people hiding in all kinds of places and chasing one another in a bewildering manner, such as we would expect at Cluny and not at this little playhouse. If the situations are complicated, the same cannot be said of the plot. Fernand makes love to the pretty Mme. Moreau, who promises to make him happy the moment her husband has gone to Falaise for his twenty-eight days' military drill. And, in order to prevent Moreau from returning at an inopportune moment and surprising the lovers, Lieut. Lagripette, Fernand's friend, promises to heap so many punishments on Moreau's head as to make it impossible for him to come to Paris before he has served his time. Unfortunately—like in *Champignol malgré lui*—there are several Moreaus in the regiment, and whilst his luckless namesake remains in the guard room the betrayed husband returns to Paris on the sly to call on Georgette, his mistress. Fernand also receives the visit of Lagripette, who has travelled to Paris on pleasure bent, with his servant, the fiancé of Fernand's cook. Lagripette orders his servant to take Moreau back to Falaise because he has absented himself without leave. But another Moreau is arrested in his stead, and Mme. Moreau (we do not know why) faints, and tumbles into a huge basket which is sent to Falaise. At the station she creeps out, her place is taken (we do not know why) by Moreau and another man. Finally, in the guard room, we meet all the personages in the piece, plus Fernand's uncle, and a young girl, Lucile, who marries the lieutenant. And when the curtain falls on all this tomfoolery we cannot but regret that talent is wasted on so much rubbish. The piece was well acted, especially by Mme. Gense, who has the speciality of idiotic servants, and she made the house laugh with her drollery.

"BAT' D'AF,"

Play, in Five Acts and Eight Tableaux, by MM. Arthur Bernère and Aristide Bruant, Produced at the Théâtre Molière on Dec. 23.

Bruant	M. ARISTIDE BRUANT
Le Capitaine Berner	M. POUCTAL
Pierre Morin	M. BERTAUX
L'Anguille des Batignolles	M. VALNEY-CHARLET
Lieut. Henry Lejeune	M. COMBES
Le Sergent Thibaldi	M. DUVAL
Le Tétard de la Chapelle	Mlle. PREVAL
La Pouliche	MLLE. DIONE
Louisette	MLLE. BERANGERE
Mme. Morin	MME. ALIN
La Môme Torchon	MLLE. MARIETTE

The English visitor to Paris who only knows restaurant or hotel French will derive but little pleasure from an evening spent at the Théatre Molière, for the simple reason that he will not understand the slang terms with which the piece is interspersed; and, having gazed in bewilderment at the title, he may possibly come to the conclusion that it is the name of the hero or the heroine. *Bat' d'Af* is the abbreviation of "Bataillons d'Afrique," the punishment battalions in Algiers, wherein men are drafted who, having been imprisoned for some misdemeanour or other, are not allowed to do their military service with others whose record is clean. Unfortunately, young men who have only committed a breach of discipline are also sent out to Africa; and the play *Biribi*, now running at the Théâtre Antoine, deals with the same subject, as will be remembered by those who read the plot in these columns. But if the English playgoer does not understand the plot, he certainly will remember M. Aristide Bruant, one of the authors, who plays the principal rôle in the work. He owned a famous cabaret in Montmartre, where, dressed in a black velvet suit, a crimson scarf round his neck, and a large slouch hat, he used to attract all Paris by his songs, which generally described the sufferings of the oppressed. Dealing with the same subject as *Biribi*, there is of course some resemblance between that story and *Bat' d'Af's*. Pierre Morin, convicted for a crime committed by his brother, is, on his release from prison, sent to a "Bat' d'Af." His conduct there is so exemplary that he is on the point of being allowed to return to France when the sergeant Thibaldi, his mortal enemy, joins his company. The feud between them is on account of a woman, La Pouliche, who favoured Morin. The latter, learning that his sweetheart has just arrived at the settlement, leaves his post to meet her, and, caught by the revengeful Thibaldi, he would have been court-martialled and sentenced to death if Lieut. Lejeune had not helped him to escape. And his happiness would have been complete if L'Anguille des Batignolles, the villain in the piece, had not, in a fit of jealousy, stabbed La Pouliche. The scenes are sensational, and afford M. Bruant an opportunity to give us a few monologues, which he delivered in his usual impressive manner. The Théâtre Molière—at one time called Les Bouffes du Nord—is situated in one of the outlying districts (something like a Paris Whitechapel). That kind of piece, therefore, suits its public down to the ground, and is likely to have a prosperous run.

SOME time ago I gave the information that Mme. Sarah Bernhardt intended to appear chiefly in men's rôles. It sounded improbable, yet it is true. M. Henry Bataille is putting the finishing touches to a new *Faust*, founded on Goethe's drama, wherein the great actress will impersonate Mephistopheles. If Mme. Sarah Bernhardt adheres to her plan there is no reason why she should not appear in *La Dame aux Camélias*, not as Marguerite Gautier, but in the rôle of Armand Duval. The only thing to be feared is that other ladies will follow her example, and in that case we may well ask what is to become of the men. Will they don women's clothes? Mounet-Sulley in a tea-gown or M. Le Bargy with a stole and muff would have the charm of novelty. Who can tell? Ours is the age of evolution.

MME. OTERO—*la belle*—tells us that the report of her impending marriage is an invention. "I have," she says, "attempted many foolish things, except matrimony, and I have no intention to try the experiment now." Three other ladies in the theatrical world also send disclaimers. But the news that Mlle. Garrick, of the Comédie-Française, will soon become a bride is true. The charming actress will leave the stage, and we all will be sorry not to applaud her any more.

A PLEASING little function marked the conclusion of the performance of *The Grip of Iron* at the King's Theatre, Cardiff, on Christmas Eve, when Mr. George Denham was the recipient of a handsome travelling-bag, given by the members of the company. The presentation was made by Miss Rosabel Dodd, and acknowledged by Mr. Denham in a few well-chosen words.

"TREASURE SHIP" HIPPODROME.

That *The Treasure Ship* setting sail under direction of Mr. Frank Parker at the London Hippodrome on Monday last will prove an argosy laden with golden grain for the Moss-Stoll exchequer seems a certainty; for never have the mysteries of the lower deeps ruled by Father Neptune been fathomed so completely by scenic illustration as at the famous house in Cranbourn-street. Then there is the octopus, the "villain" of the piece, whose wonderful powers and terrible embrace are so graphically described by Victor Hugo in "Les Travailleurs de la Mer." He—even he—is baffled in his evil doings at pantomime time by the fascinations of the good fairy, who in this case is known as Aurelia, a water syren. The spectacle opens near a diver's hut, which is situated on a rock-bound shore, looking on a calm sea. In this peaceful spot, Amand, a young diver, pursues his avocations. His father, an old long-shoreman, has in his possession a chart, a present from a departed comrade, and the old man's ambition is to discover a sunken treasure. They set sail in their frail craft, a storm overtakes them, but eventually they reach the "fairy seas," and commence operations from their anchorage in a lonely bay. We are allowed to see the treasure ship sinking to the bed of the ocean—a very beautiful effect on which the engineering department of the Hippodrome may be heartily congratulated. The divers are, of course, successful in discovering the treasure; and when the octopus attacks them they are rescued by the radiant fairy already spoken of, who has power over the most uncanny denizens of the deep. The monsters depart, and the fairy conducts the toilers of the sea to view her realms of coral, where huge sea monsters and crustaceans of all kinds have their lairs. Rocks open, and mermaidens dive into a phosphorescent sea, and the whole concludes with a wonderful flying ballet just previous to the union of the hero and the fairy.

This pretty fanciful plot is told in eloquent pantomime, in the first place by Miss Simeta Marsden, who looks a comely young sailor as Amand, and sings prettily and acts with eloquent expressiveness. Mr. Lavater Lee does all that is necessary for the rôle of the aged fisherman, and more accomplished or more graceful mermaids than the Misses Annette Kellermann and Gladys and Maud Finney it would be impossible to see. The evolutions of this trio of naiads make up a most interesting interlude in the novelty. The dance of sea nymphs is at once recognised as a Tiller dance—a very appropriate guide this "Tiller" for an aquamarine novelty—and the perfection of the flying ballet, glittering with beautiful colourings, is reached when rainbow-hued scarves are held aloft by the bird-like figurantes and spread athwart the stage in the form of a star. The flying fairies are represented by Herr Heidenreich's Flying Ballet. An entrancing effect is the gradual sinking of the treasure ship, the lighting of the silver-laden craft seen through a veil of gauze being admirably managed. Mr. Bruce Smith has shown his customary artistic sense in the beautiful seascape that opens the spectacle, and again in the gorgeous coral cave. To the genius of Mr. Frank Parker, the equestrian and stage director, London is indebted for a most ingenious and pretty novelty, that should hold the Hippodrome arena for months to come.

Among the fresh features of the preliminary performances in the arena is the turn of Cruikshank, a comic musical clown and a jester with a happy faculty for producing laughter. He has an excellent vehicle for his humour in his "Song of Sixpence," which bears an up-to-date complexion, and is well written. The Chrono-Megaphone is a novel combination of the phonograph and animated photography, and a scene from *H.M.S. Pinafore* is given with such realistic effect that one seems face to face with the actual performers instead of their photographs. No more rapid equestrian act could be imagined than that of the Althoffs; the Kremos sustain their unequalled reputation as Risley performers; Chung Ling Soo reaches the highest altitude as a magician; Walter Bellonini keeps up his fame as a juggler; Tschernoff's dogs and ponies delight the youngsters; and other turns in an excellent bill are supplied by the Tupps, Morris and Vincent, Marzella's performing birds, the Rio Brothers, and the Maningoes. Mr. Fred Trussell, in the front of the house, is a courteous and cultured official whom it is good to meet, and he has an admirable coadjutor in Mr. Henry W. Garrick, of the Press department.

THE IRVING MEMORIAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—We should esteem it a very great favour if you would kindly make it known that all actors and actresses desiring to support the Irving Memorial should send their donations directly to Mr. John Hare, 75, Upper Berkeley-street, W., or if they should be members of the Actors' Association, to the Secretary of that Institution at No. 10, King-street, Covent Garden. The names of all donors will be announced from time to time in the public Press.

The smallest and largest contributions will be received with equal gratitude by the committee, it being their confident hope that not one single member of our calling will fail to support the memorial to our dead chief.

The committee have very great pleasure in announcing that they have already received subscriptions which amount in the aggregate to fifteen thousand shillings.

The first subscription list, which will include donations of the actors and actresses of America and Australia, will be publicly announced three weeks from this date.—Yours faithfully,

For the Irving Memorial Committee
JOHN HARE.
CECIL RALEIGH.
2, Brunswick-place, Regent's Park, N.W.,
Dec. 22.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Contains in a handy compass and in a clear style the law relating to theatres and music halls. The book is well up to date.—*Law Times.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. A. A. Strong has compiled an exceedingly useful volume dealing carefully, intelligently, and fully with the law bearing upon things theatrical. As a book of reference this excellent digest will be found invaluable.—*The Era.*

AT the present time France leads the way in the matter of State-aided theatres, for in Paris there are no fewer than four. To the Comédie-Française the State gives £9,000 a year, and exercises some right of selection in the plays produced. In Germany the little city of Weimar contributes £75,000 that it may have the best plays of its best dramatists played in the best manner.

...IETY GOSSIP.

columns to-day will be found Christmas ...s on behalf of the Music Hall Benevolent ...nd and the Music Hall Home. We can add nothing to the eloquence of Mr. Horace Marriott or Mr. Tom Barrasford's words; but the account on this page of the administration of relief by Miss Anna de Grey on behalf of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild should touch all hearts, and convince our readers of the deep distress existent in the homes of poor professionals, and the immediate necessity for contributions.

MR. and MRS. HARRY RICKARDS arrived home at Sydney, N.S.W., safely on Oct. 25, and the veteran Australian entrepreneur is pleased to report that business continues good. He has taken a five years' lease of the Palace Gardens, Perth, where he opened with a new company on Dec. 18.

MR. GEORGE LASHWOOD, "the Beau Brummel of the variety stage," recently sustained a severe accident in the collision of his brougham with an electric tramcar outside the Kennington Theatre. His physician now advises him that a month's holiday at least in the South of France is imperative to restore him to his former health and vigour. Very reluctantly Mr. Lashwood has cancelled his engagements at the Empire, Leicester-square, at the Hackney, Holloway, New Cross, Stratford, and Shepherds Bush Empires, and also at the Richmond Theatre, where he was engaged to appear during January. Accordingly, he will leave for Mentone about the end of next week, and hopes that a period of rest and complete quietude will enable him to resume work on the Moss-Stoll tour the first week in March.

MISS MILLIE HYLTON, a Gaiety favourite, as we anticipated, has scored an immediate triumph on her return to the musical comedy stage in the part of La Bolero in *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)*. Mr. Paul Rubens's piece has appealed most successfully to the public of Leicester at the Royal Opera House during the week. Miss Hylton is particularly good in her song descriptive of a stage career.

THE will of Mr. James Anthony Bailey, of the City of Mount Vernon, Co. of Westchester, New York State, managing director and chairman of Barnum and Bailey, Limited, is now the subject of an action pending in the High Court, but administration of his personal estate in the United Kingdom (pendente lite) has been granted. The gross value of the estate is £29,670 10s.

CHIRGWIN has been attacked by the prevailing influenza, and unhappily has not been able to answer to his number either at the Palace Theatre or the Chelsea Palace. Mr. Rex King, the rising young protean artist, came to the rescue of the Chelsea management, and he has during the week been heartily encouraged by the Chelsonians in his versatile and clever entertainment.

AMONGST those present at a dinner on Christmas Eve given by the Mayor of Grantham to the aged poor was Henry Johnson, who on Tuesday celebrated his hundredth birthday.

JOHNSON has had a most adventurous career, going as far afield as China with a circus. In his palmy days he was associated in partnership with Mullaba, the Chinese juggler, and he had the honour of performing before King William IV., Queen Victoria, and our present King when Prince of Wales.

MR. FRANCIS O'FLYNN writes: "I regret to say that my dear friend and late partner, Mr. Richard Williams (with whom I was until recently associated in the Earle and Earle banjo act) died in London on Thursday (20th) after a short illness. Mr. Williams was a fine banjoist, and, in addition, he was a mandoline virtuoso with few equals, and his loss will be deplored by an army of friends and acquaintances. R.I.P."

SIGNORINA BORDIN, who has been a triumphant success in *L'Amour*, ends her present season at the Alhambra this week, and leaves to fulfil Continental engagements. She will not have a part in the next Alhambra production, which is due in January, but she will return to London to fulfil an engagement in the autumn ballet at the Leicester-square house.

MR. W. S. BASSETT, the late musical director at the Granville, who has accepted a similar appointment at the Palace, East Ham—the newest addition to the list of London's syndicate halls, has been presented with a gold pin and cigarette-case by his musical comrades at Walham Green.

"THE SUFFRAGETTE'S TRIUMPH," an up-to-date duologue, written by H. M. Halles, was produced at the Foresters' on Thursday afternoon. Its success was immediate. The treatment of the Government difficulty with the petticoated campaigners is very happy, and the crowded house gave a hearty welcome to the novelty. The two characters, Clara Smith, M.P., and John (*its* wife) were cleverly sustained by Miss Mara Collings and the author.

MR. MATTHEW BRODIE and his company, including Miss Dorothea Vivian, will appear at the Empire, Hackney, on Monday, in Mr. Louis Cohen's stirring Napoleonic sketch, *The Drummer of the 76th*, which goes the week after to the Shepherds Bush Empire, with the full Moss and Stoll tour to follow.

MRS. BROWN POTTER and her company are appearing on Monday at the Holloway Empire in the dramatic historical sketch by Kennedy Cox, entitled *Mary Queen of Scots*, in which the popular actress will play the ill-fated queen. The episode chosen in her unhappy career is the murder of David Rizzio, of whom Darnley, Mary's second husband, was profoundly jealous. The accomplished scholar and musician, who came to Scotland in 1564 in the train of the Savoy ambassador, was murdered two years afterwards at the instigation of Darnley.

MR. GUS ELEN, accompanied by his wife, visited Clapham Common on Christmas morning and distributed amongst the children some thousands of toys. Mr. Elen drove up in his motor-car laden with an enormous box, filled to the brim with beautiful little gifts. This is the second year that the well-known comedian has successfully endeavoured to brighten the Christmas of the kiddies in his district.

A CONFERENCE took place on Friday between Mr. Frank MacNaghten, his London manager, Mr. Fred Baugh, and Mr. Frank Gerald, secretary Variety Artists' Federation, Mr. William Johnson, secretary the National Association of Theatrical Employees, and Mr. Jesson, of the Amalgamated Musicians Union, regarding proposals submitted by the Alliance on behalf of the societies named.

THE professional début of Mr. Dan Leno, jun., a son of the famous comedian, at the Holborn Empire, has had to be postponed in consequence of an unfortunate attack of influenza.

THE Zancigs went to Sandringham on Boxing Night by command of the King, so that they did not appear at the Alhambra. They, however, showed at the Boxing Day matinée, and Mr. George Scott, the popular manager of the house, started with them to Sandringham at five o'clock.

IN answer to her appeal in our columns for toys and comforts for the children this Christmastide, Miss Anna de Grey is pleased to acknowledge the following contributions, in money and kind:—Mr. George Page, £5 5s., for the Music Hall Ladies' Christmas Guild dinner and toys, together with his promise of making that sum an annual subscription; Miss Lottie Albert (Mrs. Osborne), toys and dinner tickets; Mrs. Fred Karno, children's clothing, and a gift of butter; Master Leslie Karno, toys, money-boxes (each containing a threepenny-piece), and large box of biscuits; Mrs. Lyons (of Sanford and Lyons), large box of sweets; the Misses Smytheson, box of toys; Miss Queenie Burnand, box of toys; Miss Lily Burnand, gift of tea and sugar; Mrs. Sheppard, Stork Hotel, Birmingham, £1 1s. (collected by Miss Lil Hawthorne); Mrs. Simmonds, Redhill, box of toys; and Miss Lil Hawthorne, clothing.

WITH the money sent by Mr. Page, sorely-needed boots were bought for men, women, and children. A little money was also given to each applicant for coal, and the guinea collected by Miss Hawthorne bought stockings. A good dinner of the best English beef was provided for twelve families, with half-a-pound of tea, same of butter, and the ingredients for a good Christmas pudding. In two cases of starving families, boots and stockings were giving to fathers, mothers, and six children, all under the age of twelve. In each case the father has been out of an engagement for months through no fault of his own.

IN all, the Guild has given boots, stockings, and toys for twenty-five children of distressed artists, who are well known to all of us, and who are sick with despair at the ebbing of the tide of fortune. "The past year," Miss de Grey writes to us, "has been a very hard one on many, and it is heart-breaking to listen to the story of the fight against Fate. It is the saddest Christmas I have known." Subscriptions and contributions in clothing and kind will be acknowledged in these columns if sent to Miss Anna de Grey, 69, Primrose-mansions, Prince of Wales's-road, Battersea Park.

THE remains of Paul Courtney were laid to rest in Norwich Cemetery on Saturday. The deceased comedian succumbed to pneumonia at the age of thirty-nine, and has left a widow and six children to mourn his loss. Six of his brother artists carried him to the grave, and among the lovely flowers laid on the coffin were wreaths from Mr. and Mrs. Fitt, of the Norwich Hippodrome, where the deceased gentleman fulfilled his last engagement, Mr. E. H. Bostock (Glasgow), Mr. Charlie Porter, Mr. Richard Mallett, and others.

THE widow desires to tender her gratitude and thanks to Messrs. Bostock and Fitt, and the V.A.F. for their generous help and timely assistance; also to Mr. Fred Baugh, Mrs. Rizeno, Mr. Thompson (Norwich stage-manager), Mr. Charlie Porter, and Mr. R. J. Mallett, all of whom rendered valuable help.

IN reference to Mr. Paul Courtney's death, Miss Anna de Grey writes:—"I went on Christmas Day to see Mrs. Paul Courtney, and I shall never forget it. Her cry was, 'If he had only had a decent pair of boots it would never have happened. He went for weeks with wet feet to pay back his debts, and when he did get boots it was too late!'" Miss De Grey adds:—"If boots are required the Music Hall Ladies' Guild will do their best for applicants coming to them."

THE scene-shifter, Frank Walters, who met with an accident at the Palace of Varieties, Northampton, on the 17th inst., is progressing favourably, considering his terrible injuries. Mr. Fred H. Anderson has opened a subscription list on behalf of the sufferer.

MR. WILL MURRAY, the popular manager, took his benefit at the Palace, Blackburn, on the 18th inst. There were two crowded audiences, who witnessed a largely augmented entertainment, the usual company being supplemented by some twenty artists from theatres in neighbouring towns, and several local amateur performers. At the second house Mr. Barney Vox, the ventriloquist, came forward, and, amid loud applause, presented Mr. Murray with a substantial cheque from the general public of the town, the patrons of the theatre, and personal friends, and a gold-mounted umbrella from Mr. Clough, the musical director of the theatre, and the band. Mr. Murray in reply warmly thanked his many friends for their kindness.

AT the Empire, Newcastle, this week, Chas. M. Daly, the author, manager, and producer of Chas. E. Machin's sketch, *The Gorilla's Revenge*, is giving a truly remarkable performance of the simian. The reception given to this successful sketch has been extraordinary, and its future is assured. It travels two trucks on the railway, having an enormous amount of fine scenery and effects, which include four large special cages, exhibited in scene 2, an exact representation of the interior of a menagerie. The animals are fine specimens, and the company includes such experienced artists as Miss Nita Langford, Mr. Henry Belding, Mr. Juan de Alberti, Mr. Victor Rae, and Mr. Fred H. Terrell.

"THE GORILLA'S REVENGE" is well booked up, and during the coming year six other sketches of a like nature will be produced. By August six companies will be touring these sketches, and a specially equipped company will visit in December next America, Australia, and South Africa. The big sensation, *Three Thousand Years Ago*, in which figure real mummies, an eruption, and an earthquake, will be produced in London in February. In December, 1907 and 1908, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Cinderella*, and *Aladdin*, under Mr. Chas. E. Machin and Mr. Chas. M. Daly's management, will also tour the variety theatres.

MR. W. F. FRAME, the Caledonian Scot, is by way of becoming author, and has written his reminiscences, which will appear in a Glasgow weekly. His account of an eventful career should provide most interesting reading.

MR. EDWIN CROUESTE left Tilbury Dock on Friday, the 18th, on the s.s. Orontes for Colombo as manager for the Fitzgerald Bros. Circus. He was accompanied by Mrs. Tom Fitzgerald and an efficient company of circus and variety artists. They hope to be in Australia about next November.

MR. ALFRED POYNTON, writing from the Blenheim Hotel, Brighton, says: "I am sorry to inform you I lost my dear kind father on the 19th inst. from chronic Bright's disease and heart failure. I shall have to give the stage up for a long period."

THE Miles-Stavordale Quintette have just returned from a Continental tour embracing Vienna, Prague, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam. They sail for South Africa by the s.s. Kenilworth Castle this morning under Messrs. Hymans' management.

MR. FRANK MACNAGHTEN'S Leicester Pavilion Theatre of Varieties presented a most charming appearance on Friday evening, Dec. 21, when, by the kindness of the proprietor, a benefit was accorded to the funds of the Leicester Licensed Victuallers' Association, who are hoping to endow a second cot at the Children's Hospital. It may be mentioned that this is the second time this year that the generosity of Mr. Macnaghten has been displayed in this direction. The artistic care displayed in the decorations of the theatre evoked unstinted praise.

THE Executive of the V.A.F. have decided that "tipping" on the part of V.A.F. members shall cease on January 1, 1907, and they are relying on their members for support. In encouraging the present system of gratuities, artists, they consider, are materially assisting in keeping the wages of stage employés at the lowest possible ebb.

MR. HERBERT DARNLEY, who wrote *Mr. Wix of Wickham* for Dan Leno, first met the great little comedian under circumstances that did not foreshadow a warm friendship. Says Mr. Darnley: "We did not meet again for many years, and then it was in Dublin, when he complained to me that he could not get anyone to write the sort of songs he wanted. I happened at that time to have by me a song I had written, entitled 'My sweet face.' This Leno performed the following year at Drury Lane Theatre, and it was the beginning of our long and pleasant business relations and intimate friendship. I wrote for him, amongst other successes, 'The Tower of London,' 'Mrs. Kelly,' 'The Horseshoe on the door,' 'Fancy dress ball,' 'The detective,' 'The fortune-teller,' and 'Buying a house.'"

THE FAYS, American thought-readers, who gave a Press show of their entertainment last week, are unable to appear on the regular bill of the Oxford, owing to the illness of Mrs. Fay, who is suffering from a serious attack of neuritis.

REPORT has it that we are to have a real live Princess on the stage. Princess Broglie, a beautiful American girl, some years ago went to Paris to study singing. There she met the Prince, who fell violently in love with her, and married her, much to the distress and indignation of his family. Cut off without even the proverbial shilling, they went to America, and the Princess secured an engagement in vaudeville. While the Princess sings on the stage, the orchestra is conducted by her husband, a cultured musician.

THE following circular has been sent to the Lyceum ordinary shareholders:—"As you were informed in the circular of Feb. 14, 1906, the debenture interest was in arrear, and as unfortunately this could not be paid by the end of that month, the property passed into the hands of the debenture holders. Actions have been brought to enforce the debenture holders' securities. In pursuance of orders of the Court the sinking fund has been surrendered, and the amount applied by the first debenture holders in reduction of their claim; and on the 13th inst. the property was sold for the sum of £119,500, which will probably be only just sufficient to meet the balance of the first debenture holders' claims, which includes interest and costs."

MR. NORFOLK MEGONE, who left the Richmond Theatre to take up his duties as musical director of the Palace, Stoke Newington, was presented on Saturday evening, the 22nd, on the stage of that house, with a silver cigar-case bearing the coat-of-arms of Richmond raised in enamel, and suitably inscribed. The presentation was made by Mr. Kay Draco on behalf of the management, staff, and friends.

LITTLE Maudie Francis has made a big success as Tommy Tucker in the pantomime, *The House that Jack Built*, at the Grand Theatre, Glasgow. The song presented to her by Miss Lottie Lennox, "Tommy Tucker's first smoke," goes wonderfully well.

THE following are the names of the members of Sydney M. Hyman's (Ltd.) company who leave Southampton to-day per the Kenilworth Castle for South Africa:—Miles Stavordale Quintette, musical act; Florence Esdaile, vocalist; Maud Mortimer, comedienne. Augustine and Hartley, acrobats and barrel jumpers, will also be opening at the same time as the above, but they are going direct from Australia. Amongst the artists arriving home per the Norman are Ted E. Box, Miniature Marie, and Hayes and Suits.

LORD BRASSEY maintains that the Crystal Palace should become a State-aided institution. Speaking recently to the students of the Crystal Palace School of Engineering, his lordship declared that if it became necessary to appeal to Parliament for a grant for maintaining the Palace it would be generally acknowledged. "It would not," added the distinguished speaker, "have been possible to maintain South Kensington Museum, the National Gallery, the British Museum, the Imperial Institute, or the London parks without public aid. The spirit of aid is to extend technical instruction by every possible means."

MR. ARTHUR WATSON and his company paid a flying visit to the Empire, Camberwell, on Dec. 20, in *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, written by Miss Flo Stanley, with music by Mr. Harry Petersen. In this stirring nautical sketch Mr. Watson and Miss Flo Stanley achieved an instantaneous and overwhelming success, so much so that immediately after the show they signed four contracts with Mr. Jesse Sparrow for various houses, to commence immediately. In addition to Mr. Watson himself, who plays Jack Marlingspike, and Miss Stanley, who appears as Polly (a waitress), the company includes Mr. Bob Leardo, Mr. Billy Moss, Mr. Harry Watson, Mr. Joe Burley, Miss Maud Roberts, Miss Ethel Pryer, and others. The sole agent for Mr. Watson is Mr. Tom Claxton.

MISS ELIZABETH NEIMANN, the seven-year-old daughter of Mr. Frederick Neimann, made her fourth annual visit to the Music Hall Home on Christmas morning. The little fairy was laden with packets of tobacco, briar pipes, cigarettes, and cigars for the inmates.

MR. ARTHUR ELVY, the sporting comedian and "Up-to-Date Tipster," will shortly produce another novelty, entitled "The Bookmaker's Lament," founded on the Betting Bill. The song has a rattling chorus, and is bound to catch on.

MISS FANNY ROBINA on her birthday was presented with a contract to play the part of Sinbad in the Christmas production at the Queen's Theatre, Swindon. She has not played in a *Sinbad* pantomime since the last founded on that story at Old Drury.

PAUL CINQUEVALLI, who played the week of Dec. 10 at the Orpheum Theatre, Boston, Mass., with great success, is a great favourite in Boston, and he spent there his last week for the present in America before leaving for Europe. On the 17th Mr. August Luschow, the proprietor of the famous German Restaurant, gave a farewell dinner in honour of the famous artist, and many prominent people of New York were present. On the 19th Cinquevalli left on the Baltic for Europe. Mr. Sam Scribner offered him an engagement for the rest of the season at his own salary ($600 a week and all expenses), and Mr. Percy Williams also offered him several weeks' engagement in New York. Mr. William Morris also wanted him, and telephoned to Mr. Richard Pitrot (Cinquevalli's American agent), asking him if he could keep the popular artist in America a few weeks longer. A cable to Mr. Max Winter (director of the Wintergarden in Berlin), asking him to allow Mr. Cinquevalli to fill the engagements offered him in the States, elicited the reply, "Mr. Cinquevalli must open on Jan. 1, 1907, in Berlin," so "Cinq." will fill his engagement in Europe, and afterwards return for forty weeks to America.

MADAME ALICE ESTY, who is now appearing on the Moss and Stoll tour, has for years consistently refused to sing in a variety theatre, but Miss Marie Tempest's recent appearance at the Palace had as much to do with Mme. Esty changing her mind as anything else. Music-lovers in the provinces should accordingly rejoice. She has appeared in the rôle of Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana* over 500 times.

"I ALWAYS appear in *Cavalleria* with renewed pleasure," she told the writer in a chat; "but I am also very fond of Puccini's music. I was the first to play in English the part of Mimi in *La Bohème*. I have not infrequently, too, sung in French, Italian, and German; but I confess I much prefer to speak in my own mother-tongue on the stage or anywhere else. If any rule were, however, to be laid down on this subject, I would not hesitate in saying that every opera is better sung in the language in which it has been written. Italian suffers more from translation into English than any other foreign libretto, but German is more easily adaptable."

MME. ESTY was born at Lowell, Massachusetts, thirty miles from Boston. Her maternal grandfather, an amateur flautist, was well known for his habit of going into the woods, which then surrounded her home, and piping to the birds, which used to flutter around him and even perch on his shoulder. One of her uncles was a cripple, and found solace in music, playing many instruments well; so from the first she breathed a musical atmosphere. At the mature age of five she made her first appearance in public at a concert in connection with their church, and appeared as a reciter, not as a singer. Although possessing an unusual voice for a child, her parents never dreamed of her becoming a professional singer.

IN common with their neighbours they rather looked down upon artists in general, and, as there had never been a professional singer in the family, it was not proposed that she should do anything except marry. She incontinently fell ill with typhoid, complicated with brain fever, and for long her life hung in the balance. On her recovery a sea voyage was ordered; and so it came about that in 1891 she landed in England on a fortnight's visit, and it has been her home ever since. An Englishman she knew in Boston had asked her to bring over a parcel for his friend, Mr. Henry J. Wood, then a comparatively obscure student. She duly sent off the parcel, and in reply Mr. Wood asked her to meet him, for the purpose of hearing her voice. She learned later that the sender of the parcel had written to Mr. Wood to be sure to hear her sing. She went and sang, and, either by accident or design, Mr. N. Vert and Mr. Edward Lloyd were present.

NOTHING much was said at the time, but a few days later, when at a Patti concert at the Albert Hall, Mr. Vert came up to Miss Esty and said, "How would you like to sing here?" At first she thought he was joking, and answered that it would be "Just too awfully nice." When he urged, she saw that he was in earnest, and she simply gasped, "Oh, I couldn't; I'm sure I couldn't!" "I think you could," he said, smiling; and the long and the short of it was that she sang for the first time as a professional at the next Patti concert. After the Albert Hall she appeared at the Crystal Palace, and next at St. James's Hall, and then received several offers from managers and agents.

ONE offer was from the Carl Rosa Opera Company, which she accepted. The six years spent in Carl Rosa Opera were full of hard work, and before she left her répertoire must have consisted of nearly fifty rôles. Of her work since, we may mention her creations of the rôles of Mimi in *La Bohème* and (in English) of Eva in *Die Meistersinger*. One Good Friday she sang at the Crystal Palace to the largest audience—over 29,000 people—they have ever had there—a memorable experience, and she also had the honour of singing before Queen Victoria at Balmoral. Alice Esty appeared at the Leeds Empire on Dec. 17 in a new grand operatic scena, written and composed specially for her, entitled *Betta the Gipsy*.

IN her artistic home in St. John's Wood Mme. Alice Esty treasures many a quaint souvenir connected with her operatic career. One which the prima donna especially values is a curiously-fashioned brooch made from an antique topaz trophy. This stone, explained Mme. Esty, was once possessed by a famous Indian necromancer, who claimed that by appealing to its power he was able to command the appearance of food and drink. One night the necromancer lay by a suffering comrade on a battlefield. Hearing the poor fellow moaning in an agony of thirst, he took the charm from his bosom and threw to the sufferer, saying, "Wear it near thy heart if thy parched throat would find relief." The strange command was obeyed, and when at dawn the grateful soldier looked for his benefactor no trace could be found.

MR. HARRY LAUDER, the canny Scotch comedian, is emphatically a "man of parts." He could sing from his cradle, and knew no luxury until he had persuaded his fellow-countrymen that he possessed humour. His first job was to pull strawberries. A condition laid on the boys so employed was that they should "whussle" all the time. Young Lauder couldn't whistle—so he left! He passed gradually to the stage, but it was a long, hard road to success there. For instance, he was so encouraged on one occasion by an engagement for ten performances, at three guineas, that he went and bought astrachan for his coat-collar!

SOME funny experiences have fallen to Mr. Lauder, and in the story of his life recently published is the following amusing anecdote about a Scottish farmer to whom Barry gave a cigar: "Mon, I havena' smoked a cigar since I got my eldest dochter aff my hands. I was that gled tae see her get a man that I didna' gie a d—— what I smoked."

A NIGHT he remembers well was at Glasgow, when a cruel voice from the audience cried: "Awa' back tae the pit, man!" As a set-off, there was the other night, in London, when the Scottish comedian got a "show"—because an artist was absent—at Gatti's, and promptly made his conquest of London. "Lauder, my lad," said Tom Tinsley, the manager, "you've done it." And he had.

THE best compliment ever paid to Mr. Lauder he heard outside the London, Shoreditch. "All right, 'Arry," shouted a young fellow outside the stage-door, "I vas so glad to see you doin' vell. You're a countryman of mine own—I vas proud of you." And then, with a typical Jewish waggle of his hands, "Vy, I'm from de Gorbals (in Glasgow). Scotland for ever!"

WHEN Mr. Lauder was sent to work early in life as a pit-boy, beginning as a "trapper"—or opener of the air-course doors—he soon was promoted to pony-driving. At the Alhambra matinée in aid of the victims of the Courrières coal mine disaster he gave touching expression to a song of collier life, which he sang in his former working clothes and equipment. His first fee for singing at a concert was 5s. In 1892 he gained a prize at a public competition in Glasgow, and this decided him to exchange the mine for the stage. He was then only twenty-two, and married.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

WE regret to learn, as we go to press, that Mr. William Francis, the head of the firm of Francis, Day, and Hunter, and founder of the Mohawk Minstrels, lies seriously ill. Mr. Francis is highly esteemed in every branch of the profession, and the news of his illness will cause the deepest sympathy.

MR. BERT H. DELMAR writes that the song, "I can't make it out, can you?" was written and composed by himself, and that Mr. Fred Erick has only been one amongst others who have made a success with it. "If there are any feathers to be had," he adds, "they should be worn by Mr. Frank Lynne."

WHAT has every appearance of proving a great favourite, owing to its fine melody and its rollicking, joyous vein of optimism, is the new ditty which Mr. Richard Green so ably sings, and which is called "Cheero!" It is by Percy Rhys and Gilbert Laye, and has just been published by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MISS VESTA TILLEY'S latest winner, "Jolly good luck to the girls who love the soldiers," by F. W. Leigh and Kenneth Lyle, will shortly be issued by Messrs. Francis and Day, among whose most recent purchases are also a novelty number, entitled "Epha Sapha Sampson," written and composed by Seth Weeks, and sung by Johnson and Dean and Miss Millie Correne; "'Twas the favourite song of the singer," by J. F. Lambe and Harry Castling; and "Half a loaf is better than none," a song by Harry Castling worthy to rank with the same author-composer's "It's the poor that help the poor.' Mr. Tom Yorke, the well-known coster comedian, is the lucky owner of the music-hall rights of this striking number.

MISS FLORRIE GALLIMORE'S newest song, "We are all stars," by Barnes and Weston, is in the press, having been accepted for publication by Messrs. Francis and Day. Miss Gallimore has just acquired a number by H. F. Greenfield, the first this new writer has written for this popular artist.

UNDOUBTEDLY an emphatic hit, and a prime factor in the success of the Alhambra's present fine programme, is Miss Annie Mars' rendering of "Home again, my Cherry Blossom," by Charles Wilmott and H. E. Darewski, jun. Messrs. Francis and Day are publishing the morceau.

THE Star Music Company, Ltd., has made an astounding leap into prominence considering they did not really commence operations till towards the end of November. Possibly the fact that those well-known writers A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott are on the board of directors may account for the firm's popularity. They themselves pooh-pooh this idea, and confidently find the necessary explanation in the instantaneous success achieved by their latest ditty, "Sailing in my balloon."

MESSRS. B. FELDMAN AND CO. are to be congratulated on having secured from A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott the big winner for pantomime, "By the side of the Zuyder Zee" is now freely acknowledged by all to be the one outstanding number of the present season. It has swept over the country from end to end like a huge tidal wave, and Messrs. Feldman find it well nigh impossible to cope with the enormous demand for copies.

MR. BENNETT SCOTT may consider himself doubly lucky in having also composed one of, if not the biggest number for Francis and Day. "Hello! hello! hello! It's a different girl again" (written by Geo. Arthurs) will undoubtedly prove one of that popular firm's largest sales for months to come, and if one may judge by the earlier pantomimes, will be the cause of uproarious merriment throughout the land. Much credit is due to Mr. Whit Cunliffe, the original singer of this infectious ditty, who has done so much to popularise it on the halls. Miss Letia Roze, the gallant Prince of the Marlborough *Cinderella*, is making it familiar in Holloway by her very breezy rendering.

AFTER Christmas it is a popular fallacy that Mr. Lester Barrett has breathing-time allowed him, but so widespread has been the success of the multifarious pantomime songs he has been engineering that the demand instead of slackening has increased, and business with the department he controls at Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's is brisker than ever.

MR. TOM LEO opens on Monday at the Ealing Hippodrome with his now celebrated "Lazy" song, the popularity of which has been exemplified in no uncertain manner this Yuletide as evidenced by the demand for copies from the publishers.

MR. T. E. DUNVILLE has just produced with enormous success a new chorus-song, entitled "Down where the briny breezes blow," which has been secured for immediate publication by the Shapiro, Von Tilzer Music Company, Ltd.

MISS ETHEL RA LESLIE is featuring with much success on the Moss and Stoll tour Shapiro, Von Tilzer's publications, "Nana" and "Moonbeam." Miss Leslie will also shortly produce another of the above company's songs, "Little girl, tell me what I would know."

MENTAL MAGNETISM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—Kindly allow me to correct a statement in some of the daily papers to the effect that "the séance of 'Mental Magnetism' was first presented at the St. George's Hall in the Easter of 1905."

This séance was studied and practised by Mr. Devant and my daughter Adela (who is now playing Dolly Dimple in the Paisley pantomime), and presented by them throughout the Maskelyne and Cooke tour of 1904-5.

During the last few weeks of the tour, and for the purpose of production in London, Miss Dora Devant understudied Miss Adela Crispin, who is the original lady medium of "Mental Magnetism," the character of which has not since been changed.—Yours very truly,

HOWARD CRISPIN.

Wave Crest, Whitstable-on-Sea, Dec. 27.

THE ball given at Covent Garden on the night of the 21st inst. proved most successful. The spirit of Christmas dominated the music and dancing, and the dresses were emblematic of the season and topical subjects. Among the more fanciful were "Nuts to Crack," "Winter," "A Suffragette," "A Clown," and "A Scotch Cold." Many other costumes showed invention, taste, and beauty. About twelve o'clock dancing began to the delightful strains of Dan Godfrey's band. The prizes included a Stanhope canteen fitted with a complete service of electro plate and cutlery, an inlaid mahogany enclosed writing table, a lady's dressing bag, an epergne, a tea and coffee service, a chiming clock, and other valuable objects.

PRESENTATIONS.—At the close of the Christmas Eve performance of *Jack the Giant Killer* at Falkirk Grand Theatre and Opera House, Miss Blane, on behalf of the staff and several patrons of the house, presented the baby son of Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt, the local manager, with a handsome baptismal bowl mounted on an ebony stand. Mrs. Ebbutt, in a neat speech, acknowledged the present for her son, and also the gift of a gold locket and chain to her little girl, Miss Edith Dorothy Gordon-Ebbutt. At the conclusion of *The Still Alarm* company's run a few weeks ago Messrs. Glenville and Osmond presented Mr. Ebbutt with an electro-plated tea service.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE OXFORD.

The principal novelty in Mr. Blyth-Pratt's Yuletide programme is *The Sunny Seaside*, the new and elaborately staged farcical sketch produced by the popular cockney comedian, Mr. Joe Elvin, on Monday evening. Mr. Wal Pink, who has written so many successes for Mr. Elvin, is the author; the music is by Mr. Orlando Powell; and the scenery is the work of Mr. Syd Cook, the whole being produced under the personal supervision of Mr. Blyth-Pratt. The principal characters and their interpreters are as follow:—

Jimmy Jubbles ..... MR. JOE ELVIN
Mrs. Jubbles ..... MISS AMY B. ELLIS
Tommy Jubbles ..... MR. KENNETH ALTAMONT
Aunt Emma ..... MISS BEATRICE GROSVENOR
Horace ..... MR. F. W. FORD
Mr. Harkwith ..... MR. HARRY LOW

The sketch is in two "splashes," and in the first—an apartment in the home of Mr. Jimmy Jubbles, manager of Sopperton's Stores—we quickly learn that the cause of the excitement which prevails in the Jubbles' ménage is the annual summer holiday. Mrs. Jubbles is very decided in her opinion that a month by the briny would be most beneficial to the children; but Jimmy is not at all anxious for a trip to the seaside. The wife suggests various well-known resorts, but none of them meet with the approval of her worried spouse, who would much prefer a few days' racing at "Epsom-on-the-'ill." The arrival of a substantial cheque from Jimmy's governor, however, considerably improves matters, and Jubbles consents to take all the family away at once—Aunt Emma, a portly and somewhat giddy lady, included. Then the real fun commences, and when a dozen or so huge trunks are stacked on top of a four-wheeler, and Mr. and Mrs. Jubbles and their little brood, and Aunt Emma, endeavour to squeeze themselves inside, laughter of the loudest is created, the cab collapsing just as they are about to start. The second "splash" of the sketch is a most complete representation of the sands at a popular watering-place. A merry throng of gaily-clad promenaders are enjoying the vocalism of a troupe of entertainers; from the side of a most realistic pier small boys are patiently waiting for a "bite"; children are building castles of real sand, and bathers are seen disporting themselves in real water—in fact, as the programme claims for it, there is all the "real fun of the sea-shore." The arrival of the Jubbles family livens up matters considerably, and the climax is reached when Jimmy paddles in the "briny," goes in for a donkey-ride, and joins in the frolics of the youngsters. Ere the curtain falls, Aunt Emma and three policemen are hurled into the vasty deep, numerous other incidents of a laughable nature adding to the fun of this most humorous playlet, the success of which was acclaimed in no uncertain fashion on Monday, Mr. Elvin and those associated with him in this lavishly-staged and most realistic production being recalled at its conclusion. Mr. Elvin is of course entirely in his element in the part of Jimmy Jubbles, and will be even funnier when relieved of the responsibilities of a first-night performance. Especially ludicrous were his antics on the sands, but his portrayal throughout was a most humorous one. He received excellent support from his company, Mrs. Jubbles having an excellent representative in Miss Amy B. Ellis; Mr. Kenneth Altamont evoking laughter for a funny portrayal of an attenuated youth; and Miss Beatrice Grosvenor also contributing to the hilarity created by her impersonation of Aunt Emma; the other parts being all ably enacted.

Early in the programme a most enjoyable and loudly-applauded turn was supplied by Mendel, the accomplished blind pianist, his contributions on Monday including a Mendelssohn Concerto, an imitation of a street-organ, and the rendering of three distinct tunes at the same time. Mr. Gus Elen, a favourite at the Oxford, amused greatly by his singing of "Mariar" and "The Pavement Artist," two humorous ditties which gain immensely by the finished renderings given them by the clever and popular comedian; and Mr. Harry Champion rattled off at express speed, "I see you've got the old brown hat on" and "What a month!" two comic effusions that were entirely to the liking of Monday's audience, Mr. Champion receiving a most flattering reception. Miss Clarice Mayne warbled of "Tricky little Trixie," a damsel who evidently knows her way about, and gave some excellent imitations of Misses Connie Ediss, Victoria Monks, Vesta Victoria, and Marie Lloyd, the two last being especially like the originals. Real cleverness and humour are combined in the acrobatic performance of Price and Revost, a turn that was heartily enjoyed; Miss Nina Martino vocalised agreeably; the sand-dancing of Miss Bijou Russel was applauded at its true worth; the D'Osta Trio, flying ring acrobats, and the Eugene Family, in their aerial performance and smart somersaulting, were rewarded with loud plaudits for their arduous and clever exhibitions; and Miss Nellie Wallace's eccentric style was largely responsible for the mirth aroused by her two songs, "In the cottage with the roses at the door" and "I can't go to sleep." Those expert cyclists, Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, executed many difficult tricks, with all their well-known ease and cleverness, the comedian of the trio adding to the enjoyment of an always acceptable turn; and Mr. J. P. Ling, an accomplished vocal mimic, was heard with decided pleasure in his imitations of various entertainers at a vocal concert, the singing of "Hail, smiling morn" by a glee party being an especially clever and laughter-compelling item. Miss Bonnie Goodwin and her quaint little piccaninnies aroused some of the loudest applause of the evening, the wonderful dancing of the darky youngsters being responsible for an exceptional display of enthusiasm; Mr. Ryder Slone sang a quietly-humorous ditty concerning a goose—truly a quaint old bird; and other enjoyable items were contributed by the Three Prestons, in their laughable absurdity, *The Liftman's Rise*; Mr. Will Van Allen, musical comedian; and Miss Ada Cerito, a smart comedienne.

THE SURREY.

The good old spirit of Christmas enjoyment started here on Christmas Eve, when crowded houses foregathered to sample Mr. Frank Macnaghten's splendid holiday programme, and the enthusiastic approval then bestowed on each individual turn has been heartily maintained throughout the week by packed audiences. Premier honours are accorded to that sterling sketch *The Little Stowaway*. The tale is too familiar to reiterate, and many capable artists have essayed the title-rôle, but none have done better in this protean character than Miss Eva Lumley, who in every phase of the trying representation hold the earnest, eager, and sympathetic attention of her audience. Miss Lumley so thoroughly realises the part that there is hardly a dry eye in the house when the poor little Stowaway, knowing he cannot survive the fatal shot, asks the kind-hearted boatswain, "Have I done my duty, sir?" in fact, throughout she easily leads her audience to alternate laughter and tears. Mr. J. K. Walton has fairly got inside the part of the bluff old sea-captain, Worsley; Mr. H. Shaw invests the unsatisfactory character of Lieutenant Burton with all the necessary force and brutality the rôle demands; as the good, motherly Widow, Miss Maude Osmond imbues her part with deep and tender emotion that adds not a little to the general success; as the jovial, singing Boatswain, Mr. H. Metcalfe proves he can sing as well as he can act; his rendering of the songs "Au revoir," "Somebody," and "The Handyman" wins marked and well-merited applause. In direct contrast is Fred Southern's exhilarating farcical absurdity, *His Lordship's Birthday*, and this clever comedian has made the title-rôle entirely his own, his delineation of the village tinker, who finds himself, through unforeseen circumstances, enforced to assume the rôle of a Lord, is full of fun, and his low comedy touches have not lost a particle of their humour by repetition. The same may be said of every member of his clever company, which includes Miss May Emery as the Cook, Miss Gipsy Alexander as the Housemaid, Mr. Charles Ashwell as the Butler, Mr. J. Priestley as the Footman, and Mr. Percy Emery as the perplexed and bewildered Lord.

Mr. Charles Vandyke and his company of pantomimists appear in a sketch, entitled *Nicodemus*, which, when played more briskly, will develop into a riot of mad movement and endless fun. As a strong extra turn comes Raleigh Abrahams and his company in an amusing comedy boxing scena, *Fun in a Pawnshop*. The fun is admirably sustained, and is varied with some clever boxing. Jenny Belmore also appears as an extra, and she receives an ovation for her *chic* rendering of her lively songs, "My old man's a sailor" and "The mischievous imp," with its accompanied energetic and clever dancing. Hyam Travers hits off to a nicety the eccentricities of "The Cockney costers' Bank Holiday at Rye House," and keeps the audience laughing with his merry patter, and is equally successful in his smart interrogatory song "Yes, yes, yes." The Singing Mill Lads, who have come from loom to stage, give a fine rendition of the ballad "Love, I will guard you" and the ever-popular "Excelsior." Bertha Winder is a marvellously clever dancer; Willie Gardener is an expert in the same line of business; and other contributors to the enjoyment are Pauldon, an athlete, who is assisted in his astounding exhibition of strength and endurance by H. W. Victor; and Gracie Kebble, a *chic* and smart comedienne and dancer. The perfect order maintained speaks volumes for the efficiency of the acting-manager, Mr. Chas. Craig.

MR. GEORGE BROOKS.

Mr. George Brooks, who plays the dame part, Sister Ann, in the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, this season, was born in Yorkshire, but brought up in London from the age of one year. He began his career as comedian in the music halls, one of his first engagements being at St. James's Hall, Plymouth, Dec. 10, 1888, with Jolly Little Lewis. He has played on and off at Mr. Oswald Stoll's and Mr. Horace and the late Mr. Lechmere Livermore's halls, nearly eighteen years. He also played the principal comedy part, Pillario, the quack doctor, in Mr. Fredericks' *Rose of Alhambra* burlesque, for three years, forty-two weeks a year.

Mr. Brooks's first appearance in pantomime was at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, where he appeared as Dame Ethelwyn Tompkins in *Dick Whittington*, 1891-2; since then he has played Seraphina, the ugly sister, in *Cinderella*, Pavilion Theatre, 1892-3; Mrs. Sinbad, *Sinbad the Sailor*, 1893-4; and Dame Durden, the nurse in *Babes in the Wood*, at the same theatre, 1894-5; Idle Jack, *Whittington*, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, 1895-6; Widow Twankey, *Aladdin*, Grand Theatre, Glasgow, 1896-

Photo. by Burnicle.

MR. GEORGE BROOKS.

7; Widow Twankey, *Aladdin*, Grand Theatre, Birmingham, 1897-8; 'Arriet, the cook, *Whittington*, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, 1898-9; Widow Twankey, *Aladdin*, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1899-1900; Mrs. Crusoe, *Robinson Crusoe*, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, 1900-1; he appeared as the Widow Twankey in *Aladdin*, at the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, 1901-2; also at the Theatre Royal, Leeds, 1902-3; Opera House, Middlesbrough, 1903-4; Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, 1904-5; Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1905-6; this year being his sixteenth pantomime, and his fifteenth year as dame. He has played Widow Twankey, his favourite part, eight times. He was three years with Percy and Arthur Milton (Milton Rays), two years with Fred Wyndham, five years with J. F. Elliston, three with Fred Fredericks, and three years at the Pavilion Theatre, London, in pantomime. Mr. Brooks is well booked by Mr. Fred Higham, his agent, in Moss and Stoll's tours, Frank Macnaghten and Walter Gibbons' tours, and all the principal London halls for the next three years. His agent for pantomime for the last eleven years is Mr. Herbert Blackmore. He is the original singer of those successful songs, "And his day's work was done" and "Yarns the Captain told the Mate." His latest are, "Would you mind passing the salt?" "Thats' what they told to me," "He got the job," and "There is a happy land."

Mr. Brooks's favourite pastimes are walking, rowing, and swimming. He is a Mason (Liverpool Dramatic Lodge), and a member of the Ancient Order of Buffaloes (Britannia Theatre Lodge). His wife, Miss Lizzie Daniels, is also in the profession.

IN a paragraph in the "Variety Gossip" of a recent issue it was stated that the "Society Pierrots," then leaving for India, were the first troupe of pierrots to perform in that country. We learn that Mr. D. Gardner-Brown's company of pierrots opened in India on Sept. 14 of this year, and are at present enjoying a very successful tour.

DOLLY, Agnes, and Maud, the "Factory Nightingales," after a successful provincial tour, return to the London halls on Monday.

MISS MAUDE MORTIMER sails to-day (Saturday) for South Africa. Will Oliver has filled all her dates for several years to come.

MR. ARCHIE HOWELLS, the musical-director at the Canterbury, has unfortunately been away this last week from business with a severe attack of influenza. He hopes, however, to resume business on Monday.

A NEW YEAR'S APPEAL
IN AID OF
THE MUSIC HALL BENEVOLENT FUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Although you have for many years past done all in your power to urge the claims of our charity, I feel I owe you an apology for trespassing upon your valuable space at this period of the year when every inch of your columns is rightly devoted to recording all the happiness and joy of the festive season—a season which, by contrast, makes the serious position of our Fund, if possible, more acute and distressing.

We have at the present moment in the bank just about enough money in hand to enable us to pay our pensioners their weekly allowances for the next three months, with very little more for the other weekly claims made upon us for relief or funeral expenses, and unless substantial aid is immediately forthcoming, notices will have to be issued that these payments will be the last the Fund can make.

Will the charitably disposed come to the rescue? The increasing aid we have recently received from the managers of many of the London and provincial halls, from the pence box and book collections, would be in time sufficient, but the seed is only just sown, and while waiting for the crop disaster may overtake us.

Will you help to remedy this, and print this letter in your next issue in a prominent position? The kind hearts who have already assisted, and others who have not, will perhaps, on knowing the dire stress of the situation, come to our aid.

The *bis dat qui cito dat* argument was never truer than now, so I beg that all interested will please bring or send a donation to me at the offices of the Fund, when any information as to the administration or distribution will gladly be given.

One hundred and fourteen poor professionals during the past eight years have been buried by the Fund, who otherwise would have been buried in pauper graves. Thanking you in anticipation, I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

HORACE MARRIOTT, Secretary.

Music Hall Benevolent Fund,
18, Adam-street, Strand, W.C.
Christmas Day, 1906.

MOSS'S WAVERLEY CARNIVAL.

Nothing succeeds like success, and Moss's twenty-second carnival at Waverley Market, Edinburgh, which commenced on Monday forenoon, is assured of its wonted three weeks' prosperity. The extensive Market Hall has been, as usual, transformed in appearance by coloured draperies, evergreen garlands, and many-hued electric lamps, and the gigantic Christmas tree, laden with its novel toys for the first thousand children lucky enough to enter the market, is a prominent object. The well-appointed stage for the variety performances stands in its accustomed place; the floor area is dotted with innumerable stalls, where almost every kind of harmless diversion may be had in penny-worths; Wilmot's famed merry-go-rounds, horses, and motor-cars, with their attendant steam organs, occupy their old places, the shooting galleries have their appointed location, and the gipsies are in their encampment.

An enjoyable programme of entertainments is gone through on the open stage twice daily, the musical portion of which is provided by the band of the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, under the direction of Bandmaster J. H. Fowles. The Sauteron Wonders perform some extraordinary jumping feats over chairs, tables, couches, pianos, into and out of baskets, blindfolded, in sacks, and otherwise. The Four Geraldos give a remarkably clever exhibition of club juggling and hoop rolling; La Bell Nino, a dexterous lady contortionist and equilibrist, contorts herself, not only gracefully, but very wonderfully, sitting with apparent comfort on the back of her own head; Stelling and Revell provide some good fooling in their smart gymnastic comedy act; and a grotesque trio of amusing American acrobats is found in Spissel Brothers and Mack. The De Wynne Brothers are truly marvellous head and hand balancers, performing some most difficult feats in easy and artistic style. A lively turn is that of the Seven Perezoffs, whose comic juggling pantomime, entitled *An Evening in a Parisian Café*, is carried through with great skill. What Mr. A. D. Robbins, the extraordinary Canadian cyclist, cannot do on a bicycle is difficult to conceive, and what he actually does would seem to exhaust all the possibilities of trick cycle riding. Herr Paul Conchas, the Teuton military Hercules, gives a most interesting display of muscular strength and deftness in the manipulation and balancing of Krupp shells, cannon balls, and other weapons of modern warfare. Professor Duncan's Troupe of trained Scotch collies afforded much satisfaction, and their great motor act provoked genuine amusement. Spessardy's performing bears—also old and welcome friends—are another wonderful instance of what animals may be taught to do. Their antics and accomplishments were vastly diverting and thoroughly appreciated.

The side shows, distributed as formerly in great profusion all round the building, are of every degree of comparison, with something to suit all tastes and orders of intelligence, from the Three Small Heads of Central Mexico to Johnny Trunley, the phenomenal fat boy of Peckham, or from the Russian Prince Colibri, with his twenty-four inches of altitude, to the eight feet seven inches of the French Goliath, Henri Cot. With these notables will also be found other interesting exhibitions and startling illusions, such as the Four Indian Fakirs, Prince Samouda's miracle, "The Witch's Table," Pharos, the Egyption wizard, Dr. Lynn's Palengenesis, involving the piecemeal destruction and restoration of the human being; So-Da, showing the creation of a woman out of nothing; Harcourt's mysterious blackboard; not forgetting a miniature Zoo, where may be seen many curious beasts and birds.

LA MILO AND CRUICKSHANK.

La Milo is now back in town, after a triumphant, but by no means serene, tour of the provinces. Local "bumbledom" has been greatly exercised with regard to her celebrated poses, and in some towns the Puritanical opposition was very great. In Cardiff, for instance, the attack became so personal that Mr. Cruickshank has been compelled to take libel proceedings against those responsible. In Manchester the Rev. Benjamin Gregory was the man of the hour; though applauding the act, he drew a terrible picture of the evil effects it might have on *children*! The local magistracy in Liverpool met in solemn conclave to discuss the terrible La Milo, while a wordy war raged in the Press. At Cardiff there was more trouble. This time the famous Mrs. Chant took up the cudgels, but her opposition was singularly ineffective, and simply reflected more lustre on the fair *poseuse*. Dr. Rawlings, at Swansea, denounced La Milo from the public platform, and so excited became public opinion that mounted police were called out to calm the waiting crowds outside the theatre—a record in the dramatic annals of Swansea. Newport was not to be left in the cold, and here several of the Watch Committee (a local institution possessing fearful and wonderful powers) approached the theatre manager, and politely asked him to withdraw the lady. He naturally refused, and the matter was afterwards discussed by the County Council, who upheld the manager's action. At Holloway and Camberwell La Milo packed [illegible] houses to suffocation. This week the [illegible] Empire won't hold the crowds [illegible] the famous *poseuse*. Com[illegible]

THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

NEW YEAR'S APPEAL.

Once more we take pleasure in opening our columns to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of the Music Hall Home, and in doing so we take still further pleasure in being able to associate with that appeal the names of the president of the fund, Mr. Thomas Barrasford, and Miss Vesta Victoria. Mr. Barrasford's kindly offices in connection with the Music Hall Home are well known, and the fact that he has again given permission for the use of his name in calling attention to the requirements of the home is a guarantee—if, indeed, guarantee were needed—that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support. It is also gratifying to be able to associate with the New Year's appeal such a prominent

Photo by Brook.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD,

President of the Music Hall Home.

variety artist as Miss Victoria. When seen at her delightful home in Stockwell Park one day this week by our interviewer, Miss Victoria, who, by the way, is now commencing her preparations for her forthcoming visit to America, stated that she would be delighted to give what assistance she could in order to be of service in such a worthy cause, which she desired us specially to commend on her behalf to her brother and sister artists. Surely, with such sponsors, the money should come rushing along with the swiftness and volume of an avalanche.

There can be no question as to the usefulness of the Music Hall Home. Its address is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, S.E., and Mr. and Mrs. Fruin, the secretary and matron respectively, put forward every effort for the comfort of the inmates. At present there are eight of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past year two or three of the temporary inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as this must be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses will be paid for out of the funds of the home. The vice-presidents and the committee are sincerely desirous of increasing its scope of usefulness. They would like to be in a position to afford shelter to many more deserving members of the variety profession, who have been stricken with poverty and illness in their declining years, or who in other ways have fallen upon evil times.

We feel we need say little more. Mr. Barrasford

Photo by Otto Sarony and Co.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA,

Who will help the Music Hall Home Fund.

and Miss Victoria join in a strenuous appeal for the generosity of the profession in support of *The Era* Shilling Fund. When, twelve months [illegible] brought before our readers the claims [illegible] serving charity, a very considerable [illegible] was collected in [illegible] year's appeal [illegible] obligations [illegible] parlance, "down on their luck," whom, by reason of their age, are [illegible] in that unhappy condition. There is no [illegible] nor would it be right, to harrow your feelings [illegible] tales of poverty and misery. You have contributed handsomely in the past, and we know that you will do so again, and we shall be glad to acknowledge your donations in these columns. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift is the hon. treasurer, and he will be pleased to receive postal orders and cheques addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"THE FOOTBALL MATCH."

A Christmas attraction, under the title of *The Football Match*, was produced at the Palace, Manchester, on Monday afternoon, Dec. 24. It is written and invented by Fred Karno and Fred Kitchen, and purports to depict, after many interesting preliminaries, the final cup-tie between the Middleton Pie-cans and the Midnight Wanderers. The expectation of a mirth-provoker worthy to rank with the best of the many well-known Karno productions, and a seasonable one to boot, attracted one of the biggest audiences that have ever been seen in this popular music hall, and certainly the anticipation of something really funny was not disappointed. The action opens in the training-quarters of the Middleton Pie-cans, at "The Bull," where the members of this wonderful combination of players are seen getting fit for the coming struggle under the urgent supervision of their trainer. Athletic exercises are, of course, less in evidence than eccentric acrobatics and comic tumbling, and the general physique of the club is hardly on the side of fitness and symmetry. An attempt to bribe certain members to lose the match is on foot, and the attempt is watched by a detective, who bears no resemblance to any detective ever seen at Scotland Yard, and whose idea of finding out the delinquents is to watch the action closely from the fragrant precincts of the smoke-room. The chief person to be bribed is Stiffy, the goal-keeper, whose integrity, however, in spite of his many oddities of conduct, is proof against temptation. What his prowess may be on the field does not really matter; it is enough for the audience that his true vocation is that of a comedian, and the extent of his fitness for the stage is demonstrated with ample effect by Mr. Harry Weldon. To follow in detail the many comicalities which enliven the action in the grounds at "The Bull" would be, if it were possible, to reconceive an infinite variety of spontaneous doings, such as the Karno comedians commonly employ in their embellishment of a theme; suffice it to say that the progress of affairs was accompanied by uproarious laughter, which continued through the second scene—the exterior of the football ground—where a most realistic effect was produced by the turnstiles, and a crowd of a hundred auxiliaries employed from the Manchester streets. The third scene, the Dressing-room, gave a typical and interesting peep into the immediate preliminaries of a match; and the fourth, the scene of the struggle on which the honour of the Pie-cans and the defeat of conspirators depended, proved a spacious and lifelike picture of a football field. On the match itself, no expert opinion is required. In the composition of the teams, some one-time famous players were introduced, namely, J. W. Crabtree and W. C. Athersmith (late of Aston Villa), and Fred Spikesley (late of Sheffield Wednesday); but the function of this trio was not to give an exhibition of the game against the less experienced company of comedians, who were playing their own game for the audience; they added a touch of realism, and served to give the play just a suspicion of definite form. Goals were scored, and easily; but the chances against the Pie-cans, one may take it, are nullified by an arrangement, quite in keeping with the spirit of the piece, that no matter how many goals may be scored on either side the result shall be announced as a draw, no score. The match, however, after a half-time score of 0-0 on the principle just named, was brought to a conclusion by a heavy fall of rain, which on Monday looked as though the actual wet afternoon outside had suddenly broken furiously through the roof. In the course of the action, some capital business, vocal and characteristic, was introduced by Messrs. Harry Weldon, Ernie Myers (Tough, the trainer), Robb Gilmore (the 'tec), Will Poluski, jun. (Ratty, the forward), and Miss Lily Lonsdale, who was encored for her singing of "Zuyder Zee." The production was in the hands of Mr. Harold Hilliard, under the personal supervision and direction of Mr. Fred Karno; and the scenery and effects, from the Karno emporium, were excellently designed and arranged. The piece plays close upon two hours, and is likely to prove an enormous attraction for the holiday season.

CRYSTAL PALACE CIRCUS.

A full measure of entertainment is provided this year in the ring situated at the Centre Transept of the Palace, where Lord John Sanger's Circus opened on Christmas Eve. The aggregation has been recently in the neighbourhood, and the satisfaction then given was no doubt responsible for the liberal patronage which was bestowed. The element of novelty is contained in many items of the programme, which were all fully appreciated. Zampo and Clown, who begin the entertainment, excel as "bounding wonders," doing astonishing leaps and somersaults. A cake-walk on the telegraph wire is accomplished by the Fondants, whose balance on the thin filament of steel is skilfully preserved during many arduous feats. The Austins are a couple of clever jockeys, who are able to bestride one horse while he is careering round the ring, and the playing of leap-frog on the animal's back as he speeds along presents no difficulty to the expert horsemen. Clown Sammy has an inexhaustible supply of funny interludes, and works hard to secure the loud laughter which becomes his due, while a truly laughable absurdity is presented by Major Pimpo, who comes to select horses for the army and tries his skill on a camel, a buck-jumper, and other fearful fowl—with ludicrous results. Roars of laughter are aroused by the Elephant Barbers, who use the lather-brush and the razor expertly, and their various antics are irresistibly amusing. A graceful equestrienne is found in Miss Lina, who puts her horse Hawkcombe through a clever high-school performance, and by delicate manipulation of the rein also induces the pretty animal to execute a dance. A four-horse carriage is necessary for the startling feats of the Maro Troupe, and the unusual sight of smartly-dressed ladies leaving their seats in the wagonette and mounting to the shoulders of their companions, who stand on the horses' backs, is witnessed. A "pony with human brains" is described as Hoffman's latest creation, and the tricks performed by the animal come very near to deserving the appellation. Besides selecting articles from boxes placed round the ring in obedience to his trainer, [illegible] also goes through the trick of eating dinner, then picking a [illegible] placing it on the [illegible] considered [illegible] by Pi[illegible]

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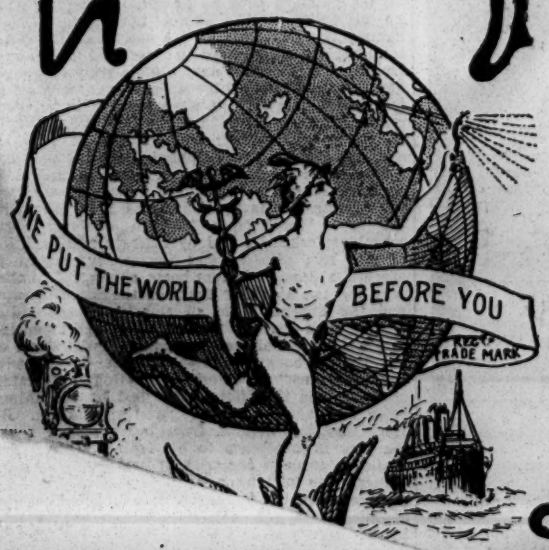

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THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

To all our showmen readers and indeed all who read the Showman World—

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

THE past year has been one of great endeavour, and all sorts and conditions of entertainers may look back upon 1906 with considerable satisfaction. Shows and showmen are better understood and better appreciated than ever before in the growth of our national life. Showmen are drawing closer together, not merely as workers at the same craft and business, but as brothers in a great and ever-growing fellowship.

THE men and women of the fair-ground recognise now more readily than heretofore that if one member suffer we all suffer; that if one man disgraces the show business the whole body is under the stigma and disgrace. Hence the need for combination for unity in the show world. The man who thinks he can go his own way and do just as he likes in the world of shows has missed the most necessary and greatest of all lessons, "that no man liveth to himself alone." The Brotherhood of the Road is slowly but surely making itself felt, and we confidently anticipate in the near future great and lasting good from the sense of unity and fellowship. The Showmen's Guild stands for this—from the very beginning of its beneficent work advance as well as defence has been a formative principle of the organisation.

To defend the showman against evil attack, and at the same time to justify the life and work of the showman by lifting both to higher planes of expression. To only remain on the defensive is to stand still and perhaps to degenerate; to live and to prosper we must advance. This has been signally shown in 1906 by the public work of the Guild. First the successful conference concerning living vans with the County Council of London; showmen welcomed by the Council and their arguments cogent enough to sway the Council and to procure a repeal of obnoxious regulations; the representative character of the Guild recognised by the Home Office, and its petitions accepted as speaking for the whole body of amusement caterers.

AGAIN, consider the eminently successful work of the Guild in Parliament, the recognition of the status of the showman full and complete, and the throwing out of inimical proposals touching the show business and the education of the children.

OTHER points of interest in the past year were the defence of fairs and the response of the people when properly appealed to, as at Mitcham and at Burslem, the people manifestly joining forces with showmen.

THESE and many other things point conclusively to the fact that in all matters touching show life the old Guild is the authority recognised and appealed to by all classes, and it is the old Guild that fully represents all that is best and all that is worth preserving in the world of shows.

THE Preston Christmas pleasure fair opened on the 21st inst. and continued until the 27th. The usual accommodation on the fine open square behind the new County Sessions Hall in the Market-place was provided. Roundabout motors and gallopers were furnished by Mr. John Green, and Mr. Geo. Green sent his large bantam set. Other attractions included swing turnover boats by Mr. Tom Harrison, biograph exhibition by Capt. Tom Payne, shooters by Messrs. Taylor, Garlick, Dewhurst, and Harrison, and throwing games by Messrs. J. Wilson. Messrs. Garlicks, Messrs. Dewhurst, Jim Taylor, and John Ingham.

THE overflow of travellers were provided for in the covered market, where throwing games were provided by Messrs. Richmond, Maloney, and Hartley, football frames by Garlicks and Malloy, Gem swings and Gem horses by Richmond and Malloy, and sweets and refreshments by Messrs. Simpson, Strickland, Maugham, and I'Anson.

THE teetotal ground was occupied by Doc. Harrison's Alpine wire and Messrs. Hackney Bros.' new concern, the American Novelty Car, which consists of the usual "moving and travelling" scenery in cinematography. The audience are seated in an improvised car, which vibrates and gives the "riders" the impression that they are travelling. Instead of an organ, the music is provided by a large gramophone or auxetophone.

IN Church-street the old Local Board offices are occupied by the original Buffalo Bill (Wm. Priest), who is exhibiting a queen of the Basuto tribe. On the open ground in Corporation-street Mr. W. H. Taylor is exploiting his set of overhead jumpers.

THE annual Christmas fair opened on Monday on the Castle Hill, Norwich, and has been well patronised. Messrs. Chrichton and Charles Thurston's cinematograph shows are quite gorgeous outside, and their entertainment inside is first-class in character. Messrs. Barker and Thurston continue their carnival in the Agricultural Hall, and with the side shows are doing a capital business.

CHESTER Christmas carnival had for its attractions Messrs. M. Collins's galloping horses, Mr. C. Farrell's electric theatre, Mr. J. Edmond's electric marionettes, Collins's big boats, juvenile horses, shooting saloon, Aunt Sally, and midget boats, C. Shaw's variety of stalls, comprising ringboards, roll-ups, ticket, and the American fish pond (A. Ball), gingerbread, and Joe and Lillian Dawson's open-air fête, altogether making a real Old English fair.

BEAUTE will be fasting next month at the University of Glasgow, under the professors and doctors there—a twenty-eight days' experiment, commencing on the 7th. During the month of March and April he will commence his attempt to break the world's record again at F. Stewart's museum in High-street, Edinburgh.

WITH deep regret we record the death at Wrexham on Sunday of Mrs. Farrell, wife of Mr. Charles Farrell, the well-known roundabout proprietor, of Chester. The deceased had been ill only a few days, and much sympathy is felt for the bereaved husband and the son and two daughters. Mrs. Farrell, who was in her thirty-eighth year, was a daughter of the late Mr. Job Davies, a well-known amusement caterer of Chester. The funeral took place at the Wrexham Borough Cemetery on Wednesday, when large numbers were present at the graveside to pay a last tribute of respect, and many beautiful wreaths were sent.

ANSWERS TO SHOWMEN.

VICE-PRESIDENT T. N.—*We think you will best consult your own dignity and integrity by ignoring the small-talk of misinformed daily papers. Your professional friends know you too well to believe such rumours. We have given them no countenance.*

HARRY ASHINGTON.—*Send in your present address. A letter we sent you has been returned "Not found."*

J. W. (Glasgow).—*We will write you in a few days. Accept our deepest sympathy and sincerest condolence.*

DEATH OF VICKERS,
THE STROLLING PLAYER.

Mr. W. G. Vickers, one of the most interesting of that now rapidly diminishing band of strolling players, who fill so many fascinating chapters in the history of the drama, will strut and fret upon the stage of his popular little portable theatre no more.

He had intended accompanying his little band of artists to Armley, where they have just completed a successful three months' run prior to providing the Christmas attractions at Normanton. But he fell ill at Pontefract, where in the fulness of years—he was 67—he has just ended his eventful career, and on Saturday, at Burmantofts Cemetery, Leeds, there was the last scene of all. His remains were interred not far from those of the grave of the famous showman Rhodes, while around and about are all that is left of several others who contributed so successfully to the entertainment of bygone generations in this part of the country.

The mourners included Mr. Vickers' widow and daughter, Dr. Philip Foster, Mr. Clarence Foster, Miss Alice Greenwood, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Harry Ives, Mr. Foulding, together with representatives of the deceased gentleman's and Mr. Blake's travelling companies.

A heavily-built, broad-set man, with a thick bushy grey moustache, to which he used to generously apply the blacking brush before appearing in his very numerous list of stage parts, Mr. Vickers has been the means of introducing thousands of Yorkshire folk to a knowledge of the works of the great dramatists.

Who, at some time or other, has not visited Mr. Vickers' little portable theatre at Armley Moor Top, at Selby, Pontefract, Shiple, Idle, and the score of other Yorkshire towns where it had been his wont for two or three months at a time to provide full-night dramatic performances at the popular prices of 3d., 6d., and 1s. a show? There was nothing of the catch-copper order about Mr. Vickers' productions. He was as punctilious and as serious as the greatest of theatrical "stars." He was a stickler for the true text, having a wholehearted disdain for those modern play producers who endeavour to "improve" the conceptions of Shakespeare and the works of other masters.

A native of Sheffield, Mr. Vickers made his first public appearance at Seaham Harbour in the triplicate rôles of Laertes, First Actor, and the Ghost, and has since sustained, with a degree of art not generally suspected in a portable theatre, several of the most difficult Shakespearean characters.

"STARRED" IN "THE MERCHANT OF VENICE."

"His performance of Shylock," writes Dr. Foster, "was most meritorious, and not inferior in grasp and intelligence to the best assumptions of the part by recognised stars." With marked success he also played Ethelwold, Ingomar, and perhaps best of all, Belphegor the Mountebank, of which the late Charles Dillon was so famous an exponent. Mr. Vickers revelled in this character. It suited his grave, sentimental nature. Belphegor drew tears. Mr. Vickers adored Belphegor.

A SALARY OF £20 A WEEK.

In his early life Mr Vickers was four years a member of Mr. W. H. Beresford's travelling company at Sutton-in-Ashfield, at the expiration of which period he began his own managerial career at Rotherham. He has been lessee of the Chesterfield, Goole, and Mexborough theatres, the late Mr. Henry Loraine frequently appearing on his stage, and fulfilling as many as six "starring" engagements in twelve months, receiving what, at that time, was considered the handsome remuneration of £20 a week.

Many actors who, as young men, received their early training under Mr. Vickers, have since attained to honourable distinction in the histrionic world.

HIS JOHNSONIAN DIGNITY.

Apart from his skill as an actor, and his thoroughness and conscientiousness as an organiser, and a producer of plays for the masses, Mr. Vickers possessed an interesting personality. Inclined to be rather reticent, he was "a very grave and reverend signior" type of mortal. He was rarely ever known to make a joke, but cultivated the old-world dignity and address.

"Sir," he would say to a man he wished to communicate with, "I will have speech with you."

His weakness for the redundant use of the word "sir" in private conversation was quite reminiscent of the days of Johnson. His stately bow, his graceful deportment, and his never varying courtesy were also conspicuous characteristics of the man.

"THE ERA."
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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.
(Continued from page 8.)

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—On Saturday night last Mr. Edwin C. Jazon produced his Christmas pantomime, *Cinderella*, to the accompaniment of hearty applause. The book is cleverly written by Mr. Jazon, and the music reflects the highest credit on the composer and arranger, Mr. W. C. Pike. Miss Flo Melville is a well-chosen and pleasing Cinderella; a fine physique and charming style considerably aid Miss Louie Herman, who is a smart Prince; Miss Madge Bryde is an excellent Dandini; Miss Florrie Burnette makes a graceful Queen Bountiful, and sings charmingly; Mr. Stan Aubrey is a most diverting Baron; the ugly sisters are cleverly played by Mr. Chas. Preston and Mr. Alf Brookes; while Mr. Fred Pearce is an unfailing and irrepressible mirth-provoker as Buttons. The specialities are exceptionally fine, including Onda and Leon, an amusing and clever triple bar act; Pearce and Ward, burlesque boxers; Mr. Stan Aubrey, whose legmania work is very smart; Harding and Preston, decidedly clever and expert dancers; and McCann's performing Irish terriers and champion leaping hounds—exceedingly clever animals. The staging and dresses form a wealth of beauty.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. M. Julian.—Mr. Ernest Dare's company opened a four nights' engagement on Wednesday in the drama *By Sheer Pluck*. Mr. Chas. H. Lester is excellent as Captain Gaspard, "the Jersey Devil," playing the smuggler's part to perfection. Mr. Chas. Collins is a good Major Desmond, and Mr. Ernest Dare makes a capital Captain Desmond. In a character part, Mr. Arthur E. Maskell creates a good deal of amusement. Miss M. Lowe-Dare is a sympathetic Nancy Stuart, and Miss Annie Thomas is good as Martha, from Whitechapel. The other parts are well played.

NEATH.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Will Haggar, jun.—On Monday night *The Bugle Call* was staged here. Mr. Will Haggar as Pierre Leroux was a success, Mr. Jack Desmond was good as General Von Tuful, Mr. James Haggar was capital as Poodle, Mrs. Will Haggar as Ninette Leroux was charming, as Marcelle Miss Kate Sylvester and as Margotte Miss Gidding were well placed. On Saturday evening after the performance the genial proprietor and manager was presented by the members of his company with a magnificent writing-desk, suitably inscribed. The pantomime here is *Robinson Crusoe*, the first performance of which was given on Boxing Day.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—A crowded house welcomed *Aladdin*, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's twenty-fourth pantomime. Mr. Harry Lauder, as Roderick McSwankey, a Scotsman in Japan, scores heavily in his well-known song "My Scotch Bluebell." Mr. Lauder's genial, hearty, and happy style keeps the audience in a whirl of laughter. Mr. Dan Crawley, as Aladdin's Mother, also makes a decided hit; Mr. Imro Fox, as Abanazar the magician, was very good, constantly appearing with his mystifying tricks; and with such capable artists as Mr. George Ide, Mr. Arthur Dandoe, Miss Beryl Somerset, Mr. Harker Nicholls, and Miss Bessie Featherstone (Aladdin) the fun and sentiment are safe. Miss Jose Collins was extremely good as the Princess Yo San, her singing being much appreciated, especially her "Fire Fly" song; very dainty, as Saucee, was Miss Bessie Maddox; and, as the Slave of the Lamp and Genii of the Ring, Miss Muriel Varna and Miss Marie Ashton, completed the principals.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Bolan and Bacon; Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—*The Spider and the Fly* is at the above theatre this week, its combination of laughter and tears proving popular. Miss Amy Venimore gives a spirited performance of the Spider; Miss Nina Vaughton, as the Village Pastor's Daughter; Mr. S. Gordon, as Cyril Girdlestone; and Mr. Ellis Preston act exceedingly well.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Moss Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The chief item of an attractive holiday programme is Charles M. Daly and company in the sketch, *The Gorilla's Revenge*, in which is introduced some well-trained, forest-bred lions, a bear, an Indian monkey, and a snake, who performed in a most intelligent manner. Mr. Charles M. Daly is excellent in his interpretation of the Gorilla, and is ably supported by Mr. Geo. Neverall, Mr. Victor Rae, Mr. J. P. Ellis, and Miss Nita Langford. The Three Olympiers give a beautiful exhibition, entitled *Beauty in Bronze*. De Dio, in her marvellous dancing and effects, scores heavily; Ethel Ra Leslie contributes some fine costume songs; Harry Drew Welsh (basso) is in fine voice; Charles Mildare, as an imitator of birds, makes a hit; Prince Kokin is a decidedly smart juggler; and Maud Marlow, comedienne, J. H. Crewe, comedian, and the bioscope are the remaining items.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Business-Manager, Mr. E. B. Clarke.—*The Girl Who Lost Her Character* is the drama that keeps the audience interested at the above theatre this week. It is played by Mr. Douglas Bruce's company. Miss Ethel Bracewell, as Molly Vernon, acts with much vigour; and Mr. J. B. Shinton, as the Parson; Mr. Geo. Steel, as the high-born Private in the Army; and Mr. Frank Adair, as the villain, complete the cast of the principal characters.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Miss Victoria Monks is the star of a very heavy holiday bill here. Mr. Arthur Kenny provides some sensational cycling feats, concluding with a ten-feet drop on the machine. The Grays, as operatic vocalists, are popular; Mr. Gus Barra is effective as the "comic musical motorist"; Raynor and Reece give a fine singing and dancing act; Simosa San gains great applause for her juggling and balancing feats; Mr. Martin Conway is a quaint comic; and Miss Rose D'Alberg (comedienne), and the Ergotti and King Luis Troupe, in a fine risley act, completes the bill.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—On Christmas Eve the opening performance took place here of *Dick Whittington*, the joint production of Mr. J. D. Hunter and Mr. Sidney Cooper, who have been very fortunate in their cast. Dick, the romantic part, is taken by Miss Emily Taylor, a lady who has played in a very extensive Shakespearean répertoire. She has a charming air, which bears evidence of the legitimate business of a superior class. She sings prettily with Miss Rosalie Jacobi (Alice) (who, by the way, is a daughter of the late composer) the duet "A picnic for two." Miss Jacobi has a lovely voice, and sang her first song, "Colombo," admirably. Miss Marjorie Seymour, the Fairy Queen, who first appears in a charming woodland scene, has a fine soprano voice, and used it to advantage in the pretty song, "Sweet wild rose." There is plenty of fun, brightness, and go all through the production. Miss Florrie Bray as Captain is breezy and sparkling. Her balloon song is one of those captivating airs which lay hold of the house, and she bids fair to become extremely popular. Miss Corelli Livesay is dainty and sweet, and in the Octoroon scena there is some clever dancing. De Lillo and Metz do some very clever drawing-room pot-pourri, and Chas. Wood shows twenty faces under one hat. The scenery, which has been painted by Mr. W. D. Hobbs on the spot, is greatly admired; and Mr. Walter Payne's animated pictures are a source of much amusement.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Stoll.—The company is headed by Fred Karno's company in *The Dandy Thieves*, who cause no small amount of merriment. Carney and Armstrong provide a laughable turn; the Shenk Bros. give a clever exhibition of head balancing, and to Ed. Ford, the Australian Sundowner, is given quite an ovation. The Shultzenlieslem Quartette are charming singers; Hettie Chattell, male impersonator, is warmly received; Ernesto does some clever tricks in juggling, and the Monte-Myro troupe of knockabouts and the Bioscope, with scenes from *Aladdin*, complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—Milton Bode's company opened Boxing Day in *A Chinese H[illegible]* success quite in keeping with here. Miss Gwennie H[illegible] clever and humo[illegible] Gladys Ward as Mrs. Pineapple, Miss Maud Adams as Mrs. Brown, Mr. George Rydon as Mr. Pineapple, Mr. Rudolph Kloss as Hang Chow, Mr. Allerton Turner as Chippie Chop, Mr. Leonard May as Li Hung, Mr. Harry Jennings as Tom Hatherton, all work well for the general success.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—A popular Christmas programme is provided by the mysterious and clever show presented by Mlle. Von-Etta, the pleasing and amusing scene given by Spry and Monti, the musical scena of the Ottowas, the chic dancing and vocalism of the Sisters Belmont, the female impersonation by Tacius, the comic singing of Walter Ennis, the singing picture show of Martine and Son, the vocalism of Ruby Holly, the hand walking of Almon; and the Christmas biograph pictures projected by C. Vincent.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—A capital holiday attraction has been provided here by the engagement of the United English Opera Company, which opened on Monday with *Maritana*. As Don Cæsar de Bazan Mr F. S. Gilbert came in for a hearty reception, and Mr. Fred Featherstone created a good impression as Alcade; Mr. H. Blagrave was heard to advantage as the Marquis de Montefoire; Mr. F. C. Silverston made a hit as the King of Spain; Mr. J. Kneale Campbell was an admirable Don Jose, and Mr. James Knox was seen to advantage as Captain of the Guard. In the title-rôle Miss Elsa May was charming; Miss Kate White as the Marchioness Montefoire deserves every praise; Miss Doris Gilbert made a satisfactory Lazarillo, and the chorus acquitted themselves in good style. *Il Trovotore*, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, and *The Bohemian Girl* have also been presented during the week.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—A strong bill of fare is presented here, which is headed by the Regal Opera Singers, who have made a great hit. Messrs. Vasey and Ramsey, speciality artists; the Brothers Smith, musical artists; the Lovelaces, song illustrators; Miss Bertha Norwood, soubrette; Mr. Fred Villars, descriptive and actor vocalist; and the Bio-Photoscope all contribute successfully.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's excellent company in the evergreen comedy, *The Private Secretary*, opened here on Boxing Day. Mr. Donald Price-Evans as the Rev. Robert Spalding is immensely successful; Mr. W. Hargreaves gives a clever representation of Mr. Cattermole; Mr. W. T. Elworthy is good as Mr. Marshland, and Mr. Vivian Gilbert deserves praise as Sidney Gibson. Mr. Jas. P. E. Hussey does well as Harry Marshland, and the same may be said of Mr. Randolfe Reade as Douglas Cattermole; Mr. D. Benford as John and Mr. John Macready as Knox ably assisted. Miss Dora Gray is charming as Edith Marshland, Mrs. Alfred Davis good as Miss Ashford, Miss Cecily Wade successful as Mrs. Stead, and Miss Beth Elliott equally so as Eva Webster.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—A capital holiday programme is presented this week. Gustave Fasola, the wonder worker, heads the bill; J. W. Rickaby has a capital reception for his songs; Cora Williams and company give an entertaining musical mélange; Ray Forde is popular as a comedienne and dancer; David Poole amuses with his ventriloquism; Bert Brantford is successful as a comedian; the Brothers Denant, the airship kings, are amusing acrobats, and Haig and Novel are refined comedy artists. Among the pictures on the Hippo. is the match between Springboks and England, whilst the Hippo. band contributes to the pleasures of the entertainment.

NOTTINGHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker.—There is an excellent holiday bill provided this week, headed by Sydney Bacon's company in a laughable and well-played sketch, *The Duchess of Tooting*; Sydney James's strolling players make a good bid for popularity with an entertainment of singing, dancing, and ventriloquism; a fantastic sketch entitled *Crystal Gazing* is another laughter-producer as presented by Miss Laura Dyson and Mr. W. H. Day; the illusions and magical surprises of Herr Fritz gain hearty applause; the Wolpert Trio of springboard acrobats submit a novel and expert performance; and Alburtus and Millar supply an attractive item. Herr Boris Lensky, a Dutch violinist, is an exquisite player. Harry Lawson, comedian, Harry Coates, the singing navvy, and Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian, also contribute.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edgar O. Waller.—The Raymond Picture company still continues its successful way, this being the twenty-eighth consecutive week, and crowded houses nightly enjoy thoroughly this form of entertainment. A special feature is the singing of illustrated songs by Mr. Broughton Black.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—On Saturday evening Messrs. Dottridge and Longden produced successfully their grand pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*. The "book" has been well written by Mr. J. L. Barry. Among a number of pretty scenes should be mentioned the Realms of Aphrodite, the Island of Golden Palms, Crusoe's little Wooden Hut, and the Summer Palace of King Kickapoo, and Mr. Harry Crane may be congratulated on his highly successful efforts. Miss Margaret Ruby makes a dashing and sprightly hero, and her singing and acting are breezy and inspiriting. Pretty Polly Perkins has a dainty representative in Miss Venie Clements, who sings tunefully and dances in a most graceful style. The Sisters Cora are capital exponents of song and dance in the parts of Jack Taffrail and Sally Starboard; Miss Lillie Calden has some quaint songs as the Princess Starry Eyes, and her dances with Mr. Harry Ray (Will Atkins) are uproariously received; Miss Jennie Rubie, with but little to do as Aphrodite, does it in a very pleasing manner. Mr. Tom Fancourt, the Mrs. Crusoe, makes things merry. Billy Crusoe, one of the successes of the pantomime, is in the capable hands of Mr. Arnold Richardson, whose part is capitally rendered in the Lancashire dialect. Mr. Flockton Foster makes a clever and humorous Captain Cussalotte, and he and Mr. Ray help to keep the fun going. Mr. Alfred Selby as Friday contributes a capital dance; Mr. Ernest Laws as the Cannibal King uses a fine basso with telling effect. Bill Starboard and Tom Mainbrace are played by Elton and Elma, who put in some good knockabout work; also as the Cat and Dog. Mr. Geo. Ess, the composer of the incidental music, has charge of the capable orchestra.

COLOSSEUM.—Manager, Mr. W. Eastwood.—Capital Christmas fare is provided here by Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's juvenile company with *The Sleeping Beauty*. In the title-rôle Miss Dolly Dodds is a great success; Miss Kitty Trewhitt appears to advantage as Prince Florizel; Miss Daisy Fielder as Sir Alfonso and Miss Isa Gibson are excellent in their well-rendered songs; and a great success is the Queen Claribel of Miss May Gibson, whose sweet voice is used with telling effect in her various numbers. Miss Beattie Townsend makes an effective Maligna, and Mr. Will Orston is good as Father Time. At the head of the comedians stands Wee George Wood, who makes the most of his opportunities; Master Jack Harrison as King Fearnought gets in some capital work, and the Bros. Armstrong as the Queen and Asbestos assist him in every possible manner. Miss Nita Paley is very good as the nurse.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Howgate.—Jock Whiteford is drawing large houses here; Permane's Siberian bears go through some excellent tricks; Henri Bekker, a pleasing conjuror, is assisted by Mlle. Maie; the Cecilias are clever in their musical act; Sadie Seymour is a refined comedienne, Mabel Mavis an excellent "glassophonist," Adams and Ward cause merriment with their acrobatic comedy; Thorpe and Coe (Harry and Zoe) take well in their comedy episode. The [illegible] Dottoscope concludes.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, [illegible] sistant-Manager, M[illegible] top the bill [illegible] gains [illegible]

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Ma[illegible] Mr. T. Lucas, J.P.; Acting-Manage[illegible] Dovrill.—Mr. Thomas Sidney and compa[illegible] on Boxing night to a full and appreciativ[illegible] ence with *The Mountain Climber*, preceded *Twenty Years After*. In the Mountain Climb[illegible] Mr. Thomas Sidney was the life and soul of the piece as Mr. Montague Sibsey, and acted with considerable spirit throughout, being ably supported by Mr. Pat Alexander as Mr. Samuel Midgham. Mr. Ralph Lynn was good as Dr. Charles Midgham, and Mr. James Geldard made an excellent Mr. Arthur Lydbrook. Mr. Charles Terrie as Oscar Rheinthaler, and Mr. Fred Chapin as Sepp Rheinthaler both acted well. Miss Josephine Rae was excellent as Mrs. Montague Sibsey; Miss Calypso Valetta made a charming Alice; and Miss D. A. Barrington was well suited as Betty. Lena and Mary found capable exponents in Miss Ella Dixon and Miss Edith Edward.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Bentz.—*Goody Two-Shoes*, a pantomime that is considered the best which has yet been produced by Mr. Savile, is running with complete smoothness, and delighting playgoers. On Monday night Miss Carrie Foy (Peter Piper) was unable to appear on account of loss of voice, but on short notice her place was excellently filled by Miss Nelly Horsley. Mr. Frank Sutherland is to be complimented on his stage managership, a position which he fills most admirably.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Wilson.—A most entertaining programme is submitted here this week by the following artists:—Tarro Myaki, champion ju-jitsu wrestler; Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian; Maudie Ford, comedienne and dancer; Two Daniels, juvenile vocalists and mimics; Three Ettenas, globe speciality performers; Wilfred Heath, baritone vocalist; Mount and Corelli, society entertainers; and Mlle. Sylvia's electric vocal tableaux vivants and the Hippodrome Bioscope are also of the programme.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. H. Savile; Manager, Mr. Joe Wesley.—Those appearing here this week are May Evelyn, serio and dancer; Mons. Twisto, acrobat; Jack Henri, Scotch comedian; Marie Collie, pleasing vocalist; Tom Donaldson, tenor vocalist; Lance Lanard, eccentric comedian; Ormond Carton, lightning painter and topical cartoonist; Stevens and Elmslie, sketch artists; and a capital farce, *The Coming Man*, is also submitted.

PENTRE. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Sole Owners, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Counsell.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company is being cordially received here in *Her Nameless Child*, written by Madge Duckworth and Ridgewood Barrie. Mr. J. W. Evelyn deserves special mention for his interpretation of the forgiving parent; Miss Pattie Hastings cleverly sustains the rôle of Phyllis Ford; Arthur Ford is in the capable hands of Mr. F. R. Gwyn Richardson; and as Lord Henry Woodville Mr. Ellerslie Pyne is seen to advantage; and Miss Grace Jones as Lady Sybil is excellent. Humour is introduced by Mr. Alvin Sawyer and Miss Grace Harlington.

PERTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—The Russell Rosse Repertoire company is here this week, and is delighting highly appreciative audiences with a powerful production of *A Pair of Spectacles*, and also *Caste*, *Scare*, *the Skunk* being given as a curtain raiser each evening. The company is one of all-round excellence.

PLYMOUTH.—PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Ma[illegible] Mr. Jack Field.—A good evening's entertainment is provided for the holiday week. The chief entertainment is provided for the holiday [illegible] The chief item is Boswell's Stage Circus and [illegible] of educated ponies, dogs, and donkeys; an [illegible] able entertainer is Helen Charles, a lady p[illegible] who mimics with life-like accuracy; Rogers [illegible] Weston go through an amusing scena; Star[illegible] Greenop are exceptionally good banjoists. Three Cornish Girls are a good trio of dancers; Billy Farrell gives some cake-walk alities; and Denby and Dent have some patter. The other turns are Nelson [illegible] and Vernon's pictures.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, [illegible] Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. [illegible] The pantomime, *Blue Beard*, is [illegible] in another column.

GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. [illegible] Williams; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy [illegible] Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest [illegible] After having been closed for a short interval for renovation, the Grand opened on Monday with Mr. Bert Coote's company in *A Fatal Wedding*, in which a big attraction is "The Children's Party." In this a number of youngsters, under the training of Miss Hetty Kelly, ably acquit themselves; Mr. Cecil A. Melton ably takes the leading part of Howard Wilson; Mr. Charles Baird gives a meritorious representation of Robert Curtis; Miss Ethel Kay is a dignified Mabel; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh, a typical adventuress; and Miss Hetty Kelly a sympathetic Jessie, the little mother.

PORTSMOUTH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—The attraction offered for the festive season at this house is the musical play, *The Blue Moon*, produced by Mr. Robert Courtneidge, and on Monday evening a good representative audience assembled to give it a hearty welcome. Miss Clarice Lockstone in the name-part is charming simplicity itself, her excellent voice is heard to great advantage. Miss Ethel Callanan, as Evelyn Ormsby, is most amusing in her artless treatment of the part. Millicent Leroy is played by Miss Florence Imeson in a spartkling dainty way. Miss Mabel Sorrel sustains the part of Lady Augusta Brabasham most fittingly. Major Vivian Callabone, in the hands of Mr. Leslie Gaze, is a decided success; Mr. Edward Fraser is a manly and dignified Captain Jack Ormsby; Mr. George Mudie, jun., is well suited to the rôle of Bobbie Scott; Mr. Alfred Beers as Moolraj convulses the house with his burlesque juggling; Private Charles Taylor is played by Mr. Reginald Switz, who is irresistibly funny; and Mr. Thomas Holding as the Prince is also very able. The powerful and augmented orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. Ernest Hurman, does full justice to this merry piece.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—This house reopened on Boxing night with the pantomime, *Little Aladdin*.

EMPIRE PALACE. — Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—A very excellent bill is arranged at this house for the Christmas holidays. Mlle Haydée's interesting miniature marionette theatre is admirably presented; Smith and Johnson, the cultured coloured couple, reappearing after a long absence, receive for their praiseworthy work most cordial greetings; the Smythsons in a highly amusing sketch, *Love Germs*, meet the popular taste; Mlle. Zelda gives an exceedingly clever performance on several novel musical instruments; Davis and Davis, in a novelty comedy act, is an acceptable turn; Ray Royal, clever singer of clever songs, has a capital voice, and knows how to use it to advantage; Mlle. Roza, with her wonderful canine hippodrome, provides an enjoyable show; Sade Henderson, descriptive vocalist, is a powerful singer of good class songs; Harry Roxbury's No. 1 Company presents an admirable merry musical melange named *The Prince of [illegible]nte Carlo*; Payne's Bio-Photoscope, with [illegible] popular pictures concludes a capital p[illegible]

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—[illegible]cutors of the late Mr. Wm. Johns[illegible] Stephen Pritt.—On Saturday even[illegible] ward Marris's company commen[illegible] gagement here in *Robinson Cru[illegible]* mime is in nine scenes, which eff[illegible] the progress of the story, and t[illegible] brilliant and artistic. In the ti[illegible] Verna Reed, whose spirited and [illegible] combined with a handsome presence[illegible] most attractive principal boy, [illegible] gively "The Man from M[illegible] solos gain hearty [illegible] pretty and [illegible] cent.

to the Thalian Glee Singers for part-singing. Mr. Ernie Hampson ...ter as Friday, and Mr. Alec Kushma ...es acceptable fun as Scraps. The aug...d orchestra interprets the music satisfac...ily under the direction of Mr. Hubert Boggetti. The pantomime has been produced by Mr. E. H. Bertram.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company is here on a return visit with the popular romantic play, *The Midnight Wedding*.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. J. Linsdell.—A capital holiday programme is submitted here. The Six Brothers Luck present their mirth-provoking farce entitled *Blazes*. Charles Coborn scores a great success with his well-known songs; Harry Bates is a tenor vocalist of exceptional merit; Pringle, Gray, and company create much merriment in the absurdity, *A Night of the Garter*; clever and enjoyable turns are also supplied by Frank Whiteley, comedian and bone soloist; Clown Charlton, in a musical variety act; and Vowles and Bryan in an act entitled *Song and Story in a Garden*. Bioscope pictures complete the entertainment.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—*The Traitor*, by Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson, is the attraction here. The dual characters of Prince Rudolph and Col. Nervi is well played by Mr. Bensley Evans; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlon, as Chief of the Police and No. 1, shows versatility. Mr. Arthur McCullock as General Hertz and Mr. Edward Lowrie as Toff amuse the house, and are ably assisted by Miss Olive Lanty. Mr. T. W. Hurst makes a dignified Captain Ross, and the Lieutenant Nicholas of Miss Isabel Hunt is a capital representation. Miss Effie Bartlett as Lulu displays dramatic power; and Miss Gwynne Warren is a good Countess Zicka.

RAMSGATE. — AMPHITHEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Bowman.—On Monday night Mr. F. Melville's attractive drama, *Her Forbidden Marriage*, was the attraction. Mr. Henry Lonsdale is first-rate as George Maddison, the inventor, and Miss Gertrude Bonser fulfils all the requirements of the part of Lucy. Miss Fitzgerald makes an effective appearance as Lady Lucretia Lancaster, and the important part of the Mother Superior is capably impersonated by Miss Nelly Fletcher. The element of villainy is chiefly in the capable hands of Mr. Louis Hector as Charles Devereux, while as exponents of the humorous side of the play Mr. Fred de Vere (Timothy Tuttutt) and Miss Sybil Hammersley (Patty Lovejoy) each achieves a distinct success.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur de Frece; General-Manager. Mr. George Dickinson. — *Lucky Lucy* was presented to a crowded house on Monday. In the title-rôle Miss Madge Brownie gives a charmingly fascinating portrayal; Mr. A. W. Thompson as Blatherwick scores a success; Mr. Syd. Hind as Paul Petticoe gives a capital impersonation; Miss Vesta Brownie is an excellent ...iss Blatherwick; Miss Bella Russell makes a ...t effective Marie Petticoe; and Mr. H. A. ...ths as William Biffins gives an admirable ...ayal.

...HDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Direc... Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. ...g; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—J. W. ...s opera company is paying a welcome ...ere this week. On Monday Balfe's opera, *...hemian Girl*, was performed. The artists, ...l all, were in fine form, the cast being ...as, Mr. F. J. Hargreave; Mr. John Ridding, ...t Arnheim; Devilshoof, Mr. Sidney Cliff... Florenstein, Mr. P. Newton; Miss Beatrice ... Gipsy Queen; Miss Maude Esdale as Buda; ...iss Christine Gomez as Arline. *Maritana, ...aterman, Il Trovatore, Satanella*, and *The ...r of the Regiment* are included in the ...pertoire.

...—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. ...argreaves; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank ...—A most attractive bill of fare is pre... this week. The Herold Comedy Four ... *the Indians and the Sailor*, treated ...ence by Fred ... to some really fine singing and ... the house and Maud Vypond fairly bring ... with h... as society entertainers; Herr Addison, with ... troupe of fox terriers; T. E. Johnstone, ... vocalist; Rita and Roma, vaudeville ...tainers; Hoppit, Tony, and Terry, with their ... circus; and the Empire Bioscope complete the list.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. Horace Stanley and company are here this week on a welcome return visit with *The 10.30 Down Express*. Mr. George Beverley is a smart Jack O'Malley; Mr. Charles Burdon is seen to advantage as James Inderwick; Mr. Edwin Clarke scores heavily as Huntley Mason; and Mr. Tom Roydon is deserving of mention as Seth Combes; Mr. Horace Stanley gives an excellent portrayal of Sam Wagstaffe; Mr. Arthur E. Francis has a capital part as Bletherby Baggs; Miss Elsie Capell is pleasing as Bessie Leigh; Miss Evelyn M. Walton creates merriment as Letitia Leigh; Olive Coombes is carefully enacted by Miss Josephine Lee; and Miss Hilda Miller scores as Matilda Ann; and Miss Kate Kilpack is very sprightly as Peggy Potts.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*Her Luck in London* is this week being presented by Mr. Geo. Kirk and Miss Mary Neil to good houses. Mr. Charles A. Leicester as the Hon. Fitzgerald O'Connor is a typical hero; an excellent Nellie Harborne is presented by Miss Mary Neil; the villain, Richard Lenowen, is well played by Mr. Val. Henry; Mr. Douglas Strong makes a good Rev. Lionel Strong; Mr. Tyrone Power carefully plays Stephen Harborne; Madame Gabrielle is ably protrayed by Miss Ada Roscoe; Lilian Harborne is a good impersonation by Miss F. Bruce; Jerry Gotobed is successfully acted by Mr. J. Telly Dillson; Miss Pamela Hodson (Angeline), Miss Florrie Groves (Maud Gladys), and Miss Dora Woodberry (barmaid), cause much amusement.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director and Licensee, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—The Ten Loonies keep the house in roars with their antics; Cora Duncan and Alb. Brasque in an episode, *The Smart Set*, are clever; Brothers Zampah, one-legged acrobats and jumpers; Percy Johnson, with funny song; Cosgrove and Burns, amusing duettists; Lecardo Brothers, clever comedy acrobats; Hettie Hall, in a musical speciality; Harry Vardon, ventriloquist; Beautiful Lilian, clever cyclist; Ingram and Irving, in an amusing sketch, *The New Office Boy*; and Connie Mascot, soubrette, also help to fill an excellent programme.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. W. B. Broadhead; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy B. Broadhead; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—*Office Hours* is an amusing musical mixture in one scene, presented by Messrs. Clarence C. Corri and Edgar Dereve, including Mr. Frank A. Wood, who has a good voice. Mr. Edgar Dereve, Miss Jessie Wilton, Mr. Geo. Danvers, jun., Miss Florence Leigard, and Mr. Arthur White, with some pretty dancing by Miss Dora Kennedy. Lady Julia, the clever ape, does some good impersonations; Ceme Mart... the Eastern wonder, does some marvellous ho... ...ting; *Taking the Census* is a funny boxin... ...ees Brothers Curran; King Leo, ...ll received; and other good turns ...ott, comedienne; Janette Hall, ... Will Walton, funny comedian.

...GH. — OLD TOWN HALL, St. ...roprietors. The Scarborough ... Quinton Gibson has opened here ...none and living pictures, which ...standard. The novelty of the en... drawing a fair quota of the holi...

...—Mr. Charles E. Parlato ... the cinematograph and liv... and up to date films ... his perform... ...unity of ...

Gilbert Hart as Mrs. Camille Twankey (a retired Gibson Girl), yeoman assistance being rendered by Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon in a capital representation of Abanazar, and Mr. Tony Freedman as So Sly, the Grand Vizier. Mr. Herbert Davies presents a satisfactory Emperor, and the everpresent pantomimic hilarity is well infused by a smart pair of knockabouts, Messrs. Grant and Allen. Amongst the speciality turns the dancing of the Clifton Trio and the harmonising of the Cambrian Glee Singers deserve special mention.

SHEERNESS.—THE PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Phil Reymond.—An extra special company is engaged here this week. Miss Minnie Lomas, in popular ballads, is well received; the Langhams cause plenty of laughter with their comedy act *Auntie's Plot*; Miss Lillie Thomas, the clever little comedienne, gains much favour for her well-rendered songs; Miss Alma Dora also makes a big hit in a kindred line—her dancing, too, is frequently smart; Mr. Phil Reymond, the popular comedian, is the recipient of loud applause for his clever comedy songs; and Mr. Rex. Carvell ventriloquist, concludes, his well-known entertainment and organophonic imitations being cheered to the echo.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The holiday attraction here is the musical comedy, entitled *The Dairymaids*, which, magnificently staged under the direction of Mr. Robert Courteidge, and performed by a company of established favourites, was received with the utmost enthusiasm by crowded audiences on Boxing Day.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—Under normal conditions the Empire is always full at each "house," but at Christmas time business is simply prodigious. The pleasure-seekers who have succeeded in getting in this week have been delighted with a company, which includes Mr. George Gilbey, an original and diverting vocal comedian; Mr. Ginnett's popular equine sketch, *Rejected Remounts*; Miss Esta Stella, a pretty and chic vocalist and dancer; Princess Pauline, comedienne; Mason and Bart, in a novel act; the coloured Meisters, vocalists; Frazer and Mac, humorous entertainers; the Clarkes; Carlos Caesars, novelty performers; and the Bioscope, with new pictures.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Richard Ralli.—The note of jollity and good-humour has been well maintained here by the efforts of Mr. Ralli, and a good programme contributed to by Mons. Learto, Robbie Roy, Mr. Calligan, Miss Clara Sefton, Mr. Baker, S. Belphoar, in seasonable illustrated songs; the Bros. Tarrant, two smart artists; and Pallister's Bioscope, with humorous films.

ALBERT HALL.—The Joseph Poole famous aggregation of refined entertainments opened for a month's visit on Monday, under the direction of Mr. Wolseley Poole. The variety artists engaged are the Four Rosaires, graceful acrobats; Mr. Johnny O'Rouke, an amusing vocal comedian; the Tissots, with their living marionettes; the Franko Midgets; Eileen and Mayne; the Three Bolenos, in a clever bar act; Mr. Harry Meir, entertainer; and Mr. Bert Berry, cicerone and raconteur.

CENTRAL HALL.—The Christmas bill of fare includes up-to-date pictures. Mr. Billy Elliott, an old Sheffield favourite; Leslie and Player; Mr. Bert Charles, comedian; and the pretty Sisters Dainton, duettists.

MONTGOMERY HALL.—The Imperial Animated Picture Co. is doing good business here. The variety company includes Prof. Hulbert, the favourite ventriloquist; the Hamiltons, funny burlesque actors; and De Lill, a skilful sleight-of-hand performer.

SHREWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Business Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. Edward Morris's company is here this week in *The Cingalee*. Mr. Frank Manger acts with ability the part of the Hon. Harry Vereker; Mr. Hugh Webb looks well and sings effectively as Boobhamba; Mr. Coope Edmunds is amusing as the irascible Pete Loftus; Mr. G. Mepstead makes a capital Indian Servant; Mr. W. J. Austin acts well and sings with expression as Bobby Warren; Mr. A. Ferris, as the irrepressible Chambuddy Ram, is excessively droll and thoroughly successful in that important part; Miss Bertha Frey, as Lady Patricia Vane, merits encomiums; Miss Millie Gordon sings sweetly and plays naturally as Angy Loftus; Miss Ethel May, as Nanoya, is attractive and capable; and Miss Kathleen Kenedy is a bright and pleasing Peggy Sabine. Minor parts, including those of ten girls and governesses, are all well sustained.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—PIER PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. E. Angless; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—This popular winter resort presents quite an appropriate spectacle with its abundant display of bunting. Roller-skating is more than ever drawing people here daily, who thoroughly enjoy this exhilarating pastime. A splendid programme of hockey matches and sports is a feature for this week, and the exhibition skating, with the capital music supplied by the Red Band, are additions worthy of special mention.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Singham Power.—The Christmas attraction is the pantomime, entitled *Blue Beard*, which is produced by Mr. Louis Ducane, under the personal supervision of Mr. Charles Constant. The piece is brought quite up to date, and the costly dresses, with the excellent scenery and the electrical effects, make a splendid show. The gags prove highly amusing; some excellent new songs are rendered in creditable style; the dances are clever and well executed. Mr. Louis Ducane gives the *title-rôle* conspicuous prominence, and has admirable assistance from Miss Isa Bowman as Selim, who is both successful in acting and singing. Messrs. Gus Danby and Johnny Clegg are comedians who please immensely; Little Felicia sings and recites with confidence; Mr. and Miss Stuart are entertaining, the former being a remarkably clever acrobat; the Sisters Warner give really clever dances that merit hearty appreciation; Miss Clara Sefton is a great favourite with her songs; and the Arabian Troupe of Lady Dancers are given a good reception; Miss Florence Hersee sings "The Starlight Queen" with evident success.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Charles Watson Mills' company is here with *A Wrecker of Men*. Mr. Frederick Biron appears to advantage as Jim Murley; the Risca Mallison of Miss Olga Audre is a powerful piece of acting; the Eric Melville of Mr. Thompson Carruthers is a strong feature; and Mr. Milner Nobbe as Pharosaphus creates a good impression. Miss Cissie Podmore wins sympathy as Doris Melville, and Miss Beatrice Reynolds introduces smart comedy as Vavasole Slopper.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson. — *Casey's Circus*, the star turn here, is proving a strong attraction; Conway and Leland, the merry monopedes, are as popular as ever; the Dixons, in a musical act, score heavily; the Macarte Sisters go through a most interesting turn; and other attractions are Geo. Westland, Scotch comedian; Catherine Radford, singing flower girl; Dollie Goldin, speciality dancer; and the Bioscope, with fresh films.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Messrs. J. K. Hall and Joseph Sweeney.—Leo Eugenie, a young athlete, in feats of strength, is popular here; Henderson, blind musician, submits a pleasing turn; Harry Taft proves to be a clever whistler; Lydia Dudley, comedienne and dancer, is encored; the Strettons are amusing in their comedy burlesque; and the Fellmons, in illustrated songs, and the Tivoli Bioscope complete an interesting bill.

ST. HELENS.—ST. HELENS THEATRE, LTD.; General-Manager, Mr. McLeod Leader.—Mr. Arnold Bell's company in a repertory of plays, is appearing here with success this week. The plays include *Lost in London, The Shaughraun, Hoodman Blind, Called Back*, and *Mystery of a Hansom Cab*. Mr. Arnold Bell is supported by a good ... including Messrs. Cuthbert Imrie, Frank ...gory, M. Corri, Frank Robson Joe ... Lilian Vyner, Francis Camp... ... Gibson, and Violet ... Barras...

Co., in *The Little Colonel*; the Athlones, athletes; Les Bollingers, Parisian rag painters; Mr. Charles Maston, mimic; and Miss Amy Anderson and Co., in "The Banana Queen."

STOCKPORT. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—Mr. Charles Chard's pantomime *Cinderella*, was produced here on Christmas Eve. Among the combination of talented artists responsible for the production, Mr. Harry Pleon stands out prominently as having made the hit of the evening. As Pimples the page he kept the audience in roars of laughter. Mr. Robert Williams plays Baron Shiftalotte amusingly; Mr. Allen Amber and Miss Conlin Kent as the ugly sisters, Maudie and Ethel, are mirth-provoking in a marked degree; Messrs. Yorick and Yorick as the brokers' men are comical, and give a clever acrobatic act; Miss Kitty Phelps as the principal boy, Prince Perfect, has a dashing style, and sings "There's a man in Manitoba" and "Another little girl in your eye" with much success; Cinderella is sweetly impersonated by Miss Nancy Newall; Miss Minnie Terry, an effective Dandini, and Miss Bella Terry, charming as Eglantine, were accorded a pleasing reception, and encored for their rendering of "All that glitters is not gold"; whilst Miss Ethel Davies as the good fairy Sunbeam and Mr. John Syme as Malicio, were deservedly applauded for their excellent vocalism.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatree Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Pantomime—again *Cinderella*—is also the attraction here, and both houses on Christmas Eve were crowded with delighted audiences. An abundance of boisterous fun is provided. Mr. John Bennett as Pimple works throughout with distinct success; Mr. Martell as Baron Pebblybeach lends able support to the comicalities; and as the ugly sisters, Arabella and Dulcibella, Mr. Edwin Garth and Mr. Howard Ward contribute largely to the amusement, the former singing a "Suffragette" song with a pleasing chorus. Messrs. Earl and Melville as Putemin and Kickemout are amusing; Miss Mabel Ashton is a sprightly Dandini, and Miss Louie Davis is a delightful Princess Pearl. Miss Helen Raye is charming as Cinderella, and wins much favour by her singing of the tuneful "By the side of the Zuyder Zee." As Prince Peerless Miss Iris Banfield is fascinating and clever, and achieved success of a gratifying character.

SUNDERLAND.—AVENUE THEATRE. — Director and Manager, Mr. Chas. E. Machin. — On Wednesday Mr. Machin's annual extravaganza, *Dick Whittington*, was produced. This year, as was the case last Christmas, the pantomime has been produced in the Wearside Borough by arrangement with Mr. J. F. Elliston, whose lieutenant, Mr. Lewis Leslie, has been responsible for the production. The principals include Miss Mardie Scott, Miss Veronica Brady, Miss Violet Morgan, Miss Lil Hartley, Miss Flo Chevalier, Miss Clorinda Thurtell, Miss Gertrude Lytton, and Miss Jessie Leslie, Mr. Tom Foy, Mr. J. C. Scatter, Mr. Tod Lowen, Mr. Bert Harrow, and the Aguamarinoff Troupe of Russian singers and dancers.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Ernest Stevens and R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry L. Carlo.—The latest addition to Sunderland's playhouses received a most auspicious send-off on Monday night with the pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood*, a notice of which will be found in another column.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. E. Machin; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jos. Hemingway.—Walter Melville's combination is paying a welcome return visit here this week in *A Girl's Cross Roads*.

PALACE OF VERIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Rosen and Bliss; Acting-Managers, Messrs. Brown and Stringer.—The programme here includes: Musical Rosina, versatile instrumentalist; Pat Rafferty, Irish comedian; Louis Kerno, vocal comedian; Billie Barlow, comedienne; Amandus, facial mimic; G. W. Kenway, mimic; Arabella Allen, the Dickens Girl; Astley's American Circus; and Vernon's Bioscope.

SWINDON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Responsible Manager, Mr. Alfred Manners.—For the first time in its history this town is having its own pantomime. The popular proprietor of this house produced, before a densely crowded holiday audience, on Boxing Day, a grand Christmas show, with *Sinbad the Sailor* for its title. The "book" is a capital one, with popular music nicely arranged by Mr. Herbert Summerville, who takes the conductor's seat. Splendidly mounted under the stage supervision of Mr. J. W. Hemmings, this attractive entertainment promises to be a genuine success. Miss Fanny Robina, the hero of so many pantomimes, is admirable in the title-rôle, and will certainly become a great favourite. She is ably supported by Miss Norah Haywood, a delightful leading lady, who has already won many hearts. There is plenty of fun, and in this direction, Mr. Will Crackles stands out prominently as the Dame; Hans and Lux give some entertaining knockabout business. The little ones have not been forgotten, as the piece concludes with a distinctly pretty transformation scene and the usual harlequinade.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Charles Carey; Manager, Mr. L. J. Gunnell.—On Boxing Night Mr. Mouillot's company, in *The Girl Behind the Counter*, made an excellent start, and was enthusiastically received by a packed house. Miss Winnie Willoughby proved a charming impersonator of the name-part; Mr. Arthur Cartwright was excellent as the hero, Chas. Chetwyn; Mr. H. B. Clarke gave a clever study of the General; Mr. Howard Cridland infused great humour into the part of Viscount Gushington; Mr. Frederick Park was responsible for much fun as Dudds, the office boy; M. Jules Charmettes played, it is hardly necessary to say to life, the rôle of the Gallic proprietor of the Maison Duval; Miss Olivia Eltone gave a piquant study of the manageress of the same establishment; and Miss Edith McIntosh was a fascinating head milliner, and Miss Doris Langdon a cashier under the same roof. Mr. Geoffrey Allsopp contributed his share to the lighter side as the Commissionaire. Miss Winnifred Knightly as Lady Willoughby was all that could be desired; and there was a very attractive chorus of lady customers and shop assistants.

TYNEMOUTH.—PALACE-BY-THE-SEA. — Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.—This popular resort reopened on 24th inst. for two weeks. The bills are this week headed by Harold Montague and his Vaudeville company in *The Vagabonds*; Joad Heteb, magician, also proves an acceptable run.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—On Wednesday Mr. James Kiddie produced for two weeks his pantomime *Dick Whittington*, with an extensive cast, splendid dresses, and some thirteen elaborate and artistic scenes. Chic Adele Roze, with sparkling vivacity, undertakes the title-rôle, and in it scores a decided success, her songs being frequently redemanded. Miss Leah Laurie established herself a favourite in the rôle of Alice Fitzwarren. Mr. Alec Kendal has not been long away from the district, but his return is a welcome one, and his "cod" geographical and historical lecture is one that causes much laughter. Fred Spencer is an ideal pantomime old woman; his Amelia Florence the cook is a decided success. Miss Annie Broughton makes a hit as Captain Navycutte. As Sir Algernon de Mash Miss Florence Hilton stepped straight into favour, her song, "A different girl again," caught on at once; and others who do well in their respective rôles are H. Wakefield as the Alderman; Messrs. Bass and Guinness as Peter the Larry, Miss Gladys Kildare as Concordia, and Mr. Archie J. Milne as Rodento.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. J. Simpson.—An absurdity by Dick Cruikshanks and company (including Kitty Kerwan), is screamingly funny; Eric Grahame, coster comedian; Ethel Loftus, amusing in low comedy; and the Seddons, clever and amusing in a juggling act, have all made favourable impressions; the Alexander Victor juvenile duettists sing harmoniously; Richard Finberg's character studies are clever; the Silvertone Quartette of (coloured) vocalists and dancers have a gratifying reception; and the house is immensely pleased with the burlesque eccentricities of Story and Trigg.

WEST STANLEY. — VICTORIA THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Raws: Responsible-Manager, Mr. John Cassidy.—Miss Eva Moss, supported by Mr. Cecil Du Gue and company, is paying a return visit here this week with *Camille*, a special adaptation of Dumas' famous novel, "La Dame aux ...lias." Miss Eva Moss embodied the rôle of ... derful vivacity; Mr. Cecil Du ... all that could be desired; ... ...ll rendered by Miss Phyllis

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. J. H. Clyndes' company is here this week in *A Royal Revenge*. The cast is a powerful one, and the dresses are exceedingly pretty.

WHITEHAVEN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Clark; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Clarke.— Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company (North) is paying its initial visit here. On Monday *The Merchant of Venice* was presented before a good holiday audience. Mr. Henry Herbert as Shylock gave every satisfaction; Mr. Gerald Ames was good as Antonio; and Mr. Charles Francis successful as Bassanio; Miss Dorothy Green made an effective Portia; and Jessica had a clever exponent in Miss L. Graeme. Other plays down for the week are *The Taming of the Shrew, Hamlet, Macbeth, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Henry V.*, and *As You Like It*.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments company.—Miss Florence Baines, assisted by an able company, have been entertaining large holiday crowds in the farce *Miss Lancashire, Limited*. Miss Baines represents with great originality the character of Mary Ellen Thompson, and Miss Kitty Jones, as Eva Lancashire plays the part with stateliness, and sings exceedingly well. Mr. Sam. C. Leslie, as the American Jew, I. Moses, is successful; and Mr. David Donaldson, as John Higgins; Mr. B. Burton, as Harry; and Mr. Rd. C. Hicks, as Fox, the solicitor, acts their respective rôles admirably.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—George Formby and Chas. Majilton's comedians are the great attractions here this week. Lily Hayes, a young and promising comedienne, is several times recalled; Clown Zertho and his fourteen performing dogs; Master May, boy vocalist; and Johnny Walker, comedian, are also very entertaining. Mdlle. Lumiere appears in an excellent speciality act; and Hanvarr and Lee, the golfer and maid, club throwers, and the maid, a capital tumbler, complete a most acceptable programme.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessees and Managers, Mr. E. H. Bull and Mr. Milton Bode; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Percival. —Mr. Milton Bode's fairy pantomime of *Dick Whittington* was produced here on Boxing Day. It is written by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and is capitally staged. Mr. Bob Hutt, who appears as Alderman Fitzwarren, Mr. Rolando Martin, who takes the part of Idle Jack, and Mr. Fred Danvers, who represents Matilda, are responsible for a large amount of fun, and fill their respective parts to advantage. Miss Gladys Warren makes an excellent Dick Whittington, and sings well; Miss Kathleen Severn is a piquant and successful Alice Fitzwarren, and possesses a nice voice; Miss Flo Challis is an effective Tommy Trot, and Miss Beatrice Lane is a pleasing May; Miss Nellie Laurance does well as Fatima; Miss Wanda Zaleski is an efficient Claribel; Mr. Carne Curre ably sustains the part of Mouser; and the Fimans do good service as Captain Scoupper and Billy Oakum. In addition, Wallau, a young juggler, performs some clever conjuring tricks; and Collins' Six Lancashire Lasses dance themselves into favour. Admirable scenery, splendid drsses, and some good songs, add to the attractive character of the production.

EMPIRE PALACE.—A good holiday programme is presented here. Ford and Hanson, as the musical millionaires, give some excellent impersonations; Zeta Gray and Co. are seen to advantage in *The Lancashire Lass*; Matt Wilkinson and Co. are successful in *The Registry Office*; Violet Beatrice is a male impersonator; Gracie Bard, comedienne and dancer; and George Phillips, coon impersonator and dancer. An amusing burlesque, entitled *The Smoking Concert*, is produced under the direction of W. B. Crabtree.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—This is an old establishment under a new name. On Monday *Are You a Mason?* was played by Mr. Chas. Macdona's company. The principal characters were admirably impersonated by Mr. Ernest Cossart, Mr. E. H. Paterson, Mr. Howard L. Tracy, and Miss Margaret Fairleigh.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. Harry Graham's company opened here this week with *Little Red Riding Hood*. Mr. Graham has with him a highly capable company, amongst whom are Messrs. James Wood, Arthur Drew, Will Raglan, Will Gore, Grant and Kelly, and the Misses Mabel Kessler, Renee Ven Atken, V. Winifred Hamilton, Rosie Juden, Eunice Young, Grace Stafford, and a full operatic chorus. Expensive and artistic scenery have been procured, and good specialities are given.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. J. Scott; Manager, Mr. Herbert Nicholls.—This week the chief attraction is Fernia and Hitchins, in a mélange of oddities and a pathetic episode, *Pity the Blind*. The Reays, silver chain acrobats and novel gymnasts, remain another week; Mr. Frank Zara is a capable comedian; and Miss Katie Eplett a refined comedienne and clever dancer. The pictures are more than usually interesting.

YORK.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—The pantomime, *Goody Two-Shoes*, was announced for Boxing night.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—T. E. Dunville is meeting with enormous success this week. This well-known comedian brings into play all his irresistible powers, and as a result his reception has been but little short of a triumph. The fascinating Ada Fawn is here once more delighting her many admirers. Her song in boy's costume is very dainty. Craig, Rose, and Craig are clever gymnasts, and the following complete a strong bill:—Ray and Miles, the Delevines, T. C. Edwards. Lowenwith Bros., Counsell and Mills, and the Bioscope.

LONDON CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC.

At Brinsmead's Concert Room on Thursday evening, Dec. 20, the pupils of the London Conservatoire held a largely-attended vocal and instrumental concert, under the direction of Mr. Lansdowne Cottell. In the course of the long programme, which included over thirty items, to say nothing of encores, many of the pupils greatly distinguished themselves, and gave ample evidence of the careful training they had received at the London Conservatoire. The programme commenced with a piano solo, Valse by Chopin, neatly executed by Miss A. Saintley; and the Misses Doris and Vera Lonsdale were applauded in Lane Wilson's vocal duet, "Gentle Spring." "Carmena" was gracefully sung by Miss Evelyn Hope; and Alliston's song, "There is a land," was cleverly rendered by M. Emil Michel. Mr. Lansdowne Cottell's "Westminster Chimes" proved an harmonious and attractive piece for the piano, and was skilfully executed by Miss Ada Poynter. Mr. Clay Thomas was well received in Adams' song, "Thora," and later in the programme was encored in German's popular song, "Glorious Devon." Mr. Thomas, who is one of the advanced students of the Conservatoire, had the great advantage of being accompanied by Mr. Cottell in his first song. Batten's pleasing air, "April Morn," was carefully sung by Miss Nellie Renée; and Mr. Bertram North's mandoline solo of the Intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana* greatly pleased the audience. Miss Gertrude Battersby has an agreeable voice, but not experience enough as yet to attempt "The flower song" from *Faust*. Tosti's song, "My dreams," was ably sung by Mr. Adam Bray; and the stirring march for the piano, "King Edward," by Mr. Cottell, was remarkably well played by Miss Dorothy Tubman; while Miss Beatrice Love was equally successful in Pelissier's charming song, "Awake." A very young performer, Miss Hannah Seymour, only nine years of age, joined Miss Margaret Young in Dichilli's pianoforte duet. A number of other songs and instrumental pieces, and a recitation, "Two Points of View," by Miss Nellie Renée, were well received by the audience. The conductors were Mr. Lansdowne Cottell and Mr. Carl Webb.

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COUNTY THEATRE, READING, Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, March 25, May 6, 13, 20, Aug. 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, Feb. 18, Mar. 18, 25, April 1, 11 (3 nights), 15, on.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, Feb. 18, 25, March 4, 11, 25, April 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, Jan. 28, Feb. 11, March 4, 25, April 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, Feb. 18, March 25, April 1, 8, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, March 25, April 1, 29, May 13, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, May 6, onwards.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, April 22, May 6, onwards.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD, Feb. 4, 18, March 4, 18, 25.
Address, SIDNEY BACON, Metropole T., Gateshead. Telegrams, "Bacon, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, Feb. 11, March 11, 18, April 8, 15, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, Feb. 25, March 4, 18, 25, April 15, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY, Dec. 31, Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, 18, March 4 (three nights only), onwards.
Add., E. GRAHAM-FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, March 11 and 18, 1907. L. CARSON, Keighley.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, KEIGHLEY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 4 and 18, 1907. L. CARSON, Keighley.

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March 18,	May 20
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WANTED, Powerful Attractions for QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH, March 18 (?), 25, April 1, 22, 29.
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R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Companies, for Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne. Opened with enormous success, under entirely new management. Scenery, electric light, entirely new. Large permanent Orchestra. Now booking 1907. Vacant Jan. 14, 15, 16, Feb. 4, 18, 25, March 11, and onwards. Several vacant dates during Easter and Summer Seasons. Apply, MURRAY KING, 2, Hungerford-road, N. London. Tel. 1073N.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Inverness, Attractions for Feb. and March. Vacant dates apply, CAMERON BURGESS.

WANTED, First-Class Attractions, Jan. 7, on. Good Pantomime write.
J. LARDER, Palace Theatre, Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, for Jan. and Feb., First-class Fit-up Companies, Drama.
J. SYKES, Victoria Hall, Abercarne.

ST. MARGARET'S HALL, CANTERBURY.
Seats 600. Lighted throughout with Electricity
Electric Current for Cinématograph, 220 volts.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, onwards
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THEATRES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Important Theatres, March 11.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

Grand Autumn Production.
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 11 and March 11.
Apply,
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, March 11, Aug. 5.
WALTER MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE,"
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, 25, April 1.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 4.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE BEAST AND THE BEAUTY."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 18, April 22, 29.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, May 20, Aug. 5, 12.
TOM H. TAYLOR,
Standard Theatre, E.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Jan. 21, March 11.
Easter Week vacant.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Theatre R., Aston, Birmingham.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, Weeks of Jan. 14 and 21, Scala Production.
Wire or write, W. W. KELLY,
8, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatre, Jan. 14.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Royalty Theatre, Morecambe.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, Feb. 4, March 4, 18.
Address, J. W. CORDINER,
T. R., Whitehaven (return).
See Companies' advertisements, page 2.

"LA POUPEE."
"LA POUPEE."
Herbert Ralland's Principal Company.
WANTED (unexpectedly vacant) Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, and several Spring Dates.
Address,
RALLAND, King's Theatre, Edinburgh.

FRANK M. THORNE'S CO.
"NAPOLEON THE GREAT."
WANTED, for this Money-maker, Feb. 11, March 18, Easter, and on.
FRANK M. THORNE,
Wedgwood Theatre, Burslem.

FRANK J. PITT and CHARLES HALLING'S CO.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, for this Successful Attraction. Jan. 14,
April 29 (?),
May 13, 27,
June 17, on, with exceptions.
Shakespeare, Altrincham, Dec. 31.

THEATRES WANTED.

LINGFORD CARSON'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, Managers, to kindly Note that any of my Plays not produced satisfactorily, please acquaint me immediately, so that I may have an opportunity of rectifying.—Faithfully yours, LINGFORD CARSON.

"THE DRAMA OF LIFE."
WANTED, First-class Autumn Dates, for this most excellent attraction, August, on. L. CARSON, Keighley.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, for this Sound Play, Feb. 4, 11, 18.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Dates, Feb. 18, 25, April 1.
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Dates for this fine Play, Jan. 14, 28, April 1, 8, 15.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MISS EMMA HUTCHISON and
MR. PERCY HUTCHISON'S COMPANIES.
"PETER'S MOTHER."
WANTED, Dates.
In consequence of the enormous success of this piece, a third Company will be sent out in Jan. to the smaller towns. For dates apply
Mr. PERCY HUTCHISON, 4, Finchley-road, N.W.

MR. ARTHUR HARDY'S CO., "BEAUTY AND THE BARGE," including Mr. Blake Adams as Captain Barley.
WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, Feb. 11, March 4. Write or wire, ARTHUR HARDY, 89, Comeragh-road, West Kensington.

WANTED, Dates, Jan. 28, Feb. 4 and 18, also March 4 for "TOMMY,"
by Jerome K. Jerome.
Miss ANNIE HUGHES as TOMMY.
A striking success.—Daily Telegraph.
Address, MISS ANNIE HUGHES,
41, Portman-mansions, Baker-street, W.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Musical Attractions, Jan. 7, 14, 28, Feb. 4, Easter. Communicate CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
(By Arrangement with Mr. Martin Harvey.)
WANTED, Jan. 28, between Folkestone and Swindon.
EUGENE BERTRAM,
Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

E. H. KNIGHT and GEORGE DENHAM'S CO.,
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 4, 18, March 18.
G. DENHAM,
King's, Cardiff; next, Royal, Wolverhampton.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4.
Only Open Dates until Autumn.
Address, FRANK E. BURDETT, Marina, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Theatres, for following Attractions:—
"VILLAGE BLACKSMITH," Feb. 18, April 8, Aug 6;
"MIDNIGHT MAIL," Feb. 18, May 20, Aug. 6.
Miss MAUD HILDYARD, Feb. 4, 11, and 25.
Wire, DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
WANTED, Feb. 4, 25, Easter, Whit, May 27, June 17.
BEAUDYN and LIVESEY,
Pardoe's Theatre, Middleton.

"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, March 11 and Easter.
The Dramatic Success of the Year.
A clear stage only required.
HARRY FOXWELL, Theatre Royal, Goole.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 4, 11, and Easter.
HARRY FOXWELL, Theatre Royal, Goole.

"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
"THE LIGHTS O' LONDON."
By Geo. R. Sims.

WANTED, Important Theatre for Jan. 14 (North). Wire, H. HOLLISTER, Exchange Theatre, Wellingboro'. Monday, T. R., Halifax.

"ALADDIN" PANTOMIME.
WANTED, Feb. 11 (through change of management at Stalybridge), only vacant date. A superb production. Sixty people on stage. Wire quickly to secure this fine production.
HERBERT BARRS, Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

"BLUEBEARD."
WANTED, for Charles Constant's Successful Pantomime, Jan. 21, 22, 23 (Midlands), Feb. 7, 8, 9 (South).
WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, London, W.C.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR,"
By Eva Elwes.
WANTED, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 4 (to precede Queen's, Liverpool).
Sumptuously Staged, Big Plant of Special Cut Printing, and a Cast second to none touring. The name a guarantee. E. A'DELL, Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.

"THE TRAITOR." E. Hill-Mitchelson and Harris Fineberg's Magnificent Production.
WANTED, Jan. 28, Feb. 4.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

"THE ASSASSIN."
by E. Hill-Mitchelson.
WANTED, Easter, through Warrington Fire.
AUGUSTINE KNIGHT, Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY," No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, and 28, Feb. 4 and 11, March 25, April 1, May 13, Autumn from Aug. 5. Address, E. C. STAFFORD, care of Samuel French, Ltd., 26, Southampton-street, Strand, W.C.
Wanted, to Lease, good Provincial Theatre.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Feb. 11, Feb. 11, Feb. 11, Feb. 11, Feb. 11, Feb. 11, Feb. 11, Feb. 11, Feb. 11,
Frank Denman-Wood's Pantomime Success,
"DICK WHITTINGTON,"
now playing Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne. Managers invited courteously to witness the Production, and see what I'm asking them to book. View to above date. Also Production next year, and from three to five weeks' run.
Must be theatres with big holding capacity.
Thanks Managers for numerous offers.
Refer C. Revill, Esq., re pay box receipts.
Coms., DENMAN-WOOD,
Theatre Royal, Ashton-under-Lyne.

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
WANTED, Jan. 28, owing to Warrington Fire. Wire, to-day, ALFRED PAUMIER,
Prince's T., Preston; next week, T. R., Jarrow.

"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
WANTED, Aug. 19, 25, Sept. 16, 23,
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

"FOR AULD LANG SYNE."
WANTED, Aug. 5, onwards.
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

"WHEN WOMAN HATES."
WANTED, March 4, 11, 25, Easter.
FRED BULMER, T. R., Smethwick.

"THE FRENCH SPY."
WANTED, Jan. 28. Magnificent Production.
Address, FRED BENTON, T. R., Wednesbury.

"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND" CO.

Enormous Success.

Miss V. ST. LAWRENCE as Fiend.
WANTED, Jan. 14, 21, Feb. 18, 25, March 18, April 15, 22, June 3, 10, July 1, 22, and 29.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN,
Alhambra, Stourbridge.

WANTED, Managers, to See the Great Drama, "The Lighthouse Robbery," which is being produced at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, week commencing Dec. 31. Want to arrange Touring Rights. Fine plant of printing. JOHN MOORE, LONDON, LTD., 8, Rupert-court, W. Remember, we sold the Big Successes, "Cripple Creek," "Convict Daughter," "Alaska." Have other good ones to Sell.

THEATRES WANTED.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"OLIVER TWIST."
(By arrangement with Mr. Tree.)
Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, and Easter.
"THE FOUR JUST MEN."
(By arrangement with H. A. Saintsbury.)
Feb. 4, 25, Easter, and April 22.
WILLIAM MARTIN,
3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

MISS MARY NEIL AND MR. GEORGE KIRK'S "HER LUCK IN LONDON" CO.
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, March 4, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 30, Oct. 7, Nov. 25, Dec. 16, 23, 30.
Only Vacant Dates 1907.
CHARLES A. LEICESTER,
Empire, Ardwick Green, Manchester.

Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S CO., in "THE WALLS OF JERICHO."
WANTED, First-class Theatres for Feb. 11, Feb. 18, March 11, April 15.
Address,
Mr. SILVANUS DAUNCEY, 22, Charing Cross, S.W

LINGFORD CARSON'S CO.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, for this Enormous Attraction, Jan. 21 and Feb. 18.
CARSON, Rotunda, Liverpool; next, Accrington.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.
"FOR BETTER OR WORSE."
WANTED, for this Splendid Attraction, Jan. 7, 21, a First-class Production in every way. Re dates,
Park View, Crosby, Liverpool.

Messrs. ARMADALE and WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, vacant Jan. 21, 28, Feb. 4, onward, with exceptions,
for the above Attraction.
Address, F. BROOKE WARREN,
Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.

MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD'S COMPANY,
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
WANTED, Theatres of large holding capacity, for Miss Litchfield's Greatest Success,
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
Produced Xmas Eve with enormous success.
Vacant Dates Feb. 4 (Wales), 18 (North of Birmingham), March 4, on, with exceptions.
MISS EMMA LITCHFIELD
in the following Characters:
Nora Grosvenor,
Sarah Ellen Murthwaite, a Lancashire Lass,
Old Rebecca, a Jewess,
and
Molly O'Flynn, from Killarney,
supported by a powerful company, including
Stuart Cleveland as Manuel Teixeira,
introducing the trained horse, Firelight.
"A CLEVER IMPOSTOR."
The Great Novelty Drama.
Write, STUART CLEVELAND, Boro' Theatre, Heywood.
Wire to the Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.

EDWARD McLEAN'S TOUR.
"THE HERO OF THE FLAG."
WANTED, Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 4, and on.
LESLIE VYNER, Surrey Theatre, S.E.

"HER LOST SELF," by Nita Rae.
"THE BIGGEST SCAMP ON EARTH," by F. A. Scudamore.
WANTED, Jan. 7, 21, 28, Feb. 4. Wire, FRANCES DELAVAL, Metropole, Abertillery. Dec. 31, Workman's Hall, Mountain Ash.

"MISS LANCASHIRE, LIMITED."
"MISS LANCASHIRE, LIMITED."
"MISS LANCASHIRE, LIMITED."
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"MISS LANCASHIRE, LIMITED."
A Farce with music, in two Acts, by
SYDNEY SYDNEY.
MISS FLORENCE BAINES,
the Girl who set London laughing
as
"Our Mary Ellen."
"Our Mary Ellen."
"Our Mary Ellen."
"Our Mary Ellen."
This piece has established more records for phenomenal business than any Show touring.
WANTED, Theatre, Jan. 28. All communications to Mr. BURT BURTON, this week, Royal Court Theatre, Wigan; next, Hippodrome, Huddersfield.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR,"
by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Easter week, for this great Attraction, all Autumn, 1907, fully booked, except Xmas.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Wanted, Jan. 7, 14, 28, Easter, only vacant dates, for this huge Attraction. Racehorses toured, all scenery carried. Wire for both these moneymakers to F. G. KIMBERLEY, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4, for this Great Attraction; just re-mounted and dressed. Band of Drums, Fifes, and Bugles for Parade. As strong an attraction as a Pantomime. F. G. KIMBERLEY, Theatre Royal, Peterboro'.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S REPERTOIRE CO.
WANTED, for above, Jan. 7, through misunderstanding. Wire, RUSSELL ROSSE, Theatre, Perth.

WANTED, Jan. 7, 14, "At the World's Mercy," eighty-eighth week of Tour; powerful Attraction. Wire, MELVILLE, 36, Cobden-street, Barnoldswick.

"THE THRONE OF TERROR."
WANTED, Dec. 31, Jan. 7, 21, on,
Fifty-ninth Week of Tour.
Wire, MILLER, Perth; next, Kilmarnock and Ayr.

"HOME, SWEET HOME."

The Great Domestic Play.
By FRANK LINDO.

WANTED, Good Theatres (North),
Feb. 11 and 18.
Feb. 11 and 18.
Feb. 11 and 18.

Address, FRANK LINDO, Eccentric Club, London, W.

CULLEN AND CARTHY'S PANTOMIME.
"BABES IN THE WOOD," enormous success at Junction Theatre, Manchester. Beautifully dressed, pretty scenery. Screams from start to finish. A splendid company of accomplished artists; splendid songs. The catch-word of the season, "My word, if you're not off." All over Manchester. Managers wanting a real up-to-date Attraction specially invited to see this Show.
WANTED, a Good Theatre only or First-Class Theatre of Varieties, Feb. 25, only vacancy. Managers wanting a good production next w... please communicate. CULLEN and CARTHY, O... Theatre, Manchester.

"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."
WANTED, Good Theatres
Jan. 21, Feb. 4, 11.
J. EDWARD WHITTY,
To-day, T. R., Batley; Mon., G. T., W...

"THE NIGHT OF THE PARTY."
WANTED, Jan. 7, between Manches... Cheltenham, also vacant, Jan. 28, F... precede Gaiety, Dublin, March 25 onwards
GENERAL MANAGER, T. R., Preston.

"THE HONEYMOON."
WANTED, April 8, May 6, 13, 20, ... Attraction. GILBERT PAYNE, Grand T...

WANTED, Theatres, &c., Jan. 7 ... Feb. onwards, for Arnold's M... of Variety Stars. Re-booked here ... after Monday's show. Managers ... Company I send out. This, Pala... Palace, Leigh, and Pavilion, ... coms., Palace, Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, Lessees and ... Note, Mme. Natalia ... direct from her S. Afri... theatres for her grand co... pany, including the ... musical sketch and s... Lane," composed expr... J. Barrow, music by ... of variety stars, supe... Birmingham. Ready ... Send in vacant date... ment. Addres...

ARTISTS WANTED.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Full Company, to open Jan. 21 (Rehearse 2 weeks),
Old Men, Old Woman, Juvenile Lady, Juvenile Gent., and Heavy ditto,
Character, Responsibles, Child Actress,
Practical Carpenter
and Agent capable of rehearsing Soldiers.
Applications from competent people only, with photos., lowest terms, and references (which will be taken up) to
GEORGE GRAY and Co., LTD.,
Hippodrome, Brighton.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, Full Company (except Juvenile Lady), to rehearse Lowestoft, Jan. 15 also Carpenter, to combine Baggage and Play Small Part. Latest photos., references, and actual lowest terms. No interviews except by appointment. Miss MAUD HILDYARD, 51, Dalston-lane, London, N.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Star Leading Actress, for Countess Natalie;
must be tall and powerful actress.
Rehearse Jan 7; open Jan. 14. Address,
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, through releasing, Good Heavy Lady, for "Scarlet Woman," Mr. Fred Luard's Fit up Tour; also Juvenile Gent., to Double, and Clever Child Actress. All to rehearse Stirling, Jan. 5; open 12th. BRADFORD CROSBY, Arcade Theatre, Stirling.

"A FIGHT FOR MILLIONS" CO.
WANTED, Aristocratic Old Lady, for small but showy part.
Send photo., refs., and lowest terms, to
ROBERT PERRIS, Theatre, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Light Comedy Actress, good figure, special week Jan. 14, rehearse Friday previous; if suitable tour after. Terms, references, and photos., M. LOADER, Manager, Opera House, St. Helens.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S "THE CHRISTIAN" CO.
WANTED, Immediately, Gentlemen, for Drake and Parson Quayle (to double Faro King). Preference given to those who have played parts before. J. B. HOWARD, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for Fit up Tour, Young Gentleman for Responsibles in Répertoire, also Amateur Gentleman to Sing. Address, with photographs and particulars, W. L. DOBELL, Borough Hall, Godalming.

WANTED, good Responsible Man, rehearse Jan. 7, for small Juvenile Part. Age, height, terms, to THOMPSON CARRUTHERS, Theatre Royal, Crook.

WANTED, Gentleman to play Responsible Parts, in Spring; must be tall. References, &c., NORMAN V. NORMAN, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

WANTED, for London and No. 1 Tours, Choristers; must be young, of good appearance, and have excellent voices. Apply to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Little Elsie Videau has returned from school, at Brussels, and is Disengaged, Clever Child Actress, Vocalist, Musician, and Dancer, Kennington Theatre. Perm. address, c/o Station-master, S.E. and C. Rly., Clapham-road Station, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, week or fortnight given, Good Amateur, for fares. London access. Novel Songs; Powerful Voice. ROTHWELL, 2A, Clapham Park-road, S.W.

WANTED, Herbert Claremont, to Wire,
DAVIS, "The Era" Office.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

CHAS. CHARD'S "GOODY TWO-SHOES" PANTO.
WANTED, a Dashing Principal Boy. Rehearse at Once. Apply, with photos., references, and lowest terms, to REX SUGDEN, Theatre R., York.

THEATRE METROPOLE, DEVONPORT.
WANTED, Speciality for Pantomime, Jan. 21, two weeks. Good Aerial and Bicycle Acts write.
Address, GEO. S. KING.

WANTED, Good Speciality for Pantomime. Terms and particulars to
BROOKS'S Agency, 35, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Engagement in Pantomime or Speciality Act, by two young men doing Acrobatic Speciality. AUBRY, Victoria Hall, Hamilton, Scotland.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, a Scenic Artist, One Competent at his work.—Apply, JACK WOOLF,
Wonderland, Whitechapel.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED. S...
ple...

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, smart, sober Advance Agent, ... tour. Apply, with last three refs., ... PARLATO'S ANIMATED PICTURE CO., Mechanics' Hall, Scarborough.

WANTED, Strong Baggage-man to assist Billing and make himself generally useful. Refs. and terms, PARLATO'S Animated Picture Co., Mechanics' Hall, Scarboro'.

WANTED, Baggage Man, good window biller, and able to work effects for cinématograph, to wear uniform. George Yates write. Lowest terms and references to SEATON, 11, Warrington-road, Prescot.

WANTED, Engagement, as Business or Assist.-Manager, by experienced Gent. (29); excellent refs. Apply, Box 4,148, "The Era."

WANTED, Immediately, Tall Carpenter, combine baggage, and speak lines, own tools. Good workers only. Wire or write, to-day, Central Theatre, Northwich; Monday, Alexandra Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, Engagement, by Carpenter, good all-round practical bench hand, age 30. Address, CARPENTER, 64, Dongola-rd., Philip-lane, London, N.

MUSICIANS' WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, First Violin, must be well up in Variety business; open at once. Apply, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Hippodrome, St. Helens.

WANTED, permanency, immediately, Cornet, also for three nights, Jan. 3, 4, 5, Flute. Wire lowest terms, JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Musician, to enlist in good Staff Band, double handed player, Clarionet and Viola or Clarionet and Violin; age to be between 18 and 25.

Apply, N. N.,
Care of Hawkes and Son,
Denman-street, Piccadilly Circus.

WANTED, immediately, 'Cello Player; permanency for steady, efficient man. Wire lowest terms and refs. to COURTICE, H. M. Theatre, Carlisle.

WANTED, at once, good 'Cello Player, must be used to Variety business. Permanency to good, steady man. Apply, WORSWICK, Hip., Wigan.

WANTED, Experienced Flautist. Apply, with names and addresses for reference, to
MANAGER, Empire, Cardiff.

WANTED, good Flute and Piccolo Player, ... be used to Theatre and Variety busi... young, steady, and reliable; and Single, six ... ings and two matinées weekly; open Monday. ... est terms. SEEBOLD, Theatre, Worthing.

WANTED, Harpist, Gentlemanly, can jo... once; Musical Show or good Hotel ... HARPIST, Cambria, Brockley-grove, Brockley, ... don, S.E.

H. and F. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, to commence immediately, st... ing, brilliant Pianist, assist fillin... wear evening dress; long Tour. Apply, Town Hall, Reading.

WANTED, Lady Pianist, Vocalist, fo... trated Songs and Accompanist; lon... open immediately. Lowest terms and ref... MLLE. FLORENCE, Central Hall, Ebbw Vale.

WANTED, Brilliant Pianist, used to ... Show. Apply, with refs. and terms ... PARLATO, Mechanics' Hall, Scarborough.

WANTED, Lady Pianist and Gent ... must have good répertoire, ... Concerts. Open Jan. 7. Good tour. ... Hall, Colne.

WANTED, immediate, Pianis... reliable, fit-up tour, money ... day. "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Welli... Monday, Swadlincote, near Burton-... thorough cure. Write or Wire

WANTED, to open Monday first, ... Barrow-in-Furness, Pianist, used ... ties, must read at sight; long engagement if ... able. Wire lowest terms. R. SILVESTER, Corn Ex... change, Alnwick, Northumberland. All wires refunded.

WANTED, First-class Pianist, thoroughly experienced in Good-class Orchestral Work; permanency for suitable player. State age, terms, reference, Box 4,149, "The Era."

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
WANTED, Drummer, with full effects, for two weeks, Jan. 7, 14, tympani provided. References and lowest terms for nine shows first week, seven second. LEWIS TOLPUTT, Musical-Director.

CIRCUS, SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Good Double Drummer, with Effects, also Pianist; must be sober. Address, C. ALGIE.

Guitarrists and Mandolinists.

WANTED, Gents. as above, who can read music. Apply personally to G. H., 1, Paulet-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, Company of Instrumentalists, or Instrumentalists and Vocalists, to occupy Band Pavilion at Girvan during the summer months of 1907.

Apply,
stating terms
and giving references,
to
TOWN CLERK, Girvan.

WANTED, for the Burgh of Rothesay, for Season 1907, Professional Band of Sixteen or more Performers. Double-handed and Single-handed (alternative offers). Period June 10 to end September. Three Performances Daily. Applications to specify instruments composing band.
Apply TOWN CLERK, Rothesay.

WANTED, Cornet and Euphonium Players for a State Band, in India one of the most important Native Princes Bands; healthy part. Pay £8 to £10 per month and extra pay. First-class Solo Players wanted, steady men; one as Assistant Bandmaster and the other Sergeant-major. Single men with twelve years' service. Apply to A. M. K. S., c/o Hawkes and Son, Denman-street, Piccadilly Circus.

WANTED, immediately, 40 Lady Brass Instrumentalists. Write or call, BISERA, 14, ...d. Brixton, London, S.W.

...hestra, complete in its ... for Castleford, ...ngers, Bea...

...CIANS WANTED.

To Bandmasters.
...IVERPOOL COLONIAL PRODUCTS EXHIBITION, 1907.

WANTED, First-Class Military Band (reeds and string chiefly), for two weeks, commencing March 12, 1907, at St. George's Hall, Liverpool. As profits of Exhibition are given to charities, terms must be low. ... Tenders to be sent to Joint Secretaries, Messrs. H. E. JONES and A. DOUGLASS, not later than Thursday, Jan. 10, 1907.
21, Water-street, and 10, Dale-street, Liverpool.
Dec. 21, 1906.

WANTED, Musicians, Various Instruments, Variety Theatre, near Manchester. Permanent engagement. Apply, Box 4,152, "The Era."

WANTED, Bandsmen, for Hall Steamer, for South America, join Tuesday; Pianists, Violins, &c., for Africa, join Friday. All apply Monday, 6 p.m., at HEPPERINGTON'S, 163a, Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violinist), Disengaged now. Composer of music, "Silver King," "Lights o' London," &c. 54, Casewick-road, West Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement as Musical Director for Seaside, &c., Band supplied if required by Composer, Arranger, and experienced Conductor, having large library of music and uniforms. Testimonials from high officials. Address, Box 4,143, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Robert Moss, Conductor (Violin), at Liberty Jan. 14; good references. C/o Thomson, 93, College-st., Dumbarton, N.B.

WANTED, by Violinist, First-Class Engagement, excellent reader, ex-pupil Royal College, London, commencing Jan., nominal salary. Le Sueur, Charing Cross, Jersey.

WANTED, Engagement by good Violinist; experienced any business; good refs. G. W., 33, Brewerton-road, Oldham.

WANTED Engagement, by Solo Cornet, combine Violin; experienced. Wire, JONES, Hippodrome, Aldershot; after Saturday, perm. address, 131, Rupert-st., Norwich, Norfolk.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement in Ladies' Orchestra, Cornet, experienced. Café or Hotel preferred. Box 4,147, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Arthur Faulkner, late principal cornet, Tower, Blackpool, and Derby Castle, Douglas (Tower 10 years). 15 Varley-st., Miles Platting, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, solo or otherwise; military or string, experienced. H. C. GAINES, The Porches, Rainhill, near L'pool.

WANTED, Engagement, experienced Double Bass, any business.
SIMMONDS, 641, Fulham-road.

WANTED, occasional Engagements with Bassoon, Theatre or Concert.
Bassoon, 18, Warwick-road, Hampton Wick.

WANTED, Engagement, by Trombone or Euphonium (efficient), through closing. Apply, Sec., J. HUTCHINSON, Hippodrome, Aldershot; or, 1, Greek-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Engagement, as Bombardon, any business; thoroughly reliable. HARRY WOODS, Farnell-road, Clevedon, Somerset.

WANTED, Orchestral Practice, for Little Girl, 'Cello; also Good Engagements for ... Mr. CASSELS, 35, Granville-square, King's ... W.C.

WANTED, Known, Maud Estlin Grundy, age ... Harpist; Brilliant Soloist. 58, Antrim-...rland's-lane, Hampstead, London.

WANTED, Known, Æneas Gibson, Harpist and ... immediate engagement; young, ... abroad. Music SELLER, Bayswater, Rosebay-road, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly experienced ..., through theatre unexpectedly closing; ... preferred; excellent refs. NICKEL, 27, ... West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, thoroughly experienced, any business, permanency or deputy. Good refs. FLAUTIST, 11, Chapel-st., Islington, N.

WANTED, Engagement as Pianist, combine Violin; able to Conduct; Suburban Theatre preferred. Box 4,145, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced. Variety preferred; good refs. A. LILLE, 93, Queen's-road, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, the Shakespearean Ladies' Orchestra (Viennese), copyright registered Stationers' Hall, twenty-two (or less) performers, magnificent costumes; highest criticisms. Conductor, Miss GARCOYNE OLD, 238, Edgware-road, London.

WANTED, Known, for Lady Instrumentalists and Bands, apply, Bureau, 8, Bedford-ter., Kensington. Bookings Johannesburg, Jan. to Dec. Quartet now Disengaged.

WANTED, Engagements, by the Vrsatzka Band (3 to 30 performers). Corporations, Piers, Hotels. Brilliant uniforms; excellent soloists. 84, New Bond-street, W.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

KING OHMY'S GRAND NEW CIRCUS, HYDE, CHESHIRE.

WANTED, for this successful Show, the Talent of the World. Write at once for present and future dates. Great success of the opening of this grand new building, the best of the kind ever erected in this country. Complimented by the Mayor and Corporation, and Ohmy's Circus is now the talk of the town and district. Address KING OHMY, Ohmy's Grand New Circus, Hyde. A Happy New Year to All.

CIRQUE PINDER, FRANCE.

WANTED, for Touring Season, 1907, Bareback Equestrians, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Clowns, and any Novelty that can be Performed in a Ring. Season about Forty Weeks, commencing the end of Feb. Address, lowest terms, A. PINDER, Cirque Metropole, Paris.

BURTON'S FETES AND GALAS.
...irst in 1864, established by the late F. D. Burton. Foremost in 1907, pioneered by George Burton. 5, Milner's-chambers, Fargate, Sheffield.
WANTED, for numerous dates, Startling Novelties, Aerial Acts, Ground Acts of every de...ription; big opening for Artists doing ... Acts. Send litho., Memo ... ncies, terms, and ... ...n, Grand ...

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Liberty few weeks only, the Refined John Scott Family of Male and Female Equestrians, &c., five in number (one lady and four gentlemen), including Poor Billy, the King of the Ring.

Lithos., &c., address,
Bell Hotel, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, by Les Steckels, Gymnastic Specialities, Jan. 14, 21, 28, conclude to-night Circus, Aldershot. Monday, Circus, Spennymoor. Offers invited.

WANTED, Known, De Ora, Sensational Speciality Gymnast. Not an Isolated Success, but Huge Success Everywhere Engaged. Now going strong, Alhambra, Edinburgh. Vacant Dec. 31, for Sure Draw. Wire as above.

WANTED, by Ariel and Astarte, smartest of all lady and gentleman gymnastic pot-pourri acts, Jan. 7. Address, Town Hall, Falkirk.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lolo, Charming Gymnast, Graceful Trapeze and Teeth Speciality Artist, Hippo., Mansfield; also Little May, Graceful Contortionist and Dancer.

WANTED, Jan. 7 (North), by Les Uniques, Original Gymnastic Ladders Pot-Pourri, two ladies and gentleman. Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh; next week, Carnival, Kirkcaldy.

WANTED, Known, Carlo Bianchi, Upside-down Juggler, vacant New Year and Jan. 7. City, Leeds, or SLEY.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Jan. 7, onwards,
ALFRED SELWYN, Empire, Hull.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Jan. 7 and onwards.
MANAGER, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Jan. 7, Palace, Sheerness. Quote lowest; hall small. P. RAYMOND, as above.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, new to Castleford, Jan. 14, onwards. State lowest first letter (small town). BEANLAND and EMERSON, Town Hall, Brighouse.

WANTED, Variety Artist, for Combination; Comedian, Lady or Gentleman Patterers, Musical Show, Vent., &c. State when last in Bilston, West Bromwich, Wednesbury, and Wolverhampton. Communicate for Jan. 28, Feb. 18, and March 18, to GINNETT, Hippo., Ashton-under-Lyne.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES, ANDERTON CROSS, GLASGOW.
Propts., THE GLASGOW GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES Co., LTD.
Manager, W. H. HOWARD.

WANTED, Artists of Every Description, for Present and Future Dates;
must be good,
and free from vulgarity.
Will be pleased to hear from
a good Pantomime Co.,
complete in itself, for two weeks,
Feb. 4 and 11, 1907.
State terms, full particulars, and
where to be seen working.
must not run more than two hours.
Two houses nightly.
N.B.—In all cases Agents and Artists are particularly requested to name earliest vacant dates, and quote lowest actual terms, also state when and where last engaged in Glasgow.

G. W. GERALD,
Impresario and Business-Manager.
English Representative of the Casino de Paris, the Etoile Palace, Paris,
and The New Kursaal, Paris.
also the following: Calais, Rouen, Lille Roubaix, Paris, Lyons, St. Etienne, Grenoble, Nimes, Nice, Montpellier, Beziers, Toulouse, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Toulon, Perpignan, Clermont, Ferrand, &c., &c. Works for Artists by Private Contract only.
WANTED, Artists, suitable for the above. Bigger the Act, the Better.
I have authority to Book Acts in 1907-8-9.
The Only Man in France that can
Book a Tour for Three Seasons in Advance,
in conjunction with Roche, Paris; Rasimi, Lyons; Franck and Dorval, Marseilles; and Pasquier, of the Etoile Palace, Paris.
All communications,
G. W. GERALD, Etoile Palace, Paris.
Acts known to Frank Coyle (Comedian, The Rattler), when recommended by him can be booked.
Private address, England.
160, Woodhouse-street, Leeds.
French address, 19, Rue d'Enghien, Paris.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Jan. 14, March 25, and other dates.
Combination terms,
The Dayton Family,
Pavilion, Glasgow.

Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, for Scotland, immediate dates. ANDERSON'S Agency, 6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for Concerts and Halls, for present and future dates. SCOTTISH MUSICAL AGENCY, 107, George-street, Glasgow.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY. 'Phone, 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, Artists in every Line of Business, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Greenock, and Paisley. 170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

EMPIRE, PAISLEY.
WANTED, Jan. 7 and on, Artists in every Line, Comedians, Serios, Sisters, Doubles, doing Singles. Terms must be low. Tops wire immediately to MANAGER.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now on. Apply
Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, now and future dates (twice nightly). Address, JOHN CASSIDY, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines.
J. FELL,
Proprietor, Palace, Lancaster.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Stars, on share or salary; Combinations with Star Attractions entertained. GEO. SAFFRINI, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Artists, Singles and Double Turns, two weeks, Jan. 21, Feb. 4, onwards. CHAS. A. JAM... ...ies, Dublin.

...VON,
...ard,

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

EMPRESS THEATRE OF VARIETIES, HARTLEPOOL.

WANTED, Artists to Note that the above Theatre closes Saturday, Jan. 12, till March, and all Contracts in January and February are hereby cancelled. All Artists holding dates January and February are requested to forward Contracts at once to Mr. BURNS, General-Manager, with any date they require in March, April, and on, and Fresh Contracts will be forwarded by return. Kindly note that this notice is in accordance with our Theatre Rules, giving 14 days' clear notice.
(Signed) EVERTON and CRAGG,
Proprietors.
All communications to be addressed solely to our Business-Manager, Mr. HARRY BURNS,
Empress, Hartlepool.
Telephones, 0231 and 0231a.
Telegrams, "Burns, Empress."

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Big Stars, on Share or Certainty. Contracts made by the previous management are cancelled. Call for Dec. 31 week (rehearsal 1 o'clock): Bob Hamilton, Gregson Comedy Trio, Rodin, Bioscope, Andy Fagan, Lilian Travelli, Hector and Sultan, Sam Dalton, Rodin, and Three Bros. Huxter. JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities for immediate and future dates. Terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, for Jan. 7, 14, 21,
Stars in all Lines,
Stars in all Lines,
Full up for smaller items.
State towns at liberty for.
Can fix big numbers any odd weeks.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

JOSEPH POOLE'S MYRIORAMAS.
WANTED, for Immediate and Future Dates, First-class Variety Turns.
Long Engagement to suitable people.
Good Comedian wrte.
J. W. POOLE, "Verona," Malmesbury.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
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Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
Good Specialities,
Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 (North).
Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
Wanted,
G. and F. PEEL,
31, Granville-house, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Known, J. H. Tomkinson's "Royal Gipsy" Co., established 1888, wanted for Tour, open Jan. 14, refined speciality (lady); also pair of Sisters and good Serio. J. H. TOMKINSON, Hippodrome, Rochdale.

WANTED, Variety Novelties, Hugh Wiggles worth's Agency, late Manager, Blackpool, Morecambe, &c., 154, Meadow-st., Alexandra Park, Manchester.

WANTED, Talent all Lines, Galas and Seasides. JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." Telephone, 1585 Royal.

WANTED, Variety Talent all Lines, for Wales, Manchester, North, &c., Monday, onwards. J. ARNOLD, Variety Agent, Palace, Leigh, Lancs.

BURTON'S FETES AND GALAS.
First in 1864, established by the late F. D. Burton. Foremost in 1907, pioneered by George Burton. 5, Milner's-chambers, Fargate, Sheffield.
WANTED, for numerous dates, Startling Novelties, Aerial Acts, Ground Acts of every description; big opening for Artists doing two good Acts. Send Litho., Memo., list of bookings and vacancies, and permanent address, to GEORGE BURTON, Grand T., Middlesbro'.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, absolute lowest, once nightly. Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, Big Acts on Sharing Terms, Circus, Hippo., Rochdale. Rehearsal Monday, 2 o'clock for Tomkinson's Gipsy Choir. Letters, SMITH and Co., Red Lion Hotel, Rochdale.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, Specialities, &c.
MARTINO'S Agency,
Circus, Hyde.

WANTED, Single or Double Comedy Act, Open Monday next, Dec. 31.
Wire absolute lowest,
DALTON'S Agency,
29, Mauldeth-road West,
Withington, Manchester.

WANTED, Music Hall Acts all Lines, Jan. 7, onwards; lowest terms;
Big Gala Acts, May 20, onwards.
EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-st., Manchester.

HIPPODROME,
SCARBORO'.
WANTED, Three Good Acts, for Monday, also for Jan. 7, onwards.
Wire lowest, GEO. ZALVA.

EMPIRE, MERTHYR.
Manager, Mr. ISRAEL PRICE.
WANTED, for Jan. 7 and onwards, Big Comedy Act, Specialities, Novelties, Scenas, Comedians; also a good Song Illustrator, with Latest Songs.

WANTED, for the grand opening of the New King's Hall, Westcliffe-on-Sea, 2s. 2d., from London, Jan. 7, Jan. 7, Jan. 7, the cream of the Variety and Concert World.
Address until Jan. 1,
PAUL VANDY'S Agency, Barnes, S.W.,
afterwards the King's Hall.

Also Wanted, for one night, in Barnes, Jan. 9 and 16, clever Artists.
Please state price and particulars in first letter.

WANTED, Specialities suitable for Top of Bill, Jan. 14, Feb. 4, 18, and March 4. Apply, J. W. CHAPMAN, Grand Theatre and Empire, Doncaster.

WANTED, Specialities, Novelties, Doubles doing Singles, for Tour, Jan. 14, on, sharing terms. Write, HERMAN, Central Hall, Colne.

WANTED, Tops of Bills who have odd weeks vacant to send full bookings, &c., to FRANK LYNNE, City Varieties, Leeds.

TUDOR HIPPODROME, BLYTH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Jan. 7 and ... one show nightly and Sunday Concerts. TUDOR, Blyth.

...RBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WITHERNSEA.
...TED, Known, the Council are prepared to ...eceive Offers from Pierrot Troupes for the ...ght to give Performances on the Beach of ...pular Seaside Resort for the next three ...
... which must include a substantial deposit ...id on signing the Agreement, to be sent to ...ter than Saturday, Jan. 12, 1907.
...greement may be seen at my office at any ...
FREDK. J. GARDAM,
Clerk to the Council.
...nt-street, Hull.

... Lady Trick Cyclist. Particulars, ...ght, weight, list of tricks, photo., MADAME, 37, King gardens, Ply...

...ng Lady and Gentleman, for ... be taught. Full particulars, ...l, Edinburgh.

...ith Knowledge of Double ...ar and Mandoline work. ...vire lowest terms to Box ...d one of the Original ..., Spennymoor; next, ...eveland.

...ockabout Comedians ...ule. Fov, 53, Third-

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Short Comedian, Sketch (special week, probable tour). London hall.
Apply,
E. CARTER LIVESEY, 10, King-st., Covent Garden.

WANTED, a Man (no boys need apply) as Bioscope Operator, well up with Electric Light, good wages given to the right man; remember, you will run five spools per night, sometimes twice daily (1,500ft. on each spool), iron house, top on; heat in the box 150deg. Beer shifter need not apply. It will kill you; work or play, you get your pay with Prince Edward's Pictures; new machine for you; no cast-off wanted; bad job for you if you can't do your work. No ladies' men need apply; no late managers or proprietors, but a real Operator is wanted. Silk hats keep away.

Letters treated strictly private.

Apply,
SYDNEY PRINCE,
Head Office,
Temperance Hall,
Middlesbrough.

WANTED, efficient and reliable Bioscope Operators. State experience, terms, and where last employed. TYLOW, Philharmonic Hall, Cardiff.

WANTED, Cinematograph Operators, for London Work.
Apply, Box 4,151, "The Era."

WANTED, Operator, with own machine and films. Send list of pictures and terms to W. WALTON, Post Office, Burnley.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Everybody to Know that Herr Schuler, World's Greatest Saxophonist. His price per one week is £12, not £3. Address, per manager, 49, Peter-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Dec. 31, through disappointment, Eugene Brant, Eccentric Droll, Grotesque Dancer; a positive hit. To save time wire, 36, Clarance-gardens, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Will Bell, Irish Entertainer and Dancer, at Liberty Monday next. Wire, Palace, Aberdeen.

WANTED, 31st, Jan. 7, or good Tour, by George Ritter, Comedy Musical Act, good pianist. Wire or write, Buckhurst Hill.

WANTED, Monday next, by T. W. Lenner, Comedian; and Florrie Wright, Sweet-voiced Vocalist. Wire, 37, Middle-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Herbert Linton, assisted by Pierrot, in refined Speciality Act, "Las Españolas," at Liberty. Address, Empire, Nottingham; or R. WARNER and Co.

WANTED, Spring Engagement, by Fred Solo, the Artistic Comedian and Eccentric Dancer, Musical Comedy or Halls. Third Panto. Season with Robert Arthur, Esq. Direct, T. R., Nottingham; or Agents.

WANTED, Known, Dan Ashton, Collier's Song Scena and the Empire's Stump Orator, always interesting, instructive, entertaining, and successful. Tivoli, Dublin; Monday, Empire, Wrexham; vacant Jan. 7, 14.

WANTED, by F. H. Dundas, Actor-Vocalist, Monday. Wire for a turn,
Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, in a Funny and Clever Acrobatic Cycling Act; big success Cat and Speciality, Opera House, Dudley.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt wishes all Friends, Managers, and Agents he is known to a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. Open New Year. Empire, Llanelly, South Wales.

WANTED, by Little Levite, Pantomimist, of Tandem Fame, Engagement with Sketch Co., Stage-Manage or Produce. 49, Wellington-road, Stockwell.

WANTED, Jan. 14, onward, with exceptions. Proprietors and Managers, Agents, Don't you overlook this Advertisement. Vacant Jan. 14, onward. An enormous success, Hippodrome, Yarmouth. Kyoto, the Original One; the Mysterious Comedy Japanese Box. A laughing and applauding Hit. Contortionist, Comedy Conjurer, Juggler, and Pug Dog Oto. Also May Geraldine, a Sprightly Comedienne, Vocalist, Dancer. Dec. 31, Hippodrome, Ton-y Pandy. Jan. 7, '07 Chatham. Wire or write, and secure the above acts at once.

WANTED, Known, Managers, Agents, &c., Wanting Something Good, make a note of the following: Hart and Hart, in a Pretty Act, introducing vocal and Instrumental Music, with Clever Juggling, intermediate dates from Jan. 7, 14, on. Add., Aquarium, Scarboro'; next, Olympia, Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Monday, first, Dec. 24, Le Warren, Ventriloquist; and May Dana, Comedienne. Wire, 7, Heathland-st., Aldershot.

WANTED, Known, Bowmans (Fred and Alice), Wrestlers, Boxers, and Lamp Manipulators, Funny and Clever, at Liberty 14th, onward. 16, New King-street, Deptford.

WANTED, by N. C. Bostock and Nellie Elliene, Dec. 31, two Star Singing Turns. Wire, 8, Canterbury-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday, by Dave Wallace, Star Eccentric Comedian; Marie Tilley, Comedienne, Great Dancer. Wire, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy, Sunday, 324, Albany-rd., Camberwell.

WANTED, by Dan Noble, the always Successful Comedian, Marie Yorke, a Dainty Burlesque, Monday next. Wire, 31, Melbourne-st., King's Lynn.

WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 7 and 14, by Daisy Turner and Frank Aylmer, in latest successful Musical Comedy Duologues, "The Gasfitter," "The Two Sports." Offers. Pavilion, Maidenhead.

WANTED, by The Caris, Comedy Tramopline Speciality, Jan. 7 and 14, through postponing Contract; just finished Halle, Magdeberg, and Bremen, Germany, also Rotterdam and Ameterdam. Big Success Everywhere. Roars of laughter and applause. Splendid lithos. Address, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Known, Hastings and Fields, Comedy Artists, Refined Thanks for Contracts; have few open dates. Wire, 115, Hope-st., Salford.

WANTED, Dec. 31, onwards, The Woelhats, Versatile Pair, in a great Comedy Act. Wire, Hippo., Mansfield.

WANTED, Monday next, by Handel and Lee, Artistic Musical Speciality. Great success, wire, Town Hall, Rotherham.

WANTED, Dates, Two Clarkes, Acrobatic Speciality Globe Performers; also Comical Beano with Mechanical Donkey. Roars of laughter. 37, King-gardens, Plymouth.

WANTED, Six Nights, Mon. next, by Keir and Allen, Eccentric Knockabout Comedy Comedians. Offers. 53, Freckleton-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, by Neuman and Royle, 31st, on, Ballads (Soprano, trained), Vent. and Com., &c., singles and doubles. 2, Meadow Hill-road, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Jan. 7 and 29, by Gravetta and Parr, Clay Modellers, Impersonators, and Jugglers, Pot Pourri. Palace, Blackburn; next, Pal., Bradford.

WANTED, Monday, by the Two Plants, Vocal and Musical Act, both do Singles. Big success this. Wire, Theatre R., Houghton-le-Spring.

WANTED, Monday, and Jan. 7, the Lashmars, smart comedy act, including acrobatic dancing, songs, head and hand balancing. Address, Public Hall, Saltcoats, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Titan, Telka, and Wyllie, three Acts, strong show. Musical Act. Ballad Vocalist, vacant Jan. 7, 14, 21. Monday, Hippodrome, Hull.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday, and Dec. 31, by The Lashmars, good Comedy Act, Acrobatic Hand and Head Balancing, Funny Patter and Song and Dance. Gaiety, Ayr, N.B.

WANTED, by The Musical Palmers, Jan. 7, 6 nights (through sudden disappointment), Variety Theatre or Panto. Speciality. Address, Exhibition Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, The Musical Palmers and Miss Daisy Palmer wish Proprietors, Managers, Old Friends, and New Friends, a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, Five Abadaroffs, Comedy Act, to follow Kirkcaldy Carnival. Address, 95, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Vacant Monday next, Alex. Fox, in an Original Refined Ventriloquial Travesty "The Yokel and his Dog." Huge Success. Wire, Town Hall, Rotherham.

WANTED, Jan. 28, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lit, Illusionist, two acts. Monday, Miners' Theatre, Ashington.

WANTED, Known, Karl Birvell, F.O.S., Novelty Ventriloquist and Mimic. Big show, figures and fit-up, Liberty Monday. Wire, Theatre Royal, Shotton, Durham.

WANTED, Known, B. Mortimer, Humorous Conjurer, Vent., Chapeaugraphy, Lightning Cartoons, one hour's show, for juveniles. 32, Broadway, Wimbledon.

WANTED, few immediate Dates for the Greatest Laughing Sketch extant, "The Land-Grabbers." Address, WARD, 1, Upper Duke-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Best Existing Lion Show (only Full-grown Male Lions), vacant March 25, April 15 and 29 (London or South preferred). Special Attraction, Four New-born Cubs. Address, week Dec. 31,
Palace Theatre, Halifax.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Great Troupe of Dogs, the Dogs with Human Brains, Liberty Jan. 7, North preferred. Town Hall, Dunfermline.

WANTED, Alice Fontainbleau's Marvellous Dogs. Enough said. Agents and Proprietors, see them, Agricultural Hall, London. Few dates, from Jan. 7.

WANTED, Known, Young Man wishes Engagement in Comedy Bar Act, or other Acts. WILL AUBRY, Victoria Hall, Hamilton, Scotland.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman, Silver King (regd.), Auctioneer, Valuer, Expert and Authority to the United Kingdom and Van Dwellers' Association, Auctioneer to Lord George Sanger (England's Greatest Showman), and Leading Showmen of Great Britain. Sales and Commissions conducted in any part of the World. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the Business, consult TOM NORMAN, Auction Office, Manor Farm, Dallington, Sussex.

WANTED, Known, that owing to the Crystal Palace Riding Machines having been withdrawn at the Sale by Auction in London recently, I am prepared to consider offers for the disposal of the same by private treaty. Full particulars, with cards to view, &c., can be obtained from TOM NORMAN, Auction Office, Dallington, Sussex.

WANTED, Known, that owing to my brother-in-law Mr. Harry Noakes having taken over on his own account both the Manor and Acelands Farms, Dallington, Sussex, that on and after New Year's Day next my permanent address will be TOM NORMAN, Showman's Auctioneer, Expert, and Authority, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand.
All Showmen, Travellers, and Others having things stored at Manor Farm to communicate with me immediately.
N.B.—Established at the above address nine years.

WANTED, to Open Monday, in First-class Shop, Cream Position, Good Novelties; also Lady Character Reader would do well. Wire, MANAGER, Exhibition, Gold-street, Kettering.

WANTED, Auctioneers to Know, Simons, of 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch, is going ahead with up-to-date Lines in Field Glasses, Fancy Goods, Clocks, Jewellery, &c. Send for Special Xmas Supplement. There is no cheaper house for you.

WANTED, Known, Electrical, Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Gibson, Kirkstall-road, Leeds, manufacture four and six pole Showmen's Dynamos (improved pattern), also new Flame Arc Lamps, geared motors, for driving organs and roundabouts, large stocks, cable, carbons, globes, incandescents, all classes of repairs; new line, direct coupled portable electric plants, driven by paraffin.

WANTED, Known.—Write or call at Greene's, Falmouth-road, London, S.E., for .22 ammunition, rifles, globes, targets; absolutely cheapest market.

WANTED, Known, to showmen, Circus, and Roundabout Proprietors, that De Salis and Co., of Leighton Buzzard, are manufacturers of Showmen's Colours, Paints, and Varnishes, suitable for Switchbacks, Galloping Horses, Rounding Boards, Swings, &c., &c. Specially recommended by Mr. A. Higgins, Artist, of Totterdown, Bristol, and others.
All Showmen should send for price list and samples.
Specialities,
"New Royal Red."
"Salisollo," a perfect white enamel.
Extra Pale Durable Body and White Copal Varnishes.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the Gourock Ropework Co., Ltd., Largest Tent Manufacturers in the World, have a large stock of New and Secondhand Circus Tents made from their famous Rotproof and Waterproof Tent Canvas, "Birkmyres Cloth." The most durable and waterproof Canvas for Showmen's Tents &c. Buy from Manufacturers and save middlemen's profit. GOUROCK ROPEWORK CO., LTD., Lancaster-place, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Known, Auction Marts and others, R. Owens, Manufacturing Chemists and Drysalters, 12, Rosamond-st., West Manchester, making up good lines. Good profit. Write for samples.

A Prosperous New Year to All.
WANTED, Known, Showmen's Letter Cloths, made and attractively painted in fancy colours; all kinds of Showmen's Painting undertaken. ROCHE, Artist, 22, Lansdown-road, Lee, London, S.E.

WANTED, for Monday, good quick-showing Novelties, for Rye-lane, Peckham; also good Novelties can send vacant dates for Ruby's Casino, 25, Whitechapel-road, which is over 100ft. deep, electric light throughout; good Ghost Show write, the fourth successful week of La Tosca. Write, PROFESSOR RUBY, Casino, 25, Whitechapel-road.

WANTED, Novelties, with Paintings, Shares, for two good shops in London. Wire for Monday, PROPRIETOR, 100, Lower-marsh, Lambeth, London.

WANTED, good quick-showing Novelties, Freaks, &c., must have good Window Flash, very large shop, two windows, best position in Belfast. Shares or Certainty. BROOKS and MCCARTAN, 151, North-street.

WANTED, Freaks and Novelties, or any good money-taking Show, can open Monday, month certain. THOMPSON, 78, Castle-street, Bristol.

WANTED, for Bloom's No. 1 Mart, Smart Piano Player and Planksman; must be steady. BLOOM, White Hall, Haughton, Darlington.

WANTED, Good Pianist, used to Fair Work; one with own portable preferred. Apply, MANAGER, Pictures, Crown and Anchor, Dartford.

WANTED, for Up-to-date Exhibition, now throughout, Useful People. Traction Drivers, Operators, Electricians, Handy Men, preference to Travellers. Money sure. State wages, qualifications, by letter to The Reliable WILLIAM MURPHY, Garrison Field, Sunderland.

WANTED, Young Man, Attend Drive Two Horses, and do Hand-selling; security required. KENNERLEY, 73, Padwell-rd., Southampton.

WANTED, Two or Three Tattoo Artists.
Apply,
A. E. PICKARD, American Museum, Glasgow.